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From: Conor Goulden

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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 # 13.

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.

As a student of McMaster, as well as a future nurse, I feel that it is my responsibility and obligation to see justice carried out, and see increased protection for my community as a whole. My job is not limited to protecting the safety and well-being of my patients and clients, but of the population at large as well. For me to do this, I need support, and I need all of your assistance. It is our collective duty, obligation, and requirement to ensure the safety of EVERY community member – not just the ones whose protection comes easily and with little resistance.

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. I urge you to incentivize police to adopt body cameras by withholding funds until they do so, or defunding them to penalize their resistance.

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.

Let it be known that wearing body cameras can aid in any false accusations, or accounts from officers of the Hamilton Police which lie in a gray area to be dismantled. This will provide protection to our community – including our police officers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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(He/Him/His)

Level IV BScN Program

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