



Hamilton Police Services Board

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police Services Board & Body Cameras
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 3:39:00 PM

Hi Kirsten,

I am writing to bring up a couple of issues in light of ongoing racism within our country. I am not sure that you are the person that I need to speak to, so if this is incorrect, I am happy to send this to someone else.

Firstly, according to your website, it appears that everyone on the Police Services Board is white. This is highly problematic. It is very important that members of the Board include people of colour - it looks to me like your website is missing one person, so perhaps I am wrong in my assumption - even so, if out of seven individuals, only one is a person of colour, we have a problem.

The main reason I am emailing you is about body cameras being used on police. I realize this issue has been debated many times, most recently in November, but I am writing to voice my support for the cameras. It is so important that the use of force by police officers is well documented and body cameras is seemingly the easiest way to do so. I realize this program costs money. However, it will be money well spent if they hold our police force accountable and increases the safety of marginalized communities.

As a white, cisgender, straight female, I've always felt decently safe in Hamilton. However, after what happened at the Pride incidents last year, I have not felt that way. I am learning how unsafe our city has been for so many people for so long. Most recently, I was informed by a coworker that her 15 year old black son was recently stopped by police while out for a jog. He had done absolutely nothing wrong. This is unacceptable. Things need to change in our city.

I hope this letter will continue to press the need for body cameras and move towards a more inclusive Police Services Board.

Sincerely,
Gillian Alexander

Gillian Alexander

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Ariyo, John](#); [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 4:38:11 PM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Sam Merulla, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 4.

We need greater transparency and communication from police services in every city after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others.

In municipalities all across Canada, the police have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs, and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,
 Danica Evering

[REDACTED]
 Hamilton ON
 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Body Worn Cameras for Hamilton Police Service
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:13:18 PM

June 2, 2020

Hamilton Police Services Board
 155 King William Street
 P.O. Box 1060, LCD 1
 Hamilton, Ontario
 L8N 4C1

To all concerned,

I am writing you concerning the implementation of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) by police services from the RCMP to local municipal departments. As things currently stand, the implementation of them is very inconsistent. Over the past six years, the use of BWC's has been assessed and studied from Public Safety Canada down to the individual services. Their use either gets voted down repeatedly as is the case with the Hamilton Police Service or it seems slow to get the institutional gears rolling, as with the Toronto Police Service. The need for them is becoming more and more apparent and cases can be made for the net benefit to using them. It is also the right thing to do in terms of accountability, transparency, and public trust in the various police services. I hope that you will do everything you can to bring about positive change in this area.

At this time, the string of abuses of power by law enforcement officials in the United States is at the forefront of the news and in our minds. Canada faces those same sort of issues, regardless of police officials in this country claiming otherwise, as with Chief Eric Girt in November of 2019. The issue of racial bias by police officers in Canada is well documented. Neil Stonechild, the Thunder Bay Police Service, and the treatment of protesters for Idle No More and Wet'suwet'en are just some of the many examples. Not to mention that Canada is becoming a far more diverse and multicultural nation, with immigrant communities from a wide range of backgrounds forming across Canada. Creating a means for police services to remain accountable, foster a sense of trust, and allowing for both officer safety as well as that of the public is essential.

As the Hamilton Police Service Board, public safety, the public trust in our institutions, as well as the safety, and efficacy of our police services is something that I am sure you take very seriously. Your commitment to helping shape the healthiest and most outstanding communities is appreciated. It is why you chose to work as a public servants. Please help with this initiative by doing the following:

- Advocate for the speedy and comprehensive adoption of Body-Worn Cameras for members of police service.
- Help remove roadblocks to their implementation by creating funding and legislation for their use.
- Promote a more transparent, equitable, racially unbiased, community focused police service.

Thank you for your commitment to safety, justice, and equity. Will you now work towards the improvement of our police services? What specific actions will you take towards this goal? I look forward to your response detailing how you will address these issues.

Sincerely,

Johann Heinrich Malan

[REDACTED]

Waterdown, ON

[REDACTED]

cc: David Sweet, MP; Donna Skelly, MPP, Fred Eisenberger, Mayor of Hamilton, Judi Partridge, Ward 15 Councillor.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Mayor; matthew.green@parl.qc.ca; Farr, Jason; Paparella, Stephanie; Stevenson, Kirsten](mailto:matthew.green@parl.qc.ca)
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:31:39 PM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Jason Farr, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 2.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Eli Nolet

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-q@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-q@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers & Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:21:04 AM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Jason Farr, City Council, General Issues Committee, Committee Against Racism, and the Hamilton Police,

I'm reaching out in regards to community safety and the recent displays of police brutality in Toronto. I am a citizen of Hamilton residing in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. The death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet is a prime example of why they are so important. You have voted against them 4 times, why is that, and what is the Hamilton police force trying to hide?

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy as well as increase the communities confidence and trust in Police. In terms of safety, body cameras would reduce violent police interactions as both citizens and cops behave differently if they know they are being recorded.

Body cameras would improve training in the Police force as it would allow you to analyze and critique real life decision making, something that is important considering how often Police use unnecessary excessive force. It would allow you to analyze these interactions and ask questions, what prompted them to get violent? Is there a racial bias? With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with tax payer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority.

Hamilton citizens do not feel safe in police presence, we do not feel protected. Your Police force needs to enforce more rigorous race and discrimination training in order for something to change. Body cameras are a small step towards regaining the public's trust.

As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Eli Nolet

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-q@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-q@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:07:53 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Eli Nolet

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Paparella, Stephanie](#)
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:43:46 PM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Terry Whitehead, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 14.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Madeleine Luvisa

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-q@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-q@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; ward14@hamilton.ca; [Ward 1 Office](#); ward2@hamilton.ca; [Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann](#); ward4@hamilton.ca; ward5@hamilton.ca; ward6@hamilton.ca; ward7@hamilton.ca; ward9@hamilton.ca; ward10@hamilton.ca; ward11@hamilton.ca; ward12@hamilton.ca; ward13@hamilton.ca; ward15@hamilton.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers & Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:27:59 AM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Terry Whitehead, City Council, General Issues Committee, Committee Against Racism, and the Hamilton Police,

I'm reaching out in regards to community safety and the recent displays of police brutality in Toronto. I am a citizen of Hamilton residing in Ward 14.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. The death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet is a prime example of why they are so important. You have voted against them 4 times — why is that, and what is the Hamilton police force trying to hide?

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy as well as increase the communities confidence and trust in Police. In terms of safety, body cameras would reduce violent police interactions as both citizens and cops behave differently if they know they are being recorded.

Body cameras would improve training in the Police force as it would allow you to analyze and critique real life decision making, something that is important considering how often Police use unnecessary excessive force. It would allow you to analyze these interactions and ask questions, what prompted them to get violent? Is there a racial bias? With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with tax payer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority.

Hamilton citizens do not feel safe in police presence, we do not feel protected. Your Police force needs to enforce more rigorous race and discrimination training in order for something to change. Body cameras are a small step towards regaining the public's trust.

