

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence re: motion for Hamilton Police Services to muffle loud vehicles

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 9:37 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Correspondence re: motion for Hamilton Police Services to muffle loud vehicles

To the clerk at Hamilton's City Hall:

Please include the attached letter as public correspondence in the next city council's meeting, regarding Councillors Jackson and Collins' motion about Hamilton Police Services' muffling of loud vehicles, as reported in this Mountain News article, available online at <https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/10035762-hamilton-mountain-coun-tom-jackson-wants-police-to-muffle-loud-vehicles/>. <<https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/10035762-hamilton-mountain-coun-tom-jackson-wants-police-to-muffle-loud-vehicles/>> Thank you very much.

Kindly,

Joshua Weresch

Anishinaabeg land (Hamilton ON)

To the mayor and councillors of Hamilton, Ontario's city council:

Good evening. I hope this finds you well. My name is Joshua Weresch, a non-Native born, raised, and living here with my wife and children on Anishinaabeg land in Hamilton, Ontario. I write in regards to the proposed motion by Councillors Jackson and Collins for the Hamilton Police Services to muffle loud vehicles, as reported in the Mountain News on 18 June 2020 by Kevin Werner, and I would ask, for several reasons, that council refuse to entertain such a motion.

First, both councillors serve on the Hamilton Police Services Board and have gone on the record in favour of more police visibility and against the abolition of policing. Councillor Collins, in particular, stated that the demands to de-fund or to abolish policing were 'nonsensical'. To have these two councillors now propose a motion that would increase the presence of police, especially within their roles of traffic enforcement and traffic stops, is somewhat problematic and raises the question whether these councillors are fit to serve on the police-services board in any capacity. It would seem that such a motion is only creating more work for the policing services to do. Second, the enacting of such a motion would, as noted, increase the presence of police within their role in traffic enforcement and would lead to more traffic stops. It is demonstrably the case that traffic stops have led to violent encounters between policing services and, predominantly, racialized people; those encounters must stop. For these reasons, the motion must be voted down.

A possible solution to loud mufflers is what was done in August 2018 in Edmonton, Alberta, as reported by Natasha Riebe in this C.B.C. article, Noise-control technology now on Edmonton streets, listening and watching (accessed 20 June 2020). Eight high-incidence locations had photo-radar style noise technology installed, with microphones and decibel meters, and Edmontonians have spoken publicly in favour of photo-radar installations instead of police constables. Automated enforcement reduces the amount of traffic stops and police interactions with people and would automatically ticket the owner of the vehicle to which the licence plate is registered. In November 2019, Kate Porter reported, in the C.B.C. article, Photo radar coming to roads near 12 Ottawa schools (accessed 20 June 2020), that municipalities had been given the green light to install technology to curb speeding. City councils have also voted to devote all of the revenue gained from automatic enforcement's tickets to road-safety measures and this could be done in Hamilton, also, and pay for many neighbourhoods' calls for speed bumps' installations, as speed bumps were recently installed on Rendell Boulevard, as reported by Mark Newman in the Hamilton Mountain News (4 Jun 2020; accessed 20 June 2020). It is worth noting that a policy should be written that any residential streets within 2 miles of a school, place of worship, or community centre should have speed bumps installed on them.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards. I believe there are solutions to be found to muffle loud vehicles and they are not by way of using policing or their traffic enforcement. Please vote this motion down.

Joshua Weresch
Resident, Ward 8

20 June 2020