



January 24, 2024

Chief Frank Bergen
Hamilton Police Services
155 King William Street
Hamilton, ON, L8N 4C1

[via email to fbergen@hamiltonpolice.ca](mailto:fbergen@hamiltonpolice.ca)

Re: Our Continued Concerns in the Downtown Business Core

Dear Chief Bergen,

It was back on Thursday, April 27, 2023 when we (Troy Thompson and Mary A-z) made a presentation to the Police Services Board requesting reinstatement of a "Beat Cop" presence in our Business area. A similar request was also made @ that time by Susie Braithwaite from the International Village BIA. Our concerns related to the safety and health of our customers and staff due to the increasing social issues of homelessness, addictions and mental health that we were experiencing daily.

We appreciated your subsequent creation of the "Core Patrol" with two (2) dedicated officers which for us had an immediate result of a decrease in the number of incidents that we experienced. Unfortunately, we have not seen the Core Patrol as frequently recently and we have seen an increase in the frequency of incidents at our Downtown business locations. We note that for us there is a direct correlation between increased police presence and reduced crime (contrary to a published article in the Hamilton Spectator on Monday, January 22, 2024).

Theft, harassment, substance abuse and intoxication, overdoses in our washrooms and threats of violence to our staff and customers are a few examples of the types of incidents we are dealing with on a daily basis resulting from the social decay in the Downtown Core. Last Monday, @ Denninger's we had five (5) incidents of theft and / or threats of violence. This type of activity is directly impacting our employees' morale and well being and will ultimately affect the sustainability of our businesses.

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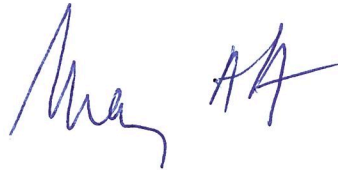
We have an obligation and duty to protect our employees and customers but cannot do this without an increased police presence to mitigate these external threats. As the 2024 budget process unfolds, we respectfully request earmarking specific and additional funds for more and continued police presence in the Downtown core.

Thank you for your assistance in the past and please let us know if we can help in any way.

Yours very truly,



Troy Thompson
President, GW Thompson Jeweller and
Pawnbroker Inc



Mary S Aduckiewicz
CEO, R Denninger Limited

cc: Andrea Horwath, Mayor, City of Hamilton
Cameron Kroetsch, Councillor Ward 2
Pat Mandy, Chair, Police Services Board
Fred Bennick, Vice Chair, Police Services Board
Kirsten Stevenson, Administrator, Police Services Board
Susie Braithwaite, Executive Director, International Village BIA
Herb Wodehouse, Chair, International Village BIA
Mary Gossifidou, Chair, R Denninger Limited
Patrick Denninger, COO, R Denninger Limited
Morgan MacKenzie, HR Manager, R Denninger Limited