Dear Stephani Patarella,
As stated in my letter of May 8th, 2007, I am deeply concerned that the City of Hamilton is putting an exorbitant price on "Freedom of Speech". I therefore request your permission to bring a delegation to address Members of Council on this matter.
We would like to do this as soon as possible, and an evening appointment would be preferable.
Yours Respectfully
Stanley Whittaker.
May 14, 2007

Mayor Eisenburger
City Hall
Hamilton, Ontario.

Rev. Stanley Whittaker

Re Open Air Meetings in Gore Park.

Your Worship,

For the past twenty-seven years I have personally conducted Open Air Meetings in Gore Park, commencing on the last Sunday in May, each week through to the last Sunday in September. Originally we were charged $3.00 per year, some eleven years ago it was increased to $10.00 per year and a few years ago to $50.00 per annum. Last year an attempt was made to charge $79.00 for each Sunday making it an increase of 1600% which was absolutely exorbitant. In consequence I wrote a letter like this, to Mayor DiAnni who acted promptly and corrected the problem. We have always regarded this fee as covering the cost of administration, and at no time purchasing the right to Freedom of Speech.

However, someone in The Parks Dept has decided to repeat the situation which your predecessor wonderfully corrected. Today, I received a message on my tape, that due to the fact that I use Hydro to operate my P.A. System, and that Hydro has increased, that I would be required to pay $79.25 per week this year. My equipment draws 100 watts and at the current cost of Hydro which is .012 cents per watt my total usage would cost less than 35 cents for the entire season, as opposed to 16x 79.25 = $1267.75 suggested. I have to draw attention to your worship that our Group under my leadership are conducting services in eight different nursing homes in this City, we are also conducting approximately ten services in The Hamilton Detention Centre every week, on Good Friday alone, we conducted no less than nine services. At the present I am in my 34th year at the Jail, and attend twice a week. Hundreds, and possibly thousands of men, previously incarcerated are leading useful lives in our community, because their lives have been changed by the Power of God under our Ministry.

I personally spent six years of my life fighting against Adolf Hitler who sought to restrict "Freedom of Speech". Many of us have rejoiced that Moscow now enjoys that freedom, and our own troops are today risking their lives, so that that freedom may be extended to Afganistan. Therefore, your worship I find it regrettable that the City of Hamilton is imposing a price on this greatly cherished right, which can only be interpreted as an attempt to restrict or curtail the preaching of the Gospel in this City.

Furthermore, in view of the fact that we are the only Group who do this on an ongoing basis, we find that this is discriminating of the worst kind, for no political Party, or for that matter any of the vocal Groups, that parade our City from time to time would be treated in this way. I therefore appeal to you Sir as the chief Magistrate in this City, to intervene to correct this grave injustice, alternatively I request that you grant us permission to address the Council on this matter.

Yours Very Respectfully,

Stanley Whittaker, (Rev).