

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Letter to the Hamilton Police Service Board - Attn: Kirsten Stevenson
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:48:30 AM

To the Hamilton Police Service Board,

I am a concerned citizen writing to you to express my disappointment that body-worn cameras are not a priority for our City's police service.

I learned this week that the Hamilton Police Service was approved for a total budget of roughly \$171.6 million this year. This budget included a bid to hire more traffic safety officers, but left out of the conversation about the roughly \$2.6 million annually needed to run a body-worn camera program. I find it troubling that our city is prioritizing the hiring of traffic safety officers over a recommendation from the Ontario Human Right Commission to eliminate racial profiling in Law Enforcement with the institution of body-worn cameras for police officers.

We *must* protect the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of our City by continuing to seek out further evidence from Police services in Canada (namely the City of Calgary) and outside of Canada who are actively using body-worn cameras successfully, and implementing systems that allow for greater accountability. For *many* Hamiltonians, body-worn cameras = transparency of policing, and the opportunity for trust-building and relationship-repairing between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton. I'd happily pay more property tax if it meant accountability measures were in place for our police in this city, and want to actively be a part of making this a reality in Hamilton. Please let me know how I can continue to be a part of this conversation.

Thanks for listening; I appreciate your consideration,

Name: Sarah Dowhun-Tompa

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth>.
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-budget-2020-1.5433865#:~:text=With%20the%20cuts%2C%20the%20total,one%20per%20cent%20assessment%20growth>.
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-body-cameras-2019-1.5359442>
4. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-eliminating-racial-profiling-law-enforcement>

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Sarah Dowhun-Tompa | [REDACTED]