As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Madeleine Luvisa

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Hamilton Demands Body Cams
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 11:09:40 AM

Hello,

I'm reaching out as a local Hamilton citizen in regards to community safety and the recent displays of police brutality in America and Toronto. It worries me that Hamilton police still do not have body cams, the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet is a perfect example of why they are so important. You have voted against them 4 times, what is the Hamilton police force trying to hide? With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Making body cams necessary would only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy as well as increase the communities confidence and trust in Police. In terms of safety, body cams would reduce violent police interactions as both citizens and cops behave differently if they know they are being recorded. Body cams would improve training in the Police force as it would allow you to analyze and critique real life decision making, something that is important considering how often Police use unnecessary excessive force in the heat of the moment. It would allow you to analyze these interactions and ask questions, what prompted them to get violent? Is there a racial bias? I realize that body cams cost money but in light of recent events, is ensuring your citizens' safety not worth it? This should be a priority. Hamilton citizens do not feel safe in police presence, we do not feel protected. Your Police force needs to enforce more rigorous race and discrimination training in order for something to change. Body cams are a great start to regaining the public's trust. With all of the pros of body cams, why are they still not being used? Why is the City of Hamilton still so against them? Once again, what are you trying to hide? Hamilton citizen's are demanding body cams, petitions have been made and emails will continue to be sent. Please let me know how you plan to proceed from here.

Sincerely,
Olivia Bozzo

From: [Pride Hamilton](#)
To: [Eisenberger, Fred](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [R. Diodati](#); egirt@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; fbergen@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; afilice@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
Subject: Open Letter to HPSB, HPS, and Mayor
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:27:45 PM
Attachments: [Open Letter to the HPSB, HPS, and Mayor.pdf](#)

Please see the open letter attached to this email and please ensure that the other members of the Hamilton Police Services Board receive it.

We do not have their public email addresses.

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Pride Hamilton Board of Directors
pridehamilton.com



June 3, 2020

After almost 30 years of celebrating Pride in Hamilton, and on the shoulders of so many who fought before us, we write this letter to continue the protest.

The Hamilton Police Service and its leadership under the Hamilton Police Services Board, a Board that includes Hamilton's Mayor, continue to undermine, ignore, and silence members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities.

In the past 2 days alone, members of these organizations have targeted these communities in inappropriate and unwelcome ways, namely by the:

- Mayor raising the Pride and trans flags without consultation; and
- the Hamilton Police Service posting an inappropriate video on social media.

Before we get into the specifics, we want to reaffirm our support for local Black leaders who spoke truth to Hamilton's institutions yesterday and for Black Lives Matter Toronto for supporting and amplifying their voices. We continue to stand in solidarity with you all.

Mayor raising the Pride and trans flags without consultation

The Mayor unilaterally decided to raise Pride and trans flags at City Hall on June 1, 2020.

Let us be impeccably clear: this was a hollow and empty gesture.

The act of raising flags is a meaningless symbolic gesture if a request to fly them doesn't come from the communities that those flags represent. In spirit, they belong to those communities and not to the institutions that raise them. No organization, to our knowledge, representing Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ communities publicly asked for them to be raised.

Take the Pride flag down and immediately consult with members of the trans community in Hamilton about the trans flag.

Hamilton Police Service posting a harmful video to their social media channels

With respect to the video released by the Hamilton Police Service, Pride Hamilton is deeply troubled by its content. It demonstrates, clearly, that the Hamilton Police Service is completely out of touch with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities in Hamilton.

The video contains imagery that is completely inappropriate and harmful. It contains images of bullet proof vests and military-style uniforms mixed with pink- and rainbow-washing calls to join in a virtual celebration. This video makes digital Pride spaces unsafe for some members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Take the video down.

As of the writing of this letter, and as a reminder:

- There are still charges pending against those who stood up to defend Pride from white supremacists in 2019: **drop the charges**
- The issues raised by the City of Hamilton's LGBTQ Advisory Committee and Pride Hamilton, both in advance of last year's flag raising and in the aftermath of the violence at Pride 2019, have not been properly addressed: **respond to them publicly**
- The LGBTQ Advisory Committee has not been permitted to meet virtually and, as a result, has been prevented from participating in Pride month or addressing these issues: **allow City of Hamilton citizen committees to meet virtually**
- Neither the Hamilton Police Services Board nor the Hamilton Police Service have taken action to address the damage their organizations and their members have done to all oppressed communities in Hamilton: **take action to address these and other demands made by members of oppressed communities in Hamilton**

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Pride Hamilton Board of Directors

pridehamilton.com

This letter was sent by email to the Hamilton Police Services Board, the administration of the Hamilton Police Service, and the Mayor of Hamilton.

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Ward 1 Office](#)
 Cc: chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; Office of the Mayor; Stevenson, Kirsten
 Subject: Meeting request
 Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:01:24 PM

Hello Maureen,

We need your assistance please. I am a Ward1 resident living on Kent St. I am, like so many others, very deeply saddened by the current racial climate being felt so powerfully all around the world. I am Angry with the systemic racism that is still so rampant in our society. I do not agree with Doug Ford who stated yesterday, that this type of systemic racism doesn't exist in Canada. I feel that his statements just perpetuate the white privilege that we all so blindly, or not so blindly, continue to enjoy. A white man in power saying this exacerbates the issues right at the core of our judiciary and political systems. Thereby keeping the ugliness hidden and allowing racist people and acts to go on as usual unchecked and thus maintaining our privilege.

There is one shining light in all of this that I am extremely proud of and lifted by and that is the loud voices and courage of our Hamilton youth. Our youth will demand the change we need in our community.

My son, Jaxon(a 2nd yr student at UBC) has started a petition to have our Hamilton police to wear bodycams. This is an important step in transparency and accountability. Police have extreme power and with great power comes great responsibility. This would go such a long way to show our youth and our black youth in particular that their voices are heard and we won't be silent or complacent in our great city...that we stand with them and Black lives matter. That Hamilton will not be silent.

We are asking for your assistance.

We ask that you facilitate a face to face meeting between yourself, my son Jaxon Ciraolo-Brown, Police Chief Eric Girt, the Hamilton Police Services board and Fred Eisenberger. Jaxon would like an opportunity to bring this petition directly to them and have the voices of the petition heard in a professional, peaceful manner.

Jaxon has contacted you as well.

Attached is a link to his petition with over 7500 signatures in 12 hrs.

https://www.change.org/p/goal-require-hamilton-police-officers-to-wear-body-cameras-on-duty?recruiter=1103334312&recruited_by_id=956bbfa0-a4f9-11ea-83e6-dd70d2df7a42&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard

Kindly contact Jaxon Ciraolo-Brown [REDACTED] or myself

[REDACTED]

to discuss

Best Regards,
 Tina.

Tina Ciraolo

[REDACTED]

This communication may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, please note that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this message and any attachments thereto in error should please notify the sender immediately by telephone or e-mail and delete them from his or her computer.

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-gp@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-gp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-gp@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.qc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.qc.ca; [Pearson, Maria](#)
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:40:17 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward [YOUR WARD # HERE].

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sofia Labb

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-qp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-qp@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:15:26 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rachael Marriette-Thom

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-gp@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-gp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-gp@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.qc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.qc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:36:43 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 7.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[Anisa Verrelli]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:52:08 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 3.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Vanessa Urbina

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police Services Board - Letter from concerned citizen
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:18:58 PM
Attachments: [To-the-Hamilton-Police-Service-Board.docx](#)

Good evening Kirsten,

I'm hoping you can share this letter with the Police Services Board on my behalf; I'm a concerned citizen of Hamilton looking to get in touch with the board.

Thanks for your help with sharing my letter!

