

From: G. Ko
Sent: March 18, 2025 12:49 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Letter of Concern: General Issues Committee (April 9, Bikeshare)

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Hello Councillors,

My name Grace K., I am a future Hamilton resident, and current student at McMaster University (pursuing an undergraduate degree in Life Sciences).

Now: Addressing the elephant in the room. Why would you want to listen to a group of hippie, rich, and uppity university students?

About something as, quite frankly, irritating as bike shares?

I'll tell you, in this letter, about my father. He's getting to be 50 now, and spends his time providing for his family. Mostly that activity, actually: He's never really been one for vacations, something that his upbringing taught him.

He grew up, in his own words, "dirt poor," and spent most of his time working at his parents' convenience store. School, and university at McMaster, was considered a special treat for him, because it meant avoiding the back-breaking and soul-eating work that meant. He's been robbed, he's been held at gunpoint, he's never taken a vacation until he came to campus in the 19890s.

In the day, he could not afford the fancy cars that his classmates did. He had so little in funding, he spent his food pass trying to bring the soda and treats, in order to stock his father's store. He did not have his parents to fall back on, he did not have his parents' car, he did not have his parents' money.

As a student, I save over \$2,400 per year on gas fuel, with the Bike Share Program. And, I'll defend this with my life: This \$2,400 could have been absolutely life-changing for my father, when he grew up studying at McMaster, trying to bring his family out of poverty.

Currently, I use the Bike Share every day, and so do my friends (quite a few who are also unable to afford a car). I also go on a one-hour ride every weekend, where I will do the majority of my shopping: Because of the scale of the bike share, this is usually to local, Hamilton-owned businesses. The money that would have been spent on gas and fuel, is instead being spent on groceries and produce: Based on my credit statement, I estimate that this is around 300 dollars per month, being relocated from gas into the local economy.

These businesses, the same type my father grew up in, really and truly rely on the traffic that the bikes and pedestrians bring. Quite frankly: The Bike Share has encouraged me to shop in Hamilton, because having a car would have meant that I would go to the larger stores in other areas.

This being said: "Beg" does not say it, "implore" is too polite. But I ask, with all of my heart:

Please, continue to fund this program.

It really does mean the world.

Sincerely,

Grace K. (McMaster Life Sciences, Class of 2028)