

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

TAPROOT
PUBLISHING

Geoff Crowe
Director of Legal Services
Edmonton Police Service
9620 103a Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 0H7

Dear Mr. Crowe:

I am writing to you to express my view that the Progress Report should be considered a media outlet, if it is indeed necessary for the Edmonton Police Service to have separate tracks for media and the general public regarding information requests.

Taproot Publishing is a media organization incorporated in 2017. Through Taproot Edmonton, we commission and publish original stories and podcasts, as well as regular newsletters updating readers on what is happening locally on various topics such as city council, business, tech, the arts, media, etc. I have a master's degree in journalism from Carleton University and 15 years of experience in newspapers, as well as several years as an entrepreneurial journalist. My co-founder, Mack Male, has provided extensive coverage of the city through his long-running blog and his social media channels, as well as the work he does through Taproot.

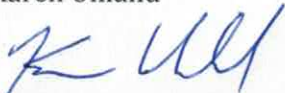
Technology has democratized access to publishing tools and the ability to reach an audience. It has also disrupted the business models that supported mainstream media outlets, to the point that they can no longer provide the coverage they once did. This creates both an opportunity and a necessity for new media outlets such as the Progress Report and Taproot to step in to inform the public.

In light of these conditions, it would be more productive to evaluate organizations based on whether they commit acts of journalism, rather than whether they are traditional media outlets. In our estimation, the Progress Report does so, through its newsletter, website and podcast.

It is in the best interests of the Edmonton Police Service and the public to ensure that such acts of journalism are accurate and are based on timely information. As such, it seems wiser to respond to the Progress Report's requests for interviews or access to information with the same expediency applied to more traditional media outlets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Unland



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