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Cc: [Cutler, Christopher](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); hpa@hpa.on.ca; [Mike Pearson](#); [REDACTED]; David.Sweet.A1@parl.gc.ca; donna.skelly@pc.ola.org
Subject: Re: Opinion Article - Stoney Creek News
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:56:48 PM

Dear Hamilton Police Services,

First, know that I appreciate the work that the police do. My father was a police officer. It was his vocation, and he served among many good men and women. It's a hard job, and many individuals he worked with - including himself - suffered ill effects from the toll the job takes. The ill effects of this job are studied, known, and yet somehow overlooked in today's demonization dialogue.

Policing is often thankless, and yet it matters. The relationships that police develop with the community are integral. Their actions as mediator, law enforcer, mentor, friend, support worker, crisis worker, and so much more, are the actions of heroes.

They, and their families, are often the walking wounded from dealing with the years of trauma the job can cause.

Second, I hope you have a response to the Opinion piece published in the Stoney Creek News. I read it with great disappointment:

<https://www.hamiltonnews.com/opinion-story/10223916-why-the-thin-blue-line-gets-it-wrong-when-it-comes-to-police-community-relations/?fbclid=IwAR0Bn3bRoRvAOuX1j-7Z33DYA33f3A--L-aeUD00v1EeTAzFI6SYsBIRvrM>

While I agree that there are flaws within any structural system, the anonymous author of said piece portrays a blatantly one-sided shoddy piece of journalism. They bemoan the Americanization of police support, and yet apply the same broad strokes of policing problems in America to our own Canadian society. The increasingly partisan politicisation of policing is disturbing.

And then some.

While this article's primary focus is the 'brothers in blue' with the RCMP, the same attempts to discredit municipal and provincial policing are far too often seen now in our media - without looking at the positive impact policing can have on communities.

Full reconciliation and rebuilding of systems cannot happen when one side is demonized and viewed as 'the adversarial other'. It is a shame that this is what is happening to our police services, as it undermines the trust needed to reform any potential service or system

With support,

A. W [REDACTED]