Arielle Ross

[REDACTED]

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

I am concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year.¹ This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers², but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program³. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement⁴ with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be apart of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Arielle Ross

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>

² <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>

⁴ <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

[Type here]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Hamilton Police Services Board RE Body-Worn Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:03:33 PM

To the Hamilton Police Service Board
 Attn: Kirsten Stevenson (please forward)

I am concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers. We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be apart of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation. Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Samantha Butler
 [REDACTED]

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>
4. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: For Hamilton Police Services Board RE Body-Worn Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:06:44 PM

To the Hamilton Police Service Board
 Attn: Kirsten Stevenson (please forward)

I am concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability.

For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be apart of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

John Butler

[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>
4. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: We need change.
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:19:35 PM

Dear Kirsten,

I am a concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We must protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For many Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I know these things cost money but I think our money can be used more wisely.

Please let me know how I can continue to be a part of this conversation.

Thanks for listening! I appreciate the work you do.

Sincerely,

Maria Eleusiniotis

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-gp@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-gp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-gp@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.qc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.qc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:09:34 AM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 2.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an exception? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, it would increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please act now.

Annie Webber

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Letter for the Police Services Board
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:10:45 AM

Dear Kirsten,

I hear you're the one to write to to share a letter with the Police Services Board. Thank you so much! I'd be grateful if you could share this letter:

Dear Police Services Board,

I wanted to write with some encouragement and some questions surrounding policing in our city. While I haven't had much personal interaction with your department, I am very grateful for the way that officers responded to a Syrian newcomer friend of mine who was facing discrimination from a neighbour. The officers who visited him even followed up and later helped his family get new furniture.

I'm very encouraged to read in the Spec that your officers are not trained to use chokeholds. I know this has gone a long way to prevent unnecessary deaths!

Here are a few questions I have that I would be so grateful if you could answer:

- Could you tell me more about your de-escalation policies?
- What duty to officers have to intervene if another officer is violating use of force policies?
- What does your use of force continuum entail?
- Do you have a reporting system for when officers threaten to use force or use force on civilians?

I'm eager for your answers. Thank you so much!

Best,

Brittani Farrington

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Office of the Mayor](#)
Subject: Body cameras for Police
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:23:38 AM

Dear Mr. Eisenberger, Ms Wilson and Ms Stevenson,

I am sending this email which I hope you will consider this request and also forward this to the board of police services and the leadership of Hamilton Police Services.

I understand that the decision was made not to use lapel cameras.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>

I would like to say that given the systemic race issues here locally as well as in other places, the use of police lapel cameras is necessary.

Could you please make sure that my voice is heard?

Thank you,

Shelle Rose Charvet

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Cc: [Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinde Nann](#)
Subject: Re: Police accountability
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:15:38 AM

Hi Kirsten,

I'd like to add the following to my previous email for the next Police Services Board.

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

Like Minneapolis, it is time to defund the police and reallocate these funds towards improved community care:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/minneapolis-dismantle-police-department-george-floyd-1.5602543>

Like Toronto, it is time to end the Student Resource Officer program:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/school-resource-officers-toronto-board-police-1.4415064>

Last week I wrote an email expressing my disappointment that the use of body cams was not being prioritized. I had thought that using body cams would help build trust and improve relationships between the police and community. In the time since I wrote that email I have attended webinars and read a dozen articles and studies about how attempts to reform police across North America, including the use of body cams, have failed.

The following NPR article and audio discuss a national study which show body cams do not result in a change in behaviour amongst police:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/20/558832090/body-cam-study-shows-no-effect-on-police-use-of-force-or-citizen-complaints>

Videos continue to come out across America of Police officers using violent and deadly force against citizens including members of the media, the elderly, children and those living with disabilities. Knowing that the world is watching has not changed the tactics used by police. It would be naive to think this will not impact the way policing is done in Canada.

This article records the 461 deaths by police between 2000 and 2017. More than 70% of those who died at the hands of the police lived with mental health or addition concerns:

<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform-custom/deadly-force>

On June 4th 2020 Chantel Moore, an Indigenous, woman was shot to death during a wellness check.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/chantel-moore-police-shooting-investigation-1.5599715>

Locally, Steve Mesic, Fred Penner, and Tony Diver were all experiencing mental health distress when killed by police. Why do we continue to send people with guns to help support those experiencing mental health distress?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/chantel-moore-police-shooting-investigation-1.5599715>

<https://journalcswb.ca/index.php/cswb/article/view/9/24>

By defunding police, these funds can instead be allocated to improve services in Hamilton for those living with mental health and addictions concerns, including affordable housing.

<https://ontario.cmha.ca/documents/housing-and-mental-health/>

If you are white and economically privileged, like me, your gut response may be that defunding the police is dangerous. I am asking you, at the bare minimum, to commit to learning about alternatives to policing. I have included resources throughout this email and can send many more. Please read them.

Desmond Cole, a Canadian Journalist, wrote a book, *The Skin We're In*, in which he documents Canadian Police violence against Black individuals over the course of one year. You can also read more about his work in the following article or listen to him in conversation with the CBC here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-june-1-2020-1.5592953/police-brutality-continually-treated-like-a-one-off-in-canada-says-desmond-cole-1.5592954>

Sandy Hudson on her podcast explains in simple terms what it means to defund the police:

<https://sandyandnora.com/episode-103-abolish-the-police/>

You can read more about Ms. Hudson's work in this Maclean's article:

https://www.macleans.ca/society/life/we-must-defund-the-police-it-is-the-only-option/?utm_medium=organic&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1591379713

I am asking you to commit to meet with community members (including Black Lives Matters) and Canadian experts on what defunding the police could look like in our city.

If you do not move towards defunding the police, I would like to know how you have come to this conclusion. What data and research is being used to inform this decision?

Sincerely,
Deborah Tomlinson-Veit

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Tomlinson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:10 AM

To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police accountability

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

I am a concerned citizen writing to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not being made a priority for our City's police service.

I am also asking that the Police Services Board engage and respond to the demands made by Black Lives Matters activists earlier this week. These activists have raised how the large, and growing, police budget could be used to support communities in new and creative ways.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers. There have been many studies and recommendations made on how to improve traffic safety that do not involve police and are more fiscally responsible and sustainable. The safety of citizens on or near roads should not be at the expense of marginalized communities.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City. Racialized and marginalized communities are saying police in their communities do not make them feel safe. Recent events in the US and Canada have shown enormous abuses of power by police and the loss of black lives. Had these incidents not been captured on camera they likely would have gone without consequence.

Critique of police in Hamilton is not a new conversation. There has been much critique of the police response at Hamilton Pride in 2019. MP Mathew Green also raised the issue of carding in Hamilton after his own experience in 2016 with being carded in his neighbourhood.

When police refuse to prioritize body cams it confirms for me that there is something nefarious happening in our city. Body cams do not resolve all my concerns nor the issues presented by Black Lives Matters activists but it is a start. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton.

There are many creative ways to use the police budget to expand policing to include a multidisciplinary approach and to decentralize power.

The work of Desmond Cole, Sandy Hudson and Malcolm Gladwell have helped shape my understanding of how policing has harmed racialized communities and how policing can be reimagined.

