

4.8 (c)

From: Rachael Thom

Sent: June 3, 2020 4:15 PM

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Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rachael Marriette-Thom