2.2

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: Jennifer Vermeer

Firm / Organization: (if applicable) SVN (Stop violence Now)

E-mail Address: Sorcja@hotmail.com

Home Phone: (289) 684-0483

Fax No.: /

Business Phone: (289) 684-0483

Mailing Address: 96 West 4th St. Hamilton, ON L9C 3M9

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

- extreme escalation of violence in Hamilton schools,
- victim impact synopsis, assault not bullying
- to help understand how deep the problem in schools is and show priority needs to be given to more police liaison offers

Will you require a LCD Projector: ☑ Yes ☐ 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?
email with Lois Morin Jan 21/2020 @ 2:32pm
responded Jan 23 @ 9:11am

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 email lois.morin@hamilton.ca

Morin, Lois

From: jennifer vermeer <j.vermeer.gta@gmail.com>
Sent: January-21-20 2:32 PM
To: Morin, Lois
Cc: Gregory Clark; Laura Romano; Becky Buck; Dawn Owen; Heather Lewis-Cochrane; mtaylor-co@ndp.on.ca; Danko, John-Paul
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] School Police Liaison officers for the city of Hamilton

Good afternoon Ms. Morin

My name is Jennifer Vermeer. Please allow me to introduce myself and give you some feedback on why my email is coming across your desk

I am a single sole provider parent to my 16 year old son. I work hard and raise my son to be a compassionate empathetic kid. He has never been in trouble with the law and I plan to keep it that way. He is a student in Ward 8 at MacNab Secondary School. Since 2017 my son has had to live through many acts of violence in his school. From almost getting jumped at his grade 8 orientation day to high school for his phone, to having money stolen from him regularly in the cafeteria, to witnessing a robbery by students from his school at the variety store across the street, to this year an in school gun threat, having a gun flashed/pulled on him and most recently being nearly jumped and assaulted for his shoes. The school unfortunately did not deal with any of this issues in a satisfactory way so I found myself advocating for my son in a meeting at his school with the principal, vice principal and police liaison officer.

While in that meeting the police Liaison officer received a minimum of 3 calls and many more on his cell phone. At that point I found out there is but one police liaison officer for 20 schools. It was my opinion then and it is more so now that this is a problem. No one in the office disagreed with that statement including the liaison officer.

In Hamilton as I am sure you are aware, School Violence is steady on the rise and ever increasing in severity. My own sons experiences brought me to the table, but the increasing stories of violence I am hearing from sexual and physical assault to stabbings, gun threats, and sadly murder proves we do not have enough boots on the ground in the schools

In reading the description of the police service boards responsibilities it is clear that you desk in one an email must fall upon in my quest to advocate for safer schools in Hamilton

The Board will determine, after consult with the Chief of Police, objectives and priorities for police services.

The board is responsible for the police budget and oversees the action of the Chief of Police and is the employer for the police service

The board is responsible for the provision of effective and adequate police services in the municipality

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Hamilton Police Service is committed to fostering a strong culture of human rights and inclusiveness in policing Hamilton

I include these statements because I would like to review them here as I make my case clear. I have recently been interviewed by Macleans Magazine on violence in Hamilton Schools. One of the things I addressed as an issue is the lack of funding for Police Liaison Officers

So I pose the following questions to you and ask you to meet with me in person to discuss them.

Is City Hall responsible to provide the funding that you then apply to your budget?

Would more funding help employ more much needed Police Liaison Officers or does the Board not see them as a priority even giving the rise of extreme violent behaviour in the schools and therefore would not apply additional funding to this section of the police force?

What can the citizens of this city do to make the board understand that this is a priority?

Would you be open to an round table
discussion with myself and other parents who have stories of in school violence against their children crucial for you to hear so you can understand where schools are at with the level violent behaviour?

Based on the crisis Hamilton schools are in And the experiences of all the frustrated and scared parents I am advocating for, do you feel that the board is capable with the funding they have to meet their responsibility to the community I have listed above? None of us do

We would like to know if the short fall comes from lack of adequate funding from the city or lack of planning from the board so we can help fix what's happening.

I look forward to hearing from you and truly hope your board will entertain a meeting with community parents from across hamilton

Have a Colourful Day!

Jennifer Vermeer

C. (289) 684-0483