

LIBERTY FOR YOUTH

January 15, 2021

Dear Chief Girt,

I recently heard about your upcoming retirement and I believe it would be remiss if I didn't express my appreciation for the support you have provided to Liberty For Youth and specifically to the at-risk clients we serve. Below is a list of some of the things I would like to thank you for.

1. I am grateful that you reached out to me as an African Canadian Black male to better understand the cultural challenges our youth are facing.
2. For approving the liaison support of Sgt. Jon Curtis and allowing him to oversee our annual Liberty and Justice Unity basketball event. This partnership enabled Sgt. Curtis to meet with youth, who were formerly arrested by police, mentor them and jointly plan the basketball event. Additionally, thank you for allowing the Hamilton Police All-Star basketball team to participate in the event.
3. For providing support to our "Eliminating the US versus THEM mentality" project. This entailed Sgt. Jack Vanderpol meeting with youth and youth adults at the Mountain police station to provide tours of the station, share about a career in policing and provide overall mentorship, with a goal to build stronger relationships.
4. For specifically providing a letter of support in 2017, for our 3D (Discovery, Development and Deployment) funding application. Your support assisted us in receiving \$500,000, allowing us to work with 75 Hamiltonian youth involved in Gangs/Guns/Drugs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyL-iDjz6B4>
5. For providing a letter of support in 2020 for our Safer & Vital Communities Grant in the amount of \$110,000
6. For allowing Sgt. Paul Corrigan from the Hamilton Police Hate Crime unit, to aid us in providing research, statistics on hate crime and strategies for solutions.
7. Lastly for allowing, Detective Robert Lejeune to serve in a leadership capacity on the Liberty For Youth Board of Directors.

Chief Girt, thank you for your service to our city! My thoughts and prayers are with you and all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Frederick Dryden
Executive Director, Liberty For Youth
(905)297-7929