

Appendix A to Motion
respecting Correspondence
to the Police Services Board

Pat Mandy, Chair
City of Hamilton Police Services Board
c/o Kristen Stevenson
155 King William Street
Hamilton ON L8N 4C1

date, 2022 (after Council approval)

Dear Pat Mandy,

**Re: Matters Relating to Persons with Disabilities in
the City and the City of Hamilton Police Services**

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton had the pleasure to meet with City of Hamilton Chief of Police Bergen at its regular meeting on March 8, 2022. The purpose of this meeting was introductory and to discuss matters pertinent to both Police Services and the ACPD, respectively.

Over the past 20 years, the Committee has met with each of Chief Bergen's predecessors. As with all previous meetings, the Committee found the discussion with Chief Bergen very productive and informative. Committee members appreciated very much the opportunity to speak

with the Chief, and believe he too found the discussion helpful for him in his leadership of Police Services.

Among the various questions and ensuing conversation, the following was specifically discussed:

- What policing resources will be allocated to address wayward e-scooter riders and abandoned e-scooters in an effort to keep people with disabilities and other pedestrians safe following the launch of the City's e-scooter pilot program?
- Does Police Services have any ability to enforce sidewalk outdoor dining that blocks pathways of access for people with disabilities or other pedestrians from using sidewalks during the outdoor dining season? Alternatively, where any person with a disability ambulates in their own way on the roadway because of a sidewalk restaurant blocking the sidewalk, will any consideration be granted by Police Services for people with disabilities in this regard?
- In what way does Police Services respond to calls for assistance by people with disabilities when their mobility devices break down, especially under inclement weather? Is there a possibility that this type of data can be collected from across Police Services or other Emergency Services in the City?

- What role does Police Services play in responding to emergencies? How is this responsibility reflected in any emergency response plan Police Services follow? How frequently is this emergency plan reviewed and what effort is undertaken to communicate with the ACPD or any other community disability agency in the development of this plan?
- Do front line officers seek sufficient information from citizens to understand whether a disability may need consideration when communicating with, or apprehending, a person with a disability? What effort, and instruction to front line officers, does Police Services undertake in attending to persons with disabilities?
- Does Police Services have any wheelchair accessible vehicles in its fleet for transporting persons with disabilities? Are the Police Services' facilities accessible? If not, what effort will be undertaken to ensure accessibility within and across its facilities and vehicle inventory?

The first two questions relate to relatively recent decisions by City Council on matters which will have a clear and distinctly adverse impact upon persons with disabilities in the City to travel safely and unimpeded. These matters will, in the opinion of ACPD, be pertinent to members of the Police Service in weeks and months to come.

The third question relates to a matter which has been before ACPD since 2010. Despite every effort by the Committee to bring resolution to situations where the mobility devices of persons with disabilities break down when travelling about the City, there is no clear data on the frequency of breakdown calls, or a process by which break downs are resolved. The Committee believes the City has a role to play in these circumstances as it impacts community resources such as Emergency and Police Services. Additionally, there seems to be no process in place for how mobility devices of injured persons are managed when people are transferred to hospital without their mobility devices. In this regard, the Committee feels strongly that both of these matters need to be addressed by the City. And, in support, data needs to be collected on these matters.

The other questions correlate to our discussion with the Chief of Police and are important to the members of the ACPD and equally important for persons with disabilities in our community.

Pursuant to our discussion with Chief of Police Bergen, he specifically requested that these matters be forwarded to the Police Services Board for their awareness, discussion, direction and follow up by the Chief of Police as necessary. Furthermore, the Chief of Police asked to meet regularly with ACPD to ensure that matters common to

both the Committee and Police Services be adequately articulated and addressed. In support of an ongoing relationship between the Chief of Police, Police Services and ACPD, it was requested that the Chief of Police assign one of his staff to attend the monthly meetings of the Committee for the current and coming term.

Please advise of any questions or concerns. The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities would appreciate a response to this communication and any effort undertaken by the Police Services to address the specific questions noted herein.

With appreciation. Respectfully,

Aznive Mallett
Chair
Advisory Committee for
Persons with Disabilities
City of Hamilton

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton

Cc: Chief of Police Bergen
Councillor Farr
Councillor Jackson
Councillor Partridge