



## Hamilton Police Services Board

### Deputation Request Form

(Request to appear before the Police Services Board)

**\*\*Please note\*\* - The information on this form will be published on a public agenda and therefore released to the public and media.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm / Organization: LGBTQ Advisory Committee  
(if applicable)

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Deputation to be discussed including a summary and the objective(s) of the presentation:

Please see the attached supporting documentation that we hope will make our request to depute clearer. We are asking to depute at the November 14, 2019 meeting of the Hamilton Police Services Board and for the Board to honour the request it denied at its last meeting.

Will you require a LCD Projector:      "      Yes      **X**      No  
(Please note, you must bring your own computer)

Have discussions or correspondence taken place with a member of the Hamilton Police Services Board or the Administrator? If so, with whom and when?

Not that would be applicable to this delegation, from what we know.

Please submit the completed form either in person, via fax or e-mail to:

Administrator  
Hamilton Police Services Board  
155 King William Street  
P.O. Box 1060, LCD1  
Hamilton, ON  
L8N 4C1

Fax: 905-546-4720

E-Mail: [lois.morin@hamilton.ca](mailto:lois.morin@hamilton.ca)

To: Hamilton Police Services Board  
From: LGBTQ Advisory Committee, City of Hamilton

Re: Request to depute to the November 2019 meeting of the Hamilton Police Services Board

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

On Thursday, October 10, 2019 the Hamilton Police Services Board denied the LGBTQ Advisory Committee's request to depute to its members during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in November.

In the Board's comments they said that our request to depute wasn't relevant.

This was confusing to us since the Hamilton Police Services Board was directly mentioned in the attachment we included with our request.

As we understand it, it's practically unprecedented for a legitimate body like an Advisory Committee to be denied the opportunity to depute to this Board. Not only are we concerned by this but, given the public comments from members of the Board and the Chief of Police that suggest that there is a genuine willingness to listen to marginalized communities, we were disappointed that you chose not to give us an opportunity to address you.

There is no other opportunity for dialogue with the Hamilton Police Services Board outside the deputation process. We hope that you change your position on our request and grant us permission to speak at your November meeting.

As it is clear that we are required to provide further clarity in order to be offered the privilege of speaking to the Board, we have expanded on the detailed request that we have already submitted for today's meeting.

We have 2 reasons for wanting to address the Board, they are as follows:

- (1) We would like to urge you to reconsider the selection of your most recent Board appointment, to declare the position vacant, and to go through a reselection process for the position. While we realize that the ultimate authority lies with the City, we want to be able to speak to the Board about this directly. The LGBTQAC recently went through a similar process. We want to be able to share that experience with you and urge you to consider it.

(2) We would like to address the action of members of the Hamilton Police Service at the meeting that members of our Committee hosted in Council Chambers on June 18, 2019.

We therefore respectfully request that you accept and approve this request to depute at your next regularly scheduled meeting on November 14, 2019.

We hope that having more ample and clear notice about the subject of our deputation will allow you to prepare questions in advance so that there can be a discussion and dialogue with the Board rather than just a deputation from the Committee.

If any part of our request is unclear, we ask that you reach out to us, through staff or the Chair's personal email, to clarify. We assure you that the content of our deputation is completely relevant to the Hamilton Police Services Board and should be heard by its members.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Cameron Kroetsch  
Chair, LGBTQ Advisory Committee  
City of Hamilton

### **Correspondence to the Hamilton Police Services Board**

We regret that it has taken us so long to address these issues to the Hamilton Police Services Board. We first needed to get part of our May 15, 2019 motion in front of City Council and to begin the process of having additional members selected to our Committee.

We had tried to depute to the September meeting of Hamilton Police Services Board (HPSB) but we learned that we submitted our request late, something which was completely our fault.

Subsequently, we have submitted 2 requests to the HPSB to give deputations to the matters outlined in this letter and have been denied in both instances.

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee is profoundly disappointed and concerned by the conduct of the Board in denying our requests to speak to them. To our knowledge, and after some preliminary research, this appears to be an unprecedented response to a request from a City of Hamilton Advisory Committee to speak to the HPSB.

The reasons provided verbally at your meetings, namely that our deputation request was "not relevant", are concerning since our deputation intended not only to directly address the Board's composition, a matter which concerns the Board, but also to address the actions of the Hamilton Police Service in the performance of its duties in relation to a meeting that our Committee itself organized. As we will outline in this letter, we think it's important for the Hamilton Police Service to acknowledge not only its technical obligations, however they might perceive them, but the impact of their actions.

Denying us the opportunity to speak to you for a total of 5 minutes not only sends a chilling message but has a strong impact on whether or not others will seek to address your Board in the future.