I leave you with this, it is not a coincidence that one of Berlin's police training academies is located outside of Sachsenhausen. It is a vivid reminder of the consequences of abuses of power by government and police. This is one way the German people hold themselves accountable for their history. Canada has its own history of abuses of power and violent atrocities. How can we acknowledge this and move forward to create a better system of

care here in Hamilton?

Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Deborah Tomlinson-Veit



From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
 Subject: Letter to the Hamilton Police Service Board - Attn: Kirsten Stevenson
 Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:48:30 AM

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

I am a concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be a part of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be a part of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Name: Sarah Dowhun-Tompa


Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth>.
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth>.
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>
4. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

Sarah Dowhun-Tompa | [REDACTED]

From: 
To: [Office of the Mayor](#)
Cc: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: A Call To Action For Body-Worn Cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:28:43 PM

Dear Mayor Eisenberger

My name is Leigh Taylor, and I am a resident in Ward 3. I am reaching out to you regarding a matter that has been heavy on my mind and heart. I am sure that you are aware of the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of 4 Minneapolis Police Officers on May 25th. As a Black man in this community, it shook me to the core despite this happening stateside. I could not help but think, what if something like this happened to me here. Two days later on May 27th, 29-year-old Regis Korchinski-Paquet tragically fell from the 24th floor of an apartment building during a police encounter. What struck me about this tragic death is that there is no video of the incident. Not just from eyewitnesses, but also from Toronto Police. Because the Toronto Police Department does not use body-worn cameras.

What if what happened to George Floyd happened here in Hamilton? What if what happened to Regis Korchinski-Paquet happened here in Hamilton? Outside of eyewitness testimony and eyewitness video footage, we would only have the word of those involved. That makes the job of a unit like the Special Investigations Unit extremely difficult because the Hamilton Police Department does not use body-worn cameras. They have not even engaged in a trial run. This is unacceptable.

I understand the high costs associated with such an endeavor, but the fact that the use of body cameras comes with positives like protection for police and citizens alike, accountability for those charged to protect and serve, and improved public perception, it is time that the Hamilton Police Force take this on and find a way to fit this in their budget given that it would only consist of 1.6% to implement based on the Hamilton Police Budget for 2020. I do understand that the acceptance of this measure lies with the police board, but this measure has been turned down one time too many by Hamilton Police. Especially at a time when public distrust in the police and city is definitely high with situations like their interactions with the LGBTQ+ community revolving around Pride, the issues surrounding the Yellow Vests at City Hall, much less the strained relationship with Black, Brown and Indigenous Communities. This can no longer continue.

As Mayor of Hamilton, there is no greater voice than yours. No voice that would have a greater reach or impact. As Mayor and member of the Hamilton Police Board, your voice, along with those of your fellow city councillors would carry more influence with your fellow Hamilton Police Board members and Police Chief Eric Girt. While there are other measures that can and should be addressed, this is one that can be addressed and implemented sooner. Calls from our city leaders for body-worn cameras to be adopted by the Hamilton Police Department need to begin now.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Kind regards,
Leigh Taylor

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: #8CantWait Use of Force Policies
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:44:09 PM

Dear Kirsten and the Police Service of Hamilton,

I am writing to ask you to implement the #8CantWait Use of Force policies.

I live in Ancaster, ON, and I care deeply about making our community safer. These policies are simple, common-sense, and data driven.

I am asking you to enact EACH policy found on [8CANTWAIT.ORG](https://8cantwait.org).

Data proves that if you implement these policies, in addition to the other policies already in place in the Hamilton area, we can decrease police violence in our community by 72%. All of these policies can be implemented with your power immediately and I'm asking you not to hesitate to make our city safer.

Thank you,
Katie

From: [REDACTED]
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Fw: Police System
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:14:03 PM

Please read my message. I am looking for a way to help with change.

Thank you,
Laura Biondo

From: Szachlewicz, Paul <Paul.Szachlewicz@hamilton.ca> on behalf of Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Sent: June 4, 2020 12:30 PM
To: laura biondo [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Police System

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Mayor.

I have shared your correspondence with the Mayor and their Advisors for review.

I also recommend forwarding your correspondence to the Office of the City Clerk who will be able to add your correspondence to an upcoming Council/Committee Agenda. This will ensure that all Members of Council will see your correspondence. To submit correspondence to the City Clerk, please see the following link: <https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/request-speak-committee-council>

Additionally, I suggest submitting your correspondence to the Administrator for the Police Services Board. This will ensure that your correspondence is seen by the Police Services Board and its Members for consideration. To submit correspondence to the Administrator for the Police Services Board, please see the following link: <https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/about/police-services-board>

Regards,

Paul Szachlewicz

Administrator
Office of Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton

71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
905-546-2489



Hamilton Public Health Services' COVID-19 hotline: **905-974-9848**

Email: phscovid19@hamilton.ca

For the latest information: www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus

From: laura biondo [REDACTED]
Sent: June 3, 2020 7:33 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Fw: Police System

From: laura biondo
Sent: June 3, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca <Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Police System

Hello there,

I am sure you are just as shocked as I am about the events happening with people of colour. We need to put an end to systemic racism and police brutality. The police system is built upon white supremacy, power and control. We need radical change. Please take a moment to think about the position you are in to help make permanent changes to the law system in Canada. We should be demanding change. We need to get police more education, training, mental health evaluations, moral evaluations, physical evaluations, time off between tragic events on duty to their next shift, held more accountable for their actions and overall revamp the police system. Police are covering for each other and literally get away with murder because "they followed protocols". They are following protocols based off a racist built system. It is and always will be inherently unfair to anyone who is not white. Police will always be protected

even if in the moral wrong. The way police treat people of colour, LGBT+, trans, poor, drug addicts, prostitutes, and now people in general is disgusting. Power tripping, righteous, and half the time don't even know most laws. How can we change this?

By demanding a defunding of the police. OR funding the proper things instead of weapons and tactic gear, like education.

We need an infrastructure based on human rights, equality, mental health and helping people.

We do not need fear, intimidation and power tripping.

We need to start holding them accountable. Police need body cameras.

We need to start helping them become calmer instead of getting military like offense training. Mental health training. De-escalation tactics.

Ways and options to handle a situation before pulling a gun or placing their hand on gun.

Rubber bullets should be used only for an active shooter or person with a visible weapon.

We should not be intimidated by them. They should not be able to bully us into being arrested for our opinions.

There should be a clearer understanding of what constitutes a police officer's right to put their hands on you and also take you into custody.

The use of tear gas and gassing people in general should be banned. People have asthma and can die. It is very unnecessary and violent.

The use of police force should be minimized. Placing your hands on someone should only happen if they are under arrest.

Random searches should be banned. Random searches based on random calls should be banned. No knock raids should be banned.

Police should be receiving more training on how to handle situations calmly instead of violently and by intimidating.

They should go through ongoing evaluations and different classes like anger management and therapists. Teachers do this. Professional development, and we are held to it by an association and our bosses.

Pepper spray should only be used if someone is a threat coming towards them. Again, some people have asthma and can die.

We have so many people like ME in the system for police unprofessionalism or lack of education. It backs up the system and makes jails full and clerks stressed.

Racial profiling is real. If they had more moral evaluations done and education on how to treat people, police wouldn't be so biased.

We should have police that run off similar good positive morals. They should be receiving this education in school and on the force. That way, officers go into the force with behaviour management skills, people skills, mental health skills, de-escalation tactics, ways to help instead of arrest, etc. We need police for the people. ALL PEOPLE.

