



2 November 2016  
PO Box 11-474  
Ellerslie, Auckland 1542

Hon Judith Collins Ref: Min 16/P/396  
Private Bag 18041  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister

### **Policing in Ellerslie**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 May 2016. However the committee of the Ellerslie Residents Association (ERA) is even more concerned now that the crime figures for Ellerslie continue show increasing crime from the previous months and years. Members continue to receive complaints from local residents and shop owners that despite the “Prevention First Strategy” and “Operation Resolve”, burglaries and thefts from cars are not being followed up by the police.

Changes in policing strategies have failed Ellerslie. Without local constables with local knowledge on the ground in Ellerslie, police seem unable to prevent or solve crime. Our nominal community constable now sits in the Ellerslie Community Centre office from 0900 – 1100 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays although he often only gets to this office on one of those days. Previously the office was the permanent home of a community constable but when that constable was withdrawn to Newmarket, a team of volunteers manned the office. They too have now been withdrawn. In what seems to symbolize the withdrawal of police coverage in Ellerslie, all police signage has now been removed from the Community Centre Office.

At our September meeting, committee members noted the increased crime reported by our community constable and listed a number of other crime events which he didn't seem to be informed about. Among them were:

- A fracas in late July at the Community Hall that was attended by two police cars.
- A member of the Ellerslie Theatre being bashed and robbed in Arthur Street
- Seven vehicles robbed of \$14,000 worth of goods between 1am and 3am in Formosa Court one night. To date nothing has been recovered.

Since the withdrawal of the manned office, elderly people have been intimidated into handing over \$10 or \$20 by young bullies. The older people do not report these crimes to the Police for fear of being assaulted. Shop owners have reported this practice to our committee members. We need a local constable's presence in our shopping precinct from 3pm to 5pm each weekday afternoon during school terms. Our suburb has a population of 12,000 to 14,000 people and based on population alone we should have a number of police officers serving our community. Small towns in New Zealand with lesser populations have 3 and 4 officers serving them. The allocation of Police resources seems to be unequal.

The Eastern Police HQ is in the neighbouring Mt Wellington suburb. This office opens at 9am and closes at 4pm, Monday to Friday, and although officers are inside the building outside those times they refuse to answer the door even when a desperate victim of assault is knocking on the door. We are very dissatisfied with the access to the Police. If one makes a phone call for a police help the call centre operators seem unable to give relative priorities.

Residents generally report that they feel less secure today than when the office in the Ellerslie War Memorial Hall was staffed by a Community Constable. We feel that within the increase in Police numbers mooted by the Government, Ellerslie should again be allocated a community constable who works in our community.

Yours faithfully

Bryce Bartley

Secretary

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Cc Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga MP for Maungakiekie  
Eastern Area Commander.