



Deputy Chief David Korol
Edmonton Police Service
Edmonton, Alberta

January 5, 2011

Re: Comments made to the media by Det. Bill Clark

Dear Deputy Chief Korol,

We are writing this letter on behalf of members of the Alberta Somali Community Center and the Canadian Somali community at large to express our concern at the comments made by detective Bill Clark of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) to the media on Sunday January 02, 2011. Although we share detective Clark's frustration with the pace of cooperation from witnesses in this case, we also feel that some of the comments that he made to the media were unfair, irresponsible and unreflective of the stellar working relationship between the Alberta Canadian Somali community and the Edmonton Police Service. The comments made by detective Clark suggested among other things that:

- The investigation of the most recent homicide inside the Papyrus Restaurant and Lounge would be shut down if the Somali community does not cooperate with the police. We feel this threat to shut down the investigation made only a few hours after the incident is unfair because it basically says that we as Canadian Somalis do not deserve the services of the police service if we do not behave a certain way. Detective Clark would be better served to update himself with the history of cooperation that has existed between the community and the EPS.
- It frustrates him and his colleagues when they hear people in the Canadian Somali community and in other "ethnic" communities complaining about the city administration. We simply do not understand why detective Clark feels that he has to lecture us on how we view the city administration. We are a Canadian community that has every right to criticize the lack of city leadership on various issues and we completely reject detective Clark's contention that criticism of the city administration somehow frustrates the police.
- We community leaders turn a blind eye on issues related to witnesses cooperating with the police. This is simply not true.

As you may be aware, the Alberta Somali Community Center has made a lot of headway in encouraging members of the Canadian Somali community to work with the police. We have even partnered with EPS and Crime Stoppers to conduct workshops that explain to the community how individuals can report crime to the police. Notwithstanding detective Clark's comments, we have an excellent working relationship with EPS and we hope continue to do so. Our frustration is with the

city administration that has not exercised leadership by partnering with us and providing us with the resources necessary to integrate our community into the Canadian mainstream.

Our community is disappointed with detective Clark's comments and we sincerely hope that his views do not reflect the views of EPS. As such, we hope that you may take this opportunity to reassure us that EPS does not share detective Clark's views and that you will continue to treat our community in the same manner as any other Canadian community in Edmonton. We also hope that you will ask detective Clark to withdraw some of his hurtful and unfortunate comments. We await your response and we thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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