

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); matthew.green@parl.qc.ca; [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Paparella, Stephanie](#)
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:43:46 PM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Terry Whitehead, General Issues Committee, and Committee Against Racism,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 14.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who was killed instead of receiving medical help. Regis is only the most recent instance of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in Canada for decades. Just last month, D'Andre Campbell was shot by the Peel police. Before that, countless others. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. This is because our police system was designed for the purpose of containing and criminalizing Black and Indigenous peoples. Data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20 times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, despite having a much smaller population in the city overall. In addition, 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health or substance use issues, or both. 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 criminalize members of the Black community.

It is time to learn from the cyclical police violence unfolding throughout North America and commit ourselves to change before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter. We need to start divesting from the systematically violent police services, and establish a long-term plan for community-led health and safety initiatives. The police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more violence and harm in our communities.

To start, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years and their operating budget made public. I would like to see those tax dollars permanently reallocated into social services, education, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need to bounce back from the pandemic and keep our communities safe. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Madeleine Luvisa

From: [REDACTED]
To: horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca; pmiller-qp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-OP@ndp.on.ca; mtaylor-qp@ndp.on.ca; [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Ward 8 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); judi.partrige@hamilton.ca; chiefadmins@hamiltonpolice.ca; info@hamiltonpolice.on.ca; [Paparella, Stephanie](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); matthew.green@parl.gc.ca; ward14@hamilton.ca; [Ward 1 Office](#); ward2@hamilton.ca; [Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann](#); ward4@hamilton.ca; ward5@hamilton.ca; ward6@hamilton.ca; ward7@hamilton.ca; ward9@hamilton.ca; ward10@hamilton.ca; ward11@hamilton.ca; ward12@hamilton.ca; ward13@hamilton.ca; ward15@hamilton.ca
Subject: Hamilton Police Officers & Body Cameras
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:27:59 AM

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Terry Whitehead, City Council, General Issues Committee, Committee Against Racism, and the Hamilton Police,

I'm reaching out in regards to community safety and the recent displays of police brutality in Toronto. I am a citizen of Hamilton residing in Ward 14.

As a Hamilton citizen, it worries and disgusts me that the Hamilton police still do not have body cameras. The death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet is a prime example of why they are so important. You have voted against them 4 times — why is that, and what is the Hamilton police force trying to hide?

With the current state of unrest and tension between the Police and the public it is necessary to have complete transparency in order to hold our police accountable and keep our people safe. Body cameras are mandatory in many other cities, why is Hamilton an outlier? Making body cameras necessary would only elevate your law enforcement legitimacy as well as increase the communities confidence and trust in Police. In terms of safety, body cameras would reduce violent police interactions as both citizens and cops behave differently if they know they are being recorded.

Body cameras would improve training in the Police force as it would allow you to analyze and critique real life decision making, something that is important considering how often Police use unnecessary excessive force. It would allow you to analyze these interactions and ask questions, what prompted them to get violent? Is there a racial bias? With the exorbitant funding that the Hamilton Police receives with tax payer dollars, the city should be able to allocate funding to body cameras. This needs to be a priority.

Hamilton citizens do not feel safe in police presence, we do not feel protected. Your Police force needs to enforce more rigorous race and discrimination training in order for something to change. Body cameras are a small step towards regaining the public's trust.

As a citizen of Hamilton, I demand that body cameras be used by the Hamilton Police.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Madeleine Luvisa