Dear Mrs. Caterini:

RE: Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs)

On August 27, 2013, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced the authorization process for the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) for all front-line officers. At the September 16, 2013 Police Services Board Meeting, there was a presentation on CEWs and two (2) recommendations were approved by the Police Services Board.

One (1) recommendation was that the Police Services Board canvass the community, through City Council, and that the Board receives the position of Council with respect to the issuance of CEWs to all front-line officers.

The Hamilton Police Service has pro-actively trained and re-certified 219 officers in the month of September so that they maintain their CEW certification. These 219 officers are now qualified to carry CEWs if they are in supervisory roles or are part of the Tactical Team.

The Hamilton Police Service has also tentatively scheduled 12-hour training for all officers that are not presently CEW trained. These officers would require an initial 12 hours of CEW training in the first year, over and above their annual 12 hours of Use of Force Training. Thereafter, they would require four (4) hours annually for re-qualification on the use of the CEW.

The HPS would like to commence this training in January 2014 and have it completed by June 30, 2014. This is a huge undertaking as approximately 579 officers will require this training. There are also equipment costs associated with conducting this training.
There is some urgency in getting the community consultation process done in a timely manner. It is imperative that City Council conclude the community consultation process over the next two (2) month period and provide this input to the Police Services Board by December 1, 2013. This would provide adequate time for the Police Services Board to review the results and, if approved for the Hamilton Police Service, to implement the January training schedule.

Sincerely,

Glenn De Caire
Chief of Police

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