As we have been denied the opportunity to speak, we are sending this to you as an item of correspondence to be placed on your next agenda as information for the Board.

### **HPSB Appointment Process**

The first matter we wish to address is the appointment process that led to the composition of the current Board. As the Committee outlined in its motion of May 15, 2019, we have serious concerns about the process that was used to both recruit and appoint the only citizen member of your Board. You have claimed that this is not a

matter that is relevant to your Board but one for City Council alone to address. While we agree that City Council ultimately decides the outcome of such a matter, there's nothing wrong with you weighing in on the subject and addressing it to City Council in an exercise of self-reflection.

We'd like to share the experience of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, which upon reflection, found itself in a similar situation, so that you might understand our reason for coming to you directly about this. The LGBTQ Advisory Committee was capped at 9 members. Members questioned the appointment process used to select and cap those members and raised a number of valid concerns to City Council.

It made a motion asking City Council to reverse its decision and to appoint additional members to its Committee. Both the Audit, Finance & Administration Committee and City Council approved our request and, as of November 14, 2019, we will have new members join our Committee. This was not initiated by an outside party, or by City Council itself, but by our Committee's reflection on its own ability to represent Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities.

You, too, have the right to ask City Council to reevaluate the appointment processes that have been used to select the sole citizen appointee to this Board. You have the right to say that the process didn't meet the standards of community engagement that are expected by Hamiltonians. In fact, we would argue that you not only have this right but you have this obligation as a public entity in the face of not only our request today but in the face of many public comments from marginalized communities, including applicants to the position, and in the face of a demonstration in front of this very Board on the matter earlier this year.

In addition, and during the time of this citizen appointment, the Hamilton Police Service had neither a Community Relations Co-ordinator nor an advisory committee of its own that might have been part of developing, participating in, or guiding any selection process. The City also did not or was not able to consult its own LGBTQ Advisory Committee on the matter or reach out to the many other Advisory Committees that represent marginalized communities in Hamilton for their advice.

There, of course, is another option. The recent citizen appointee to the Board, should they wish to honour the requests being made about this publicly, could resign from the Board and allow their seat to be filled through a process that marginalized communities in this City would be permitted to participate in shaping.

## **Surveillance at a Safe Space Meeting**

We are also writing to more formally address concerns that have come to light recently about a meeting we hosted in Council Chambers on June 18, 2019.

First, a bit of background about the meeting. It was our intention to replace our regularly scheduled Committee meeting with a public event that would allow members of Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities to express their thoughts about our motion on May 15, 2019 regarding the annual flag raising ceremony traditionally put on by the Committee in June. After the violent attacks at this year's Pride event in Gage Park, we expanded the scope of the meeting to include a discussion about Pride and deemed the meeting a "safe space". We did this in the promotion of the event, to the media, and declared that publicly at the event. As the event's moderator, our Chair made it clear that we were asking people not to surveil, audibly, visually, or otherwise, the meeting as it was a safe space to allow the community to speak candidly about their experiences in the violent aftermath of Pride.

It has come to our attention that a member of the Hamilton Police Service willfully surveilled that meeting on June 18, 2019 and, in at least one instance, reported someone's speech to the Ontario Parole Board. While we acknowledge that the Hamilton Police Service has the legal right to report someone to the Ontario Parole Board, we question whether this had a detrimental impact to the communities who were there to process their grief and anger. Essentially, we're asking if the Hamilton Police Service, in any way, considered the impact of their actions and if that impact was appropriately responsive to their stated public priorities. Where is the balance between honouring, respecting, and meeting marginalized communities where they are at vs. a duty to surveil? Were these actions necessary to protect the public? What public? Was this an appropriate use of discretion in a situation that called for careful consideration of a community so recently impacted by violence?

In any event, it is our position that if the impact of one will have very serious consequences on the other that it be reconsidered and weighed accordingly.

As well, Hamilton Police Service leadership should take responsibility for these serious impacts, regardless of who in the Service reported them, especially when members of its senior leadership team were in the room.

The impact of this action has been much broader than the outcome and has further eroded trust between communities and the Hamilton Police Service.

This has impacted our Committee directly as we hosted, planned, and advertised this event and feel a responsibility and accountability to Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+

communities. We feel that is our duty to address this to the Board so that you are aware of the impact. That we're writing to you at all, some months after the event, to publicly address these issues to your Board should in itself exemplify the ripple effect that your actions have had.

As you continue to reflect on your governance of the Hamilton Police Service, whatsoever that may be under the Police Services Act, we ask you to consider the ability, conduct, and service of the Hamilton Police Service to engage in meaningful dialogue with communities in Hamilton, to take action based on our recommendations and comments, and to apologize and acknowledge behaviour where it has been inappropriate or harmful.