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To whom it may concern,

The Filipino Golden Agers (FILGA) wishes to table this brief as part of the consultations under the auspices of the Public Security Commission on the issue of police street checks.

Frankly, we are disappointed that the policy announced by the Montreal police (SPVM) did not propose any major change from the unacceptable status quo which sees police officers regularly stop people in the street without cause. The numbers you have made public show almost always those stopped are visible minorities.

Now we learn that the Government of Quebec has decreed a new policy province wide - and that includes the SPVM. It seems that the provincial decree goes less far than the one issued previously by the SPVM.

As grandmothers and grandfathers, we were shocked earlier this summer when a young Filipino child was thrown to the ground and arrested for supposedly not socially distancing. This police response was disproportionate and we note that this child was the only one in a group of young teenagers who was not white.

Whether it is enforcement of socially distancing rules or stopping people on the street, the police seem to target persons who are young and visible minorities.

We call this profiling and it should be up to your Commission to stop this.

Quebec's policy which is to apply to every police force in the province including our own here in Montreal allows street checks to continue but makes no obligation for police to note the race of the person stopped.

This data is vital in determining if profiling is happening. The policy does not address the demands of the community to end discriminatory street checks. One person in three in Montreal is a visible minority and we should not have to fear being stopped because of our origins.

Your numbers released last November were eloquent. Street checks have increased over 150% in a few years and for no evident reason. Persons who are First Nations or of a visible minority were stopped disproportionately. Stops were not motivated by crimes or violations of bylaws.

We thus demand that your Commission better control street checks. There should be a clearly stated publicly available policy statement as to when a street check is justified.

There must be better data and reporting. We ask that the police department be required to note the race of any person stopped and the reason why and that data be tabled with your Commission at least twice a year.

We also ask that you restrict the language in the street check policy. As written, a police officer does not really need a reason to stop someone. He or she has virtual carte blanche. You need to reflect on this and place restrictions on a police officer's discretion.

Yours truly,



Lilia Esguerra
President