

Saturday, June 6th, 2020

Attn: Kirsten Stevenson / Hamilton Police Service Board
155 King William Street
P.O. Box 1060, LCD 1
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 4C1

Dear Hamilton Police Services Board,

My name is Jeremy Drury, I'm a resident living in Westdale North. I am writing to you today to ask you to reconsider your decision that agreed with the committee report recommending against the implementation of body-worn cameras, from November of 2019.

While the report said research links body-worn cameras to fewer police use-of-force incidents and fewer public complaints, whether the change would be "statistically significant" remained questioned by the board, and further cited as one of the reasons the board made their current decision.

I believe that in the eyes of a family member of a victim, one less use-of-force incident is statistically significant. I believe that in the eyes of a family member of an officer accused of wrongdoing, one less incident is statistically significant.

I appreciate that budget restraints simply cannot allow unlimited resources to flow in order to reach every mandate of the HPS, but a recent budget approval for the hiring of 8 additional traffic specialists prompted me to write this letter.

I feel that fewer police use-of-force incidents and fewer public complaints through the use of BWC's will do more to strengthen relations between police and the public than expanding traffic enforcement. As current events are showing us, the deficit of police and public accountability is rapidly eroding and destabilizing the trust that is vital between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

While I recognize the ability to show the economic return on the investment of additional traffic specialists is easier than showing any kind of return on the effective use of BWC's, I feel strongly that now is the time to invest funds in programs that will truly reflect the HPS motto: *Together. Stronger. Safer.*

I took particular notice to a quote in the report to the committee, a statement made by a researcher from George Mason University; "In sum, BWC's may curb some of the worst police behaviours but have little impact otherwise".

If a fully implemented BWC program prevents a single officer from engaging in some of the "worst police behaviour", I believe most would consider this to be "statistically significant" and agree this impact alone should be cause for considering their use.

In the Toronto Police Service report from June of 2016, the following conclusion was made:

"If the challenges identified in the evaluation can be addressed, the use of body-worn cameras by Toronto Police officers would be seen as a powerful indication of commitment to accountability, the desire to strengthen public trust and police legitimacy, and commitment to ensuring officers are protected from unwarranted accusations of misconduct"

I believe HPS is up for the challenge of addressing the concerns, and can use this opportunity to become a national leader in the implementation and use of BWC's. The commitment to holding accountable both officers and the public will create a strengthened trust, which will create a safer community, together.

Please reconsider your decision and vote to move forward with a body-worn camera program for our city, our officers and our public.

I thank you for your time today and for the opportunity to have my voice heard.

Respectfully,



Jeremy Drury

Hamilton, ON

Cc'd:

Chief Eric Girt - Hamilton Police Service
Fred Eisenberger - Mayor of Hamilton
Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton-Centre
Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas
Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East—Stoney Creek