

**Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services**

**Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire
et des Services correctionnels**

Office of the Minister

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Ontario

JUN 02 2016

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His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Hamilton City Council's position on a proposed governance model for the Hamilton Police Services Board, which you also sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario.

There is a recognized need for robust and effective governance that is responsive to local needs for all policing in Ontario. Our ministry leads efforts to examine how to effectively calibrate civilian police governance to provide a foundation for service delivery that reflects and serves communities in Ontario. Responsive governance will be a key factor in the success of the ministry's Strategy for a Safer Ontario.

As you know, the ministry is developing the Strategy, which builds on the earlier work with our policing and municipal partners under the Future of Policing Advisory Committee and input from other ministries and affected stakeholders. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has played an important role in these consultations, and through their expertise, the interests of municipalities across the province continue to be represented.

The Strategy will reform the *Police Services Act* (PSA), which has not been substantially updated since 1990, and build an effective, sustainable and community-based policing model for the 21st century. The Strategy is predicated on the understanding that the future of policing should be rooted in strong local governance. As a result, we are continuing to consult with key partners to ensure that the appropriate structure and capacity for governance is in place at the local level. Your proposals for amendments to the PSA will be considered as part of the ministry's consultation on the Strategy.

Through the Strategy, the ministry has carried out public consultations on how to:

- Implement community safety and well-being planning in communities across the province;
- Enhance accountability and strengthen the civilian governance role of police services boards, as well as the oversight structure of policing to ensure that police oversight bodies are effective and have clear mandates;

- Improve interactions between police and vulnerable Ontarians, including enhancing front-line responses to those in crisis;
- Clarify police duties, modernize training programs and deliver services using a range of public safety personnel;
- Develop a provincial framework for First Nations policing to ensure equitable and culturally responsive policing for the province's First Nations communities;
- Modernize core police responsibilities to ensure that the right personnel provide the right response at the right time;
- Create an effective and responsible approach for the expanded use of technology; and
- Enhance officer training requirements, including anti-bias training, and provide more continuous training throughout officers' careers so they have the tools and training to deal with current and future public safety needs.

Regarding civilian governance, the Strategy is focused on the three key principles:

- Providing accountability;
- Promoting independence in policing; and
- Translating community-defined needs into effective policing.

The Strategy is about smarter and better ways to do things in order to deliver services in a proactive, targeted manner. This involves using evidence and experience to improve outcomes, and continuing our well-established collaborative partnerships, which include police and other sectors, such as education, health care and social services to make communities safer. We have also been looking across other jurisdictions to discover innovative solutions and identify best practices.

Your proposed governance model has been forwarded to ministry staff for their review and consideration. I appreciate the City of Hamilton's ongoing contribution to the ministry's work towards building effective, efficient and sustainable police service delivery in Ontario.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,


Yasir Naqvi
Minister

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
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