These are only a few of many things/laws that should change. We need to change the system completely.

We are not innocent until proven guilty. I am a white female in Hamilton. I am a teacher. I was attacked by two people on my way home from work. I ran for my life to my home after defending myself. I called police and was arrested immediately without my side of the story. I then spent 20-30 minutes hyperventilating and panicking as I have high anxiety. I was on the floor in a room in my apartment lobby with two male police officers with the door closed. The two officers were young and just stood there the entire time. They had no idea how to handle my anxiety and stood there above me. I felt so intimidated and voiced multiple times that I was confused and scared. I was arrested, brought to the station, booked and then let go. While I was in police custody, the two officers' broke protocol and was told this by their commanding officer in front of me. This goes to show how uneducated they were. This put my career in jeopardy. This has caused me have extreme stress, anxiety, panic attacks when driving and seeing police and financial strain due to a lawyer. Those police officers were under trained and uneducated. This is unjust and is just the tip of the iceberg, but this is NOTHING compared to what people of colour go through. I couldn't imagine if this is how I was treated, how people of colour and minority groups are treated by police. I see it. You see it. It is time to stand up and use your position to make permanent changes in the law system. Hamilton police are out of control and need to be held accountable. Our system is outdated and broken. We need our human rights back and communities need help. It shouldn't be police VS the people like a warzone. We need drastic change for the better. Any police who do not agree with the new system and laws can leave, and they won't because then they will be seen as negative racists; forcing them to change as well. Now is the time to hold them accountable and to make a change. We need police officers to admit they are wrong and then take more training, not paid leave.

I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF POLICE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL LIKE I CAN'T CALL THEM. PLEASE HEAR ME AND HELP. YOU CAN BE PART OF THE CHANGE IN HISTORY.

If there is anything I can do to help. Please let me know.

Thank you for reading,
Laura Biondo



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Body worn cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:19:15 PM

Hi Kirsten,

I am a concerned citizen writing you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We must protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For many Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Chester Edington
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Body-Worn Cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:20:44 PM

To the Hamilton Police Service Board

Attn: Kirsten Stevenson (please forward)

I am concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We must protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability.

For many Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be a part of making this a reality in Hamilton.

Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Amanda Wright

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-q@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-q@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:56:17 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 1.


As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police voted against body cameras being necessary. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety. I urge you to incentivize police to adopt body cameras by withholding funds until they do so, or defunding them to penalize their resistance.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Alaiya Berti

From: 
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); [clerk@hamilton.ca](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [horwatha-gp@ndp.on.ca](#); [pmiller-gp@ndp.on.ca](#); [SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca](#); [mtaylor-gp@ndp.on.ca](#); [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); [Partridge, Judi](#); [info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](#); [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [matthew.green@parl.gc.ca](#); [Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](#)
Subject: Bodycams
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:10:27 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident in Stoney creek.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras.

Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Emily

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
 Subject: From a concerned citizen
 Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:14:10 PM

Dear Hamilton Police Services Board
 Attention Kirsten Stevenson.

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

I am concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be apart of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be apart of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Kaelyn Koepke Registered Midwife, mother of two biracial children

[REDACTED]

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth.>
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>
4. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

From: [REDACTED]
To: Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca; matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; [Office of the Mayor](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Paparella, Stephanie](#); info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; judi.partridge@hamilton.ca; [Whitehead, Terry](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Wilson, Maureen](#); mtaylor-q@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-q@ndp.on.ca; horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers and Body Cameras
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:37:27 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns regarding community safety, anti-Black racism and violence particularly at the hands of police, and body cameras. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward # 13.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. Referencing information provided on the city website, the police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 – yet the police force and city council have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras, a request which has been voted against a total of 4 times.

As a student of McMaster, as well as a future nurse, I feel that it is my responsibility and obligation to see justice carried out, and see increased protection for my community as a whole. My job is not limited to protecting the safety and well-being of my patients and clients, but of the population at large as well. For me to do this, I need support, and I need all of your assistance. It is our collective duty, obligation, and requirement to ensure the safety of EVERY community member – not just the ones whose protection comes easily and with little resistance.

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public, it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would not only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy, as well as increase community safety. I urge you to incentivize police to adopt body cameras by withholding funds until they do so, or defunding them to penalize their resistance.

With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with taxpayer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority. As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Let it be known that wearing body cameras can aid in any false accusations, or accounts from officers of the Hamilton Police which lie in a gray area to be dismantled. This will provide protection to our community – including our police officers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Conor Goulden [REDACTED]

(He/Him/His)

Level IV BScN Program

School of Nursing

Faculty of Health Sciences

location: [REDACTED]
phone: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: To the Hamilton Police Service Board
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:57:30 PM

Attention: Kirsten Stevenson (please forward),

I live across from Powell Park, a very well-used green space in the Gibson neighbourhood. This area is home to many Black, Indigenous, and POC individuals, including my own husband.

From drug busts to peaceful visits with local youth, we've watched as officers have carried out their work in the neighbourhood. I've watched as they've checked in on individuals using drugs and as they've investigated local murders. I've seen police who are kind, passive, and sensitive and police who are unaware, forceful, and aggressive.

Before moving here I would have never suggested that police be defunded, but I had no exposure to places that saw constant police presence. The more I witness, the more I become convinced that there is a better way for our City and for Gibson. I am privileged to feel personally safe when I see a police vehicle parked outside, but I feel fear for my Black, Indigenous, POC, and economically poor neighbours. I feel fear for my husband, that he will be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This, along with other less pressing reasons, is why I see defunding as a very real and necessary goal.

I acknowledge that major systematic change doesn't happen overnight. In the meantime, I call for the protection of Black, Indigenous, and POC members of this City through the use of body-worn cameras. Prioritizing this in the budget would be a start in the creation of accountability and trust-building between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton as we embark on the long journey of imagining a society that is safe and healthy for all.

Please inform me as to how I can engage in this conversation going forward.

Thank you for hearing me,

Joanna Aitcheson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Call for Action - 2020 Hamilton Police Budget
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 5:53:19 PM

To Hamilton Police Services Board,

I am writing to you today to express my outrage regarding the Hamilton Police Service budget of **\$171.6 million for the total 2020 operational budget** for the City of Hamilton (an increase of 4% since 2019). This astronomical police budget costs the taxpayer more than firefighters, paramedics, libraries and public housing combined. Following the recent horrific death of young Black and Indigenous woman Regis Korchinski-Paquet, I call upon our elected officials to **start divesting from the systematically violent Hamilton Police Services immediately**.

I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

1. To **never again** vote to increase the Hamilton Police Service budget.
2. To propose and implement a HPS **budget cut of at least 10%** as we struggle to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Hamilton Police Service.
4. To **increase transparency** surrounding Hamilton Police Services spending and to stop the ticketing and surveilling marginalized Hamiltonians.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change. We have seen that investing in body cameras, civilian reviews or de-escalation and implicit bias training [doesn't work](#). What we need in Hamilton is leadership that can initiate a reduction in the immense police violence that targets our most marginalized people, toward the eventual abolition of police and prisons. In order to do this, I call on you and the City Council to **reduce funding in these ways**:

- Withhold pensions and don't rehire cops involved in excessive force cases.
- Require cops to be liable for misconduct settlements.
- Reduce the size of the police force, and stop sending armed/uniformed cops on mental health-related calls.
- Halt purchases of weapons, high tech surveillance equipment and cease surveilling communities.

