

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#)
Cc: [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca](#); [Community Inclusion](#)
Subject: Concerns about the Hamilton Police
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 12:37:49 PM

To the Police Service Board and whom it may concern

In solidarity with the people fighting against institutionalized racism and police brutality in the USA and Canada, I feel motivated to communicate some of my concerns about the HPS directly to the Hamilton Police Board.

For context, I am a home owner and tax payer in Ward 2. My money goes towards funding police work, yet I have only fear and distrust of the Hamilton Police. I do not feel served or safe in my own city.

I have witnessed, first hand and on multiple occasions, excessive use of violence, aggression and intimidation on the part of the HPS. I have seen the use of assault rifles, camouflaged K9 units, and absurdly high numbers police responding to minor neighborhood incidents. I have also seen, first hand, disproportionate use of violence and intimidation towards people of colour and LGBTQ folks.

Examples I have seen in my community in the last year alone:

- A black man thrown on the pavement and pinned down for asking to retrieve his wallet from the back of a cruiser
- A distressed, elderly black woman being threatened by a barking police dog and then locked in the back of a police van on a hot day.
- A black neighbour being told by HPS not to file a report of racial assault because it would be too time consuming for everyone.
- Police taking photos of peaceful (LGBTQ) protesters with a zoom lens as a method of active intimidation.
- Neighbors being held at gun point with assault rifles (not even kidding... this happened last Tuesday)

I do not feel comfortable filing reports or providing more details about any of these specific events, nor do I feel it would be productive. We all know this is just a small cross-section of what goes on in downtown Hamilton and other urban centers on a daily basis.

My point is that it is chilling to learn that the Police Service Board has actively resisted the use of body-worn cameras for officers.

It is chilling to learn that the acquisition and use of military assault rifles is a priority for this "community service organization".

These actions and priorities clearly demonstrate a disregard for de-escalation.

Many folks in my community would like to see:

- **A clear, honest and publicized commitment to de-escalation and anti-oppression training by the HPS.**
- **Body cameras made absolutely mandatory for all officers responding to a police call.**

- A reduction in the acquisition and use of military firearms

- No police presence in schools

- More diversification in race, age and gender of the Police Services Board - this would go a long way towards better representing and serving your community.

I sincerely hope you don't dismiss this letter. I care for community safety and wish only for a more positive, constructive police presence.

Thank you for reading,

Jonah Kamphorst