DIGITAL LAW & INNOVATION SOCIETY

May 27, 2021

Dear City of Calgary Council,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Police Accountability App project.

The Digital Law & Innovation Society (DLIS) is a student group at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law that promotes familiarity with digital law topics and the responsible and effective use of technology in the law.

Part of DLIS' role is to act as a connector and incubator. We support projects that align with our mandate, and assist with design, logistics, partnership development, financial administration, budget management and tailored support to help our partners succeed.

The proposed Police Accountability App project is a natural fit with our mission. Moreover, it dovetails with one of our existing projects, a research collaborative led by Professor Nidhi Hegde. This project is funded by the University of Alberta and Edmonton Police Service Seed Grant Program. Stewarding the Police Accountability App project in tandem represents an efficiency in administrative costs. More importantly, it represents a chance to enhance the quality and scope of this legal app work in the interests of access to justice.

I have been nothing short of impressed with the leadership of Denis Ram, Karyna Omelchenko, Prabhjot Punnia and Darren Wagner on the Police Accountability App work to date. It has been an honour to support M. Ram and M. Omelchenko through the Digital Law Cohort program that DLIS runs. I have no doubt that their continued leadership on the Police Accountability App will lead to strong outcomes for the City of Calgary, and far beyond.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about DLIS or our support for this project.

Best regards,

Hero Laird

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ICS: Unrestricted