An increased police presence, which includes HSR inspectors and enforcement officers, does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities (BIPOC, the LGBTQ2S+ community, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc). Instead of investing in policing, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, mutual aid, social workers, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. **These initiatives must support our most vulnerable communities and centre the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and people of colour in Hamilton.** We should look to and learn from organizations like [Black Lives Matter Toronto](#), [Black Legal Action Centre](#), [Toronto Police Accountability](#)

[Coalition](#), [PASAN](#), [Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project](#), [Maggie's](#), [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#), and so many more.

Our city can lead the way in defining public safety through community not cops, where Black, Indigenous and people of colour are free from police oppression. I am asking you to create a better future for all residents of Hamilton by divesting from harmful policing and investing in life-affirming services.

Sincerely,

Abeer Ahmad

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hamilton police services budget
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:03:41 PM

I have already written to Maureen Wilson and Mayor Eisenberg on this topic.

I am writing to you today to express concern that during COVID-19, police budgets should not be prioritized over firefighters, paramedics, libraries, transit, parks or public housing.

I am asking that The Police Services Board prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Hamilton Police Service.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change, rather than excessive police service budgets.

An increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities.

Instead of investing in policing, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, mutual aid, social workers, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

Our city can lead the way in defining public safety through community not cops. I am asking you to create a better future for all residents of Hamilton and set an example for other cities, by divesting from policing and investing in services.

Sincerely,

Gary Capon
 Hamilton

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police Violence and Anti -Black Racism
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:25:15 PM

Dear Kirsten,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward #2. Kindly take my requests at the end of the email for consideration.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Nikhil Rajput.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Use of Force Policies
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 8:59:05 AM

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

I am writing to ask you to implement the #8CantWait Use of Force policies. I live on the West Mountain here in Hamilton and I care deeply about making our community safer. Like countless members of our community, I'm angered by unjust policing in this country and in our city.

I'm asking you to enact:

1. Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds
2. Require Warning Before Shooting
3. Require De-escalation
4. Require Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting
5. Duty To Intervene
6. Ban shooting at moving vehicles
7. Require Use Of Force Continuum
8. Require Comprehensive Reporting

These policies are simple, common-sense and data driven. The data shows that if you implement these policies in addition to ones that are already in place in Hamilton, we can decrease police violence in our community by 72%. Again, all of these policies can be implemented immediately and I'm asking you not to hesitate.

Thank you,
Megan Lewis

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: For consideration
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 10:41:19 AM

Kirsten Stevenson,

I am sure that you are aware that the world is in anger right now, trying to bring light and justice to a system that has failed its people. I appreciate the time that will be taken to read what I have to say. Now, while there are many things that I feel Hamilton could be doing differently, I want to bring your attention and interest to a couple points specifically.

The first one, is my inquiry and concerns about why the Hamilton Police Board has voted against the use of body cameras for a 4th time. I understand that there will be a cost at the beginning getting everything set up, but for the safety of police officers and civilians I fail to understand. I know that the CBC article had stated "There were 331 police complaints between 2016 and 2018, the report said, which makes up "less than one percent of interactions with the public"", but that is 331 filed complaints. How many riots/protests have happened from our indigenous, LGBTQ+ community, and our black community in response to how the police have responded to circumstances? How many of those included in the previously mentioned groups fear to file a complaint or to fight back (peacefully) against a system that targets them?

Wearing body cameras would hold the police accountable as well as protect them. With evidence of situations, not only would the police board be able to stand behind police actions (if they were in the right), but they would also be able to protect the citizens with disciplinary action towards any officer that has crossed a line. There would be no grey area of doubts. In an article I've recently read, it was stated that

" In a 2014 study funded by the Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center, researcher Michael White noted that earlier evaluations of body-worn cameras found a number of beneficial outcomes for law enforcement agencies.^[5] The earliest studies conducted in the United Kingdom indicated that body-worn cameras resulted in positive interactions between officers and citizens and made people feel safer. Reductions in citizen complaints were noted, as were similar reductions in crime. The studies found that the use of body-worn cameras led to increases in arrests, prosecutions, and guilty pleas.^[6] From an efficiency standpoint, the use of the technology reportedly enabled officers to resolve criminal cases faster and spend less time preparing paperwork, and it resulted in fewer people choosing to go to trial."

As you can see, there are benefits to the whole community, police officers included. Less costs for the court system, less paperwork for police which means they have more time to be in the field PROTECTING our citizens.

Even if the Hamilton police start with some cameras. One per pairing of officers, or even half-shift rotations that they would have to upload the footage between officers to keep everyone accountable. I am willing to do more research if needed, but I felt that you also needed to hear these concerns, to protect both your Police force and city-folk.

I had mentioned I had a couple concerns. The second one is just to make sure the police are on top of their trainings. How to de-escalate situations without force. I know how beneficial that can be, as I took a non-violent de-escalation course in school for working with individuals with disabilities. Officers NEED to be trained to know how to de-escalate situations. It will reduce violence, unnecessary deaths, and even keep the police officers safer. While I am

appalled that I feel the need to state the positives for the police force, instead of just civilians, I know that is the way the system works, knowing what is most beneficial for those who are implementing these changes. I can tell you, the benefits of protecting the community and creating trust and respect will be insurmountable. While I fear (and know) that our minorities (black, indigenous, LGBTQ+) fear their lives every day, many times from police and authority, I know I cannot single-handedly change it. We need your support and action.

The time is now to change. We're in 2020 and yet there is still huge discrimination and oppression, and Mr. Eisenberger, Black lives do matter. Changes in Hamilton can ignite change throughout the province. I know you want to be part of that change. If these concerns and suggestions are not things the Police Service are willing to incorporate, I have already asked the city to consider re-distributing funds and resources to a team/force that will be willing and have the power to de-escalate situations properly and to accountability.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this, to understand how important it is to not only me, but the community as a whole.

-Michelle Gauthier

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Racism and Police Bullying in Hamilton
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 11:45:09 AM

I support the use of lapel cameras for all Hamilton Police officers.

My husband worked with Steve Mesic, who was murdered by an officer during a psychotic episode. A member of my family was homeless in Hamilton and suffering from schizophrenia for a period. An 80 year old neighbour said, "just hope the police don't kill him". The woman was Asian.

We have some good professional officers, and we have some that are bullies. Hamilton is working to eradicate bullying and murders that are taking place in schools, among children, it's time to eradicate this conduct from the Hamilton Police Services.

Lapel cameras will save lives and save the reputation of this city. People won't invest in a city with a reputation of being racist.

Enough is enough. Don't hide behind the budget to avoid addressing racism and bullying by Hamilton Police Services. Do the right thing. Make this part of your legacy. It takes courage to change a toxic institution.

Darlene Gilbert

[REDACTED]

Hamilton

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Black Lives Matter - Police brutality
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 11:52:27 AM

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

I am writing you today as a concerned resident of Hamilton. In light of the countless ongoing deaths of black and brown bodies at the hands of police I feel it is necessary we begin having conversations in order to move into action.

Firstly I'd like to start with The Police Services Board. Upon visual investigation it seems every single member appears white? Is this truly the case? If so do you really believe this is a board that can do their job properly knowing there is no representation of ANY diversity? In my opinion we need a board that has more people of colour than white folx. The representation genders, sexual orientation, class and abilities are also very important and must change. It's 2020 I know we can do this.

