

July 24, 2020

To the Hamilton Police Services Board

The fundamental ideal behind democracy is that those in power need to listen to the voice of the people.

Reflect upon the message that was sent to our young protestors when, hours after painting their message on the road, their words were washed away.

What message are you sending to this generation of Hamiltonians when you threaten to charge protestors for 'mischief' for an act that has been accepted in other jurisdictions such as Toronto and Milwaukee as part of peaceful protest. We live in a democracy, not a totalitarian society. This is Canada, not China.

Deputy Chief Frank Bergen, you are mistaken when you simplify your job to be 'crime prevention'. No. Your job is harder and more important than that. Your job is to serve the people of Hamilton. When the people of Hamilton have a message for you, your job is to listen.

If this was China, yes, your job would be to throw these protestors in jail, squash their voice, erase their messages and remove their existence - remove the threat to totalitarianism.

But this is Canada, and we are a democracy, and part of your job is to protect this democracy. Protecting democracy means listening to your constituents, not silencing them by threats of arrest and imprisonment.

I would strongly recommend the three following points:

- 1) Respond to the call of Hamiltonians and devise a plan on how to better serve mental health related calls using funds made available by a 20% reduction in the police services budget. Make public the details of this plan, and listen to feedback from Hamilton citizens.
- 2) Cease your investigation into charging Black Lives Matter protestors for mischief in relation to the July 23 road painting of "Defund the Police".
- 3) Meet with and listen to Hamilton City Council, the democratically elected representatives of the people of Hamilton.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Joda Kuk, MD FRCPC  
Hamilton, ON,