

From: [Carson, Katie](#)
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: FW: "Individual Arrested in Pride Hamilton Disturbance" Case Number: 19-648035
Date: July 5, 2019 9:31:09 AM

GIC – July 8/19

From: Lauren Stephen
Sent: July 4, 2019 2:06 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; mediarelations@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Re: "Individual Arrested in Pride Hamilton Disturbance" Case Number: 19-648035

To: Office of the Mayor (Hamilton), Jason Farr (Ward 2 Hamilton), City Clerk (Hamilton), HPS Media Relations

Paul Szachlewicz,

I would like this entire email thread to go to the City Clerk and be entered into Council record.

You will recall that it is my contention that Hamilton Police's media release:

<https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/news/individual-arrested-in-pride-hamilton-disturbance/>

...is vaguely and even misleadingly worded, and could have been referring to events not occurring at Hamilton Pride. You replied to the effect that it seemed pretty obvious from the media release and news stories that Cedar Hopperton was at Pride and participating in a demonstration there. I finally spoke with someone at the Hamilton Police Media desk (I believe it was Lorraine Edwards) this past Friday (June 28, 2019 at 1:46pm according to my phone records). Hamilton Police Media confirmed to me that Cedar Hopperton was arrested for participating in the demonstration between protesters and counter-protesters that occurred at Pride on June 15.

My concern was that HPS had decided they wanted to arrest Hopperton but didn't really have anything great to go on, so put out a vague media release implying the arrest was for attendance at the demonstration at Gage Park on June 15, without firmly committing themselves to that narrative so that if it didn't pan out they'd find something else. Now it appears the Parole Board will be focusing on Cedar's comments made at a June 18 community meeting and nothing that happened on June 15. I fully understand that HPS and the Parole Board are independent entities.

Cedar Hopperton has been in prison for two weeks because of attending that demonstration at Pride. That's what they were arrested for. Would the Parole Board even be considering statements made at a public meeting if its attention had not already been drawn to Hopperton by Hamilton Police's arrest for "for participating in a public demonstration where peace was disrupted"? Does that "public demonstration where peace was disrupted" now refer to the June 18 community meeting at City Hall or has that pretense for arrest been dispensed with?

The details of the arrest are of great significance to the LGBT+ community. How can we defend ourselves legally against fascist bullying and violence that seeks to erase us from the public and political spheres? Is it safe to speak at a heated public meeting? Is it safe to attend a counter-demonstration to protect our community against fascists promising violence? Again, you see how Hamilton Police and now perhaps the Parole Board are playing right into the hands of fascist elements seeking to erase us LGBT+ people from the public sphere.

Regards,

Lauren Stephen

On Tue, 25 Jun 2019 at 16:07, Lauren Stephen wrote:

I quote from Cameron Kroetsch's CBC: Hamilton editorial:

"This was organized, intentional, and violent. These extremists showed up spoiling for a fight and happily menaced and attacked anyone that got in their way.

They were greeted by the community, allies, random people who live near the park, drummers, chanters, singers, and kazoo blowers, all who opposed their violence and held them at the edge of the permit area away from the main event space."

Hopperton's arrest means Hamilton Police believe it is a parole violation to be one of those "community, allies, random people who live near the park, drummers, chanters, singers, and kazoo blowers, all who opposed their violence". Hamilton Police are criminalizing Pride, and criminalizing peaceful defense of the LGBTQ+ community, criminalizing queer people practicing self-defense. That arrest discourages people from confronting hatred in our community. With the arrest of Cedar Hopperton, Hamilton Police have made the streets safer for right-wing extremists to harass people.

Regards,

Lauren Stephen

On Tue, 25 Jun 2019 at 14:40, Lauren Stephen wrote:

Thank you for replying to me Paul Szachlewicz,

This arrest offends the dignity of the gay community and threatens our sense of safety and belonging. Violent, hateful protesters came to disrupt Pride. Challenging such protesters is an act of self defense. Neo-Nazis have manipulated Hamilton Police into taking steps towards criminalizing Pride, and making it less welcome for marginalized members of our community.

