

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