In my understanding the mayor is also still the chair of this board? Seems to me as Mayor that this is a conflict of interest perhaps and would love to hear from you how this will be changing as back in 2018 the mayor was quoted saying this would be a temporary role.

I have recently come across the Hamilton Police's city approved budget - \$78,806 on ammunition, \$95,000 on surveillance and \$61,409 on tasers and only \$28,000 on food for prisoners. These numbers seem absurd to me and seriously paint a picture of how militarized police in my very own city are. I am appalled at this approach and ask that we do better. When black and brown bodies are being killed at the hands of police, carded at school in the streets and kicked out of libraries (something I have personally noticed), it seems to me their voices need to be at the centre of how we address the systemic racism in the police force and our communities. Where are these voices?

If we look at numbers of crime we can also see that the police are not doing their job well. This is not a judgment, rather a reality as we can see this in data provided around crime. I have been listening to Sandy Hudson's research and expertise over the last few days. She has been providing discourse around defunding the police so we can effectively put this money into systems that actually SERVE and PROTECT EVERYONE! I want to encourage you the follow folx like Sandy Hudson as they are the ones who have the lived experiences and direct connections to how communities of colour have already been doing this work. To quote Taj James 'Follow the ones who know the way' (poem and podcast here <https://irresistible.org/podcast/generation4>)

Because it is important to direct attention to the voices who need to be heard right now I'd like to encourage you, if you haven't already, to watch the video and read the article in the Huffpost where Sandy goes into detail how we can restructure our city services.

https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/defund-police-canada-black-indigenous-lives_ca_5ed65eb2c5b6ccd7c56bdf7d
<https://twitter.com/sandela/status/1268270592718860293?s=20>

Please don't stop here. Even if we might have different opinions please share this with your team, your colleagues, your peers and anyone in your community. We must have REAL conversations.

Not being racist is no longer enough, we must actively practice anti-racism and to do this we have a lot of work to do. As a cis-gendered heteroflexible white settler I feel it is my responsibility to voice these concerns with you and help take on the burden that POC's have carried for too long on their own. I believe we can do so much better and this is why I write you today. Canada and Hamilton must come to terms with our racism and actively find ways to unlearn these dangerous ways of being.

With care,

Piper Hayes

she/her

Singer-Songwriter | Educator | Folk Roots



Living, working and writing to you from traditional territories of the Haudensaunee and Anishnaabeg. The territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and within the lands protected by the "Dish With One Spoon".

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Hamilton Police Body Cameras
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 12:09:34 PM

Dear Kristen Stevenson,

I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the Hamilton Police Services 2020 budget of \$172 million from the total \$924 million operational budget for the City of Hamilton. This is roughly a 4% increase from the 2019 Police Services Budget. Despite this astronomically high budget, the Hamilton Police are not required to wear body cameras and the Hamilton Police Board has voted against the use of body cameras on four separate occasions. The Hamilton Police (on the City approved budget) will spend \$78,806 on ammunition, \$95,000 on surveillance and \$61,409 on tasers. Comparatively, only \$158 million will be spent on social services, including transit and healthy/safe communities. In light of ongoing unrest between the public and police, it is crucial that the Hamilton Police Force begin to use body cameras. Body cameras can provide transparency and more accountability surrounding police use-of-force. I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

1. Not approve the 2021 Police Services Budget unless it allocates funds to body cameras.
2. Ensure the Hamilton Police Services uphold their promise to “take action to eliminate racism” (Hamilton Chief of Police, Eric Girt, 2020).
3. Eliminate unnecessary budget increases to Hamilton Police Services.

In a recent statement issued by Police Chief Girt, Hamilton Police Services have acknowledged that instances of police brutality “erode public trust in police”. In order to uphold relationships with the public and reaffirm their commitment to order and diversity, the Hamilton Police Services should be required to use body cameras.

By not approving the future Police Services Budget unless it includes funds for body cameras, the City of Hamilton has the potential to affirm its commitment to enhanced social justice.

Sincerely,

Rowan Post

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: #8CantWait Use of Force policies
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 2:11:50 PM

Dear Ms. Stevenson and the Hamilton City Clerk,

Emailing you was on recommendation by the Office of the Mayor. I am writing to ask you to implement the #8CantWait Use of Force policies. I'm unsure of the current policies and whether they are already in existence in our city, but in case they are not, I wanted to email to check. Emailing you was on recommendation by the Office of the Mayor.

I live in Waterdown, ON, and I care deeply about making our community safer. These policies are simple, common-sense, and data driven.

I am asking you to enact EACH policy found on [8CANTWAIT.ORG](https://8cantwait.org).

Data proves that if you implement these policies, in addition to the other policies already in place in the Hamilton area, we can decrease police violence in our community by 72%. All of these policies can be implemented with your power immediately and I'm asking you not to hesitate to make our city safer.

Thank you,
Jackie

Stevenson, Kirsten

From: Vernem, Christine
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten
Subject: City Council - June 3, 2020
Attachments: EDRMS-#660677-v1-04_8
 _(c)_Correspondence_from_Alex_Ramsay_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660676-v1-04_8
 _(b)_Correspondence_from_Alex_Jacobs-Blum_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Ant-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660675-v1-04_8
 _(a)_Correspondence_from_Abedar_Kamgari_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660674-v1-04_8
 _(j)_Correspondence_from_Scarlett_Robinson_respecting_Hamilton_Police_Funding_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660673-v1-04_9_Neighbour_2_Neighbour.PDF; EDRMS-#660672-v1-04_8_(k)_Correspondence_from_Vince_Soliveri_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660671-v1-04_8
 _(i)_Correspondence_from_Sarah_Duncan_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660670-v1-04_8
 _(h)_Correspondence_from_Mariel_Rutherford_respecting_Concern_Over_Policing_in_Hamilton_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660669-v1-04_8
 _(g)_Correspondence_from_Luther_Griggs_respecting_Concern_Over_Policing_in_Hamilton_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660668-v1-04_8
 _(f)_Correspondence_from_Elliot_Classen_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660667-v1-04_8
 _(e)_Correspondence_from_Charlit_Floriano_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660666-v1-04_8
 _(d)_Correspondence_from_Ashley_Watson_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; Danica Evering.pdf

Kirsten Stevenson,

Re: Correspondence respecting Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

At the meeting of June 3, 2020, Hamilton City Council received and referred the attached correspondence to the Hamilton Police Services Board.

Regards,

*Christine Vernem,
 Legislative Secretary*

on behalf of
 Janet Pilon,
 Deputy Clerk

File C20-013
 4.8

4.8 (c)**From:** Alex Ramsay**Sent:** June 1, 2020 6:54 PM**To:** Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>**Subject:** Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Wilson, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence in Hamilton, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died at the hands of police instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (c)

Thank you for your time and attention,
Alex Ramsay

4.8 (b)

From: Alex Jacobs-Blum
Sent: June 2, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear General Issues Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 3.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Alex Jacobs-Blum

4.8 (a)

From: Abedar Kamgari <

Sent: June 1, 2020 9:30 AM

To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Maureen Wilson, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress. This is only the most recent example of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20x times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, and that 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health issues, substance abuse or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to victimize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and not taking the necessary precautions to provide safety to Black and Indigenous people in our community. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force is not equipped with body cameras -- a request that has been voted against 4 times. We need to see measures implemented now that will lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black lives are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, jobs and affordable housing. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing issues that lead it at their source.

