

## 4.8 (i)

-----Original Message-----

From: elijah nolet <

Sent: June 3, 2020 12:21 AM

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Subject: Hamilton Police Officers & Body Cameras

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Jason Farr, City Council, General Issues Committee, Committee Against Racism, and the Hamilton Police,

I'm reaching out in regards to community safety and the recent displays of police brutality in Toronto. I am a citizen of Hamilton residing in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. The death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet is a prime example of why they are so important. You have voted against them 4 times, why is that, and what is the Hamilton police force trying to hide?

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 only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy as well as increase the communities confidence and trust in Police. In terms of safety, body cameras would reduce violent police interactions as both citizens and cops behave differently if they know they are being recorded.

Body cameras would improve training in the Police force as it would allow you to analyze and critique real life decision making, something that is important considering how often Police use unnecessary excessive force. It would allow you to analyze these interactions and ask questions, what prompted them to get violent? Is there a racial bias? With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with tax payer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority.

Hamilton citizens do not feel safe in police presence, we do not feel protected. Your Police force needs to enforce more rigorous race and discrimination training in order for something to change. Body cameras are a small step towards regaining the public's trust.

As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Eli Nolet