



February 4, 2022

VIA EMAIL: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Attention: Jim Watson, Mayor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1J1

Dear Mr. Watson,

RE: FREEDOM CONVOY 2022

Please be advised that the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (the “Justice Centre”) has been retained by the Freedom Convoy 2022 Finance Committee (the “Freedom Convoy”). We understand that there has been discussion in the media about the safety and security of the City of Ottawa and its citizens as a result of the Freedom Convoy.

We write this letter in an attempt to provide an outline of the efforts made by the Freedom Convoy in that regard and trust that the representations made in this letter are accurate and can be confirmed by the City of Ottawa and all relevant police services.

While we understand that the Freedom Convoy has caused a disruption in the City of Ottawa, we also trust that the City of Ottawa and its citizens understand that it is the capital of Canada. Canadians have the legal right to protest peacefully, and that right is protected by section 2(c) of Canada’s *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Freedom Convoy has always been clear that it only supports peaceful assembly.

The Freedom Convoy has consistently, repeatedly, and publicly posted that unlawful activity will not be condoned. As has been demonstrated, the organizers, participants and supporters believe in peaceful and lawful protest and have always been clear at every opportunity that unlawful conduct is not condoned. The Freedom Convoy has also been clear that unlawful conduct will undermine the goals set out for this protest.

The Freedom Convoy has maintained a direct line and relationship with the Ottawa Police Services (“OPS”), Ontario Provincial Police (“OPP”), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (“RCMP”), and the Parliamentary Protective Services (“PPS”).

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In our press conference on February 3, 2022, Danny Bulford, a recently resigned member of the RCMP with 15 years of service provided the following update regarding the situation on the ground in Ottawa in respect of the Freedom Convoy:

“I have extensive experience in protective operations for large-scale events here in the National Capital Region. I've been involved in tactical planning for many of these large-scale events, so I'm keenly familiar with what is happening right now in regards to the police presence down around Parliament Hill and the downtown core.

So on that, I would like to just put people's minds at ease. The public that is watching people that have concerns over what they're seeing in regards to the heavy police presence... the barricades, and some of the equipment that people have seen. I can assure you that that is all standard practice and it's no reason for panic. Anytime we have a massive event such as this, such as Canada Day in downtown Ottawa, that's the norm, so it's no reason for alarm, I assure you. We have been working closely with the Ottawa Police Service, the OPP, the RCMP, and the Parliamentary Protective Service. Right from early last week liaising with them.

Any information that we have received related to any public safety concern has been immediately forwarded to the respective police services because the safety of the truckers, the Ottawa public, the police, and first responders is our paramount concern and that includes our effort to ensure emergency vehicle access and routes at all times.

My primary concern is individuals or groups with the potential to deliberately instigate conflict with the freedom convoy movement.

In order to discredit the Freedom Convoy 2022, we've seen circulating messaging in the media and social media about people associated with the Freedom Convoy 2022 being arrested and charged.

I have it on very reliable information that people from the movement were not associated and that offences related to property damage and just an assault this morning, committed by agitators, were witnessed and reported by a trucker and one of our volunteer security personnel. This was reported to the police and handled by the Ottawa Police Service.

What I have seen with my own eyes on the odd break that I get agree truckers and supporters of the movement feeding the homeless for free right on Wellington Street and filling their backpacks.

Truckers taking a whole trailer full of food down to the homeless shelter. Maintaining cleanliness of city streets, including picking up discarded masks all over the ground that we've come to see. Centralized garbage collection, shoveling snow at the War Memorial and the Terry Fox statue, decorating those two locations, and providing security for those two locations.

I've even seen people have tents set up right by Terry Fox in order to protect that statue and I expect that that level of commitment to the City of Ottawa and respecting our traditions in this country is just getting started.

Thank you for your time.”

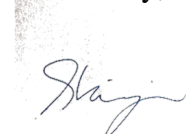
The events occurring on the ground at the City of Ottawa are unprecedented in many respects. Most notably, with so many additional Canadians, vehicles and potential situations, we are pleased to report that this freedom movement has been filled with love, support, and respect. While we understand that some incidents have happened, with this amount of people and pressure, we confirm that escalated police action has not been necessary since the arrival of the Freedom Convoy.

Any potential police interactions regarding the convoy and its supports, the Freedom Convoy has immediately investigated with the respective police services to determine the seriousness and credibility of the information. We trust the City of Ottawa and the respective police services will confirm the contents of this letter.

We also note that the CCTV cameras for the City of Ottawa were offline for the first few days of the protest and are now playing “on a repeating loop” and do not actually show what is happening on the ground downtown. For safety reasons we strongly urge you to remedy this situation and restore live feed from those CCTV cameras. It is imperative that law enforcement and the public have access to video footage of what is actually occurring in and around the protest.

Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information or clarification.

Yours truly,



Eva Chipiuk

cc: Chief Peter Sloly, Chief of Police, Ottawa: peter.sloly@ottawapolice.ca;
Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police: OPP.Commissioners.Of@opp.ca;
Assistant Commissioner Jodie Boudreau, Commanding Officer, Ontario: Jodie.Boudreau@rcmp-grc.gc.ca;
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