



New Vision
UNITED CHURCH

June 21, 2019

Mr. Fred Eisenberger,
Chair, Police Services Board
155 King William Street
P.O. Box 1060, LCD 1
Hamilton, Ontario

L8N 4C1 By email: lois.morin@hamilton.ca

Dear Mr. Eisenberger,

I write on behalf of New Vision United Church in support of the LGBTQI2S community. In light of the recent violence that occurred near the Pride in the Park festivities in Gage Park on June 15, 2019, we want to convey to you our strong condemnation of the violence, especially as it was precipitated by religious haters of the LGBTQI2S community.

It seems to us that it is worth bringing into public discussion the responsibility of police to be peace officers. We recall that at last year's Pride in the Park the police conducted themselves as peace officers, being present very early on in the vicinity of the religious haters who came to disrupt the festival. None of us were near the religious haters when the outbreak of violence occurred at this year's festival. We have no direct comment to make about how violence developed at Gage Park this year.

As you continue to articulate your views and push for police service policies and directives to make Hamilton a safe and safer community, New Vision invites you to read (if you have not already) the Hamilton area LGBTQ+ Needs Assessment Survey. You can find it at this link:

<https://labourstudies.mcmaster.ca/lgbtq>

The LGBTQ+ Needs Assessment Survey has been the result of years of grassroots, volunteer community organizing and was developed and implemented through extensive consultation of our diverse communities and with support from McMaster University and The AIDS Network. We commend it to you as a help to you in your leadership to improve the lives of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people who live, work and play in Hamilton.

Yours faithfully,

Bob Marentette
Chair, Church Council

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