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6 August 2015

Councillor Jason Coady
Chair, Protective & Emergency Services Committee
City of Charlottetown
PO Box 98
Charlottetown, PE
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Dear Councillor Coady,

I am writing to express my opposition to the plans announced today by Charlottetown City Police to install "somewhere between 60 and 80 video cameras" in downtown Charlottetown.

In the more than 20 years I have lived and worked in downtown Charlottetown, I have had many positive encounters with members of City Police: they have been universally professional, helpful and fair. I'm very aware that there are all manner of threats to the public good that City Police deal with every day, and I've no wish to call into question the challenges the force faces.

I do believe, however, that it's important to consider the chilling effect on downtown residents that being constantly surveilled by a network of CCTV cameras will result in.

I consider such surveillance both an egregious violation of my civil liberties, and, more practically, a move that forces me to reconsider my choice to call Charlottetown my home.

Let me be clear: I'm not writing to dispute any of the claims City Police make with regards to the efficacy of their CCTV camera network; it may, indeed, result in a reduction in some crime.

I strongly believe, however, that the price citizens are being asked to pay for this is too great; I have no wish to live in a neighbourhood where I am constantly being watched.

I urge you, in your capacity as chair of the Protective & Emergency Services Committee, to move to cancel this project.

Regards,

Peter Rukavina
Resident, Ward One

cc: Mayor Clifford Lee
Councillor Eddie Rice