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Hamilton

Feb. 17, 2016

Nicolas Lloreda Ricaurte
Ambassador of the Republic of Columbia
360 Albert St., Suite 1002
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Ambassador Lloreda

Further to my message to your office last week, I wish to publically apologize for the remarks I made regarding my trip to the South American country a dozen years ago. They were not intended to be hurtful to the Canadian/Columbian community.

I take pride in the business acumen I bring to Council and during our budget meeting, I let my personal impressions on my visit get in the way of a serious debate on public transit for the City of Hamilton. We have always benchmarked ourselves in the area of public transportation on similar municipalities like Calgary Alberta, Charlotte North Carolina and Portland Oregon. The populations and demographics of these communities mirror those of Hamilton. When comparisons were used for the city of Bogotá, with a population of eight million, it was then I reacted the way I did and referenced my personal experiences rather than the demographic differences based on population, climate and geography.

I look forward to moving forward with my Council duties and the continuing 2016 Budget Deliberations along with working closely with staff as we face the challenges around public transportation, other infrastructure projects and social services in the City of Hamilton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lloyd Ferguson".

Lloyd Ferguson
Councillor, Ward 12