Cedar Hopperton was arrested for attending Pride and defending the LGBT community against the violence of hate groups. They were attending Pride and others caused a disturbance. The arrest is outrageous. Hamilton Police seem ignorant of history here, including the history of

Pride, and the history of over-policing of gay communities in Canada. The optics are terrible: violent neo-Nazi protesters showing up at Pride, preaching hate and extermination, assaulting people... and the only arrest is one of the victims of that violence.

I can tell you the actions of Hamilton Police in relation to this year's Pride celebration have made me feel less welcome in Hamilton.

Regards,

Lauren Craig Stephen
PhD

On Tue, 25 Jun 2019 at 10:23, Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca> wrote:

Good Morning,

Based on the various reports from the Police and the media, Cedar Hopperton was found to be at the Pride event when things escalated between the various demonstrators. At this point in time, a public demonstration took place where multiple groups clashed in heated exchanges. In contravention of her parole requirements, Cedar Hopperton was arrested for participating in the demonstrations. I was not at the Pride event during the altercations, so I can only speak to the information provided by the Police Report and the media accounts.

For clarification, Cedar Hopperton wasn't arrested for her actions at the Pride event and moreover that she was not arrested for any acts of violence, but rather, that the arrest was made solely on the basis that as indicated by the order of the court and conditions of her parole that she is not to participate in public demonstrations for a given period of time.

I hope that this provides a clearer answer for you – Cedar Hopperton was not arrested for being at Pride, or for any reasons of violence, but rather, that she participated in the demonstrations that erupted at Gage Park on June 15, which violated her conditions of parole.

I am staying tuned to the media and Police Services for more information as it comes to light on this matter. The information I have on hand comes from the Police Report and the various media accounts. This is all publicly accessible information, so I don't have any access to confidential police accounts. I anticipate that more information regarding the arrest will be publicly shared by the Hamilton Police Service and the media in the coming days.

Let me know if I can provide any further assistance.

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



From: Lauren Stephen

Sent: June 24, 2019 3:24 PM

To: mediarelations@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Fwd: "Individual Arrested in Pride Hamilton Disturbance" Case Number: 19-648035

Dear Mayor Eisenburger and Councillor Farr,
Cc: Media Relations Hamilton Police

I called Hamilton Police media relations today with the following question about the arrest of Cedar Hopperton. I would like clarity on this point before expressing a definite opinion.

On the surface, it looks like violent Nazi agitators came to Pride to cause a disturbance. Once they caused that disturbance, they made it illegal for community members like Cedar Hopperton to attend Pride. I need more details to reach an informed opinion, which Hamilton Police will not provide over the phone. On the surface this seems like a manipulation of Hamilton Police by Nazis, who succeeded in making Pride a legally precarious event for some community members to attend.

Hamilton Police have played right into the hands of neo-Nazis, and succeeded in making Pride seem like an unsafe place for community members to attend. The optics of this are just terrible. HPS is also doing a great job here of proving Cedar Hopperton right: that Hamilton police and politicians care more about plate glass windows on Locke Street than about the lives of vulnerable community members.

Regards,

Lauren Stephen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lauren Stephen**

Date: Mon, 24 Jun 2019 at 15:03

Subject: Re: "Individual Arrested in Pride Hamilton Disturbance" Case Number: 19-648035

To: <mediarelations@hamiltonpolice.on.ca>

Good Afternoon,

I have questions about Media Release Case Number: 19-648035

<https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/news/individual-arrested-in-pride-hamilton-disturbance/>

The Media Release does not make absolutely clear that Cedar Hopperton was arrested for events that occurred specifically at Hamilton Pride or whether the "public demonstration where peace was disrupted" was some other event on another date.

I am in discussions with community members about this arrest and clarity on this point would help focus our response. I believe this is an important detail in helping gay community members make sense of events that took place at Hamilton Pride. Clarity on this point would be appreciated.

Regards,

Lauren Stephen