4.8 (a)

- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and public training plan for all police officers and personnel.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best wishes,

Abedar Kamgari

4.8 (j)

From: Scarlett Robinson
Sent: June 1, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Hamilton Police Funding

Hello,

My name is Scarlett Robinson, I recently moved to Hamilton with my partner, who has lived in Hamilton for over a decade. I am writing to you as I am concerned over the budget allocation towards the Hamilton Police Service and Board-- which has increased significantly over the past few years.

In light of recent events in Toronto, regarding the death of Regis Kachinski-Paquet, and the history of violence against black people in Hamilton at the hands of police officers, I believe the city should review the positive impact-per-dollar of Hamilton's tax income. In 2019, shootings had increased significantly, which led to the increase of police patrols, I believe this is a misguided decision, studies have shown that increasing police budgets have less of a positive impact on violence and crime than community organizations and services (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0003122417736289>), and adversely over-policing leads to more violence (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0211-5>). Given these facts, I would like to see my tax dollars go towards more positive programs, such as mental health programs, city infrastructure, and jobs programs.

Additionally, I would like to see Hamilton Police's budget made completely transparent, and with a focus on harm reduction. Additionally, I would like to see the budget used to invest in the adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iabucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you, to the chair, council, and committee, for your time in hearing my concerns.

Scarlett R.



4.9

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors,

We are writing today to request that Hamilton City Council join the call to request emergency funding from the federal and provincial governments to support the ongoing operation of public transit in our city.

As an organization serving many low-income and vulnerable residents on Hamilton Mountain, including recent immigrants, refugees and disabled persons, Neighbour to Neighbour knows the important role access to quality, affordable transit services plays. Many of the people we serve can only access our programs and services through using transit. This includes not only access to our food bank and counselling services but also vital programs that contribute to individual and community well-being such as educational programming, volunteering, and community meals at the Community Food Centre. We hear from participants their stories highlighting difficulties faced prior to this pandemic, and have heard positive feedback in regard to the City's response; having no-cost transit these past months. We know that many people continue to rely on transit for essential travel and have seen in the foodbank that numbers of users is continuing to rise as people slowly move out of isolation and need to access supports. We are concerned that any cuts to transit will have an impact on those most vulnerable in our community.

As the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario take steps to reopen facilities, it is important that we think of these most vulnerable residents in developing a transit plan for the upcoming months. For what it is worth, we ask that City Council support calls for emergency transit funding to ensure that access to reliable service remains a priority.

Sincerely,

Denise Arkell,
Executive Director
Neighbour to Neighbour Centre

Krista D'Aoust
Director, Community Food & Family Services

"Mission: To lead our community to an improved quality of life"

4.8 (k)

From: Vince Soliveri

Sent: June 2, 2020 1:21 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Jason Farr, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 2.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Vince Soliveri

4.8 (i)

From: SARAH DUNCAN

Sent: June 1, 2020 6:20 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor John-Paul Danko, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamiltonian living in ward 8.

Although it has always been painfully clear to non-white Canadians, our country is not free of racism. Despite the temptation to compare ourselves to America, we need to realise that this comparison allows many privileged Canadians to remain ignorantly complicit in this violence. I am calling on you, people in positions of authority and power to do something.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both.

In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

4.8 (i)

- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sarah Duncan
Ward 8

4.8 (h)

From: Mariel Rutherford >

Sent: May 31, 2020 11:35 PM

To: Andrea Horwath, MPP <ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca>; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca;
Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie
<Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Concern over policing in Hamilton

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

My name is Mariel, I am contacting you in light of the recent death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet - Regis's death has been widely publicized, this tragedy is one which could have easily happened in Hamilton, ON - I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and not taking the necessary precautions to provide safety to black folks, and people of colour in our community. For example, the Hamilton Police Force is not equipped with body cameras - a request which has been voted against 4 times.

From what I can understand, and I'm noticing it's extremely difficult to see clear numbers, the Hamilton police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 - information provided on the city website - yet they have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras.

I can't speak for Hamilton but the data that has been collected on police encounters in Toronto reveals that black people in the city of Toronto are 20x times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents while 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health issues or substance abuse or both. Hamilton is a 40 minute drive away, racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to victimize members of this community.

I would like to see a re-evaluation of the budget currently allocated to Hamilton Police Services. I would like to see this large portion of my tax dollars reallocated into social services, mental health programs, health care, education, jobs, and city infrastructure.

I would like to see any budget that is allocated to Hamilton Police Services made transparent and with a focus on harm reduction including the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers. Lastly, I would like to see budget used to invest in the adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thanks for reading!

Mariel

4.8 (g)

From: Luther Griggs <
Sent: June 1, 2020 12:02 AM
To: Andrea Horwath, MPP <ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca>; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca;
Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie
<Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Concern Over Policing in Hamilton

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

My name is Luther Griggs. I am contacting you in light of the recent death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet. Regis's death has been widely publicized, and could have easily happened in Hamilton, ON. I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and not taking the necessary precautions to provide safety to black folks, and people of colour in our community. For example, the Hamilton Police Force is not equipped with body cameras - a request which has been voted against 4 times.

From what I can understand, given the unclear information provided on the City of Hamilton website, the Hamilton police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020. Yet they have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras.

I can not speak for Hamilton, but data has been collected on police encounters in Toronto revealing that black people in the city of Toronto are 20x times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents while 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health issues or substance abuse or both. Hamilton is a 40 minute drive away, racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to victimize members of this community.

I would like to see a re-evaluation of the budget currently allocated to Hamilton Police Services. I would like to see this large portion of my tax dollars reallocated into social services, mental health programs, health care, education, jobs, and city infrastructure.

I would like to see any budget that is allocated to Hamilton Police Services made transparent and with a focus on harm reduction, including the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers. Lastly, I would like to see budget used to invest in the adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thanks again.
Luther Griggs

4.8 (f)

From: Elliot Classen <

Sent: June 1, 2020 7:07 PM

To: VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Arlene Vanderbeek, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 13.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- * First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

- * Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.

- * Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.

- * Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (f)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Elliot Classen

4.8 (e)

From: Charlit Floriano

Sent: June 2, 2020 10:28 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Maureen Wilson, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Lacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (e)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Charlit Floriano

4.8 (d)

From: Ashley Watson <

Sent: June 2, 2020 8:58 AM

To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Nann, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward three. As a resident of ward 3 I have witnessed first hand police violence and harassment.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall inflicting violence and driving buses into crowds with little police intervention during these actions. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented NOW to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black, Indigenous, and people of colour are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 25% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.

4.8 (d)

- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

I will continue to follow up with you about the actions you will be taking to hold yourselves and Polices Services accountable for their actions while using taxpayer dollars to better support the Black community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ashley Watson - Ward 3 Resident

From: Paparella, Stephanie
To: Pilon, Janet
Subject:

From: Danica Evering
Sent: June 2, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Sam Merulla, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in Ward 4.

We need greater transparency and communication from police services in every city after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others.

In municipalities all across Canada, the police have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. Racism in ALL Canadian cities is prevalent and real and I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs, and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,
Danica Evering
95 Newlands Ave.

Hamilton ON
905-741-0561