March 8, 2006
File: V 2020
Fax: (905) 546-2340

Mayor Larry Di Ianni
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario

Dear Mayor:

We read with great interest the City of Hamilton’s Traffic Report for 2003-2004. On behalf of the Canada Safety Council, congratulations on your City’s impressive progress in traffic safety. By putting into place Collision Reporting Centres, the City is able to analyze and address the factors in collisions.

Red light running is a major traffic safety problem in many Canadian cities. We were pleased to note that Hamilton’s Red Light Camera program has led to a 7.8% decrease in angle collisions, the most severe type of collision. In particular, Hamilton has shared in the 6.3% decrease in fatal and injury collisions realized in the six municipalities participating in the Ontario program. This is certainly in line with international experience and confirms beyond the shadow of a doubt the value of a well-run red light camera program.

As long as there are vehicle injuries and fatalities, there is room for further improvement. When it comes to safety, there is usually no quick fix. Smart solutions like those being implemented in Hamilton aim for long-term improvements. Based on credible research and analysis of the situation as a whole, they take into account human psychology, cost effectiveness and potential impacts.

Collision data provides a basis for action. However, credit for the results must be given to the dedication of all those involved, including city staff, police, the media — and most importantly, safety conscious drivers and pedestrians. I commend you, your employees and your citizens and encourage everyone to continue their good work.

Sincerely,

Emile J. Therien
President

EJT:mea

CC: Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works (Fax: 905 540-5926); Hon. Harinder Takhar, Ontario Minister of Transportation (Fax: 416 327-9188)