

Stevenson, Kirsten

From: Vernem, Christine
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten
Subject: City Council - June 3, 2020
Attachments: EDRMS-#660677-v1-04_8
_(c)_Correspondence_from_Alex_Ramsay_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660676-v1-04_8
_(b)_Correspondence_from_Alex_Jacobs-Blum_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Ant-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660675-v1-04_8
_(a)_Correspondence_from_Abedar_Kamgari_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660674-v1-04_8
_(j)_Correspondence_from_Scarlett_Robinson_respecting_Hamilton_Police_Funding_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660673-v1-04_9_Neighbour_2_Neighbour.PDF; EDRMS-#660672-v1-04_8_(k)_Correspondence_from_Vince_Soliveri_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660671-v1-04_8
_(i)_Correspondence_from_Sarah_Duncan_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660670-v1-04_8
_(h)_Correspondence_from_Mariel_Rutherford_respecting_Concern_Over_Policing_in_Hamilton_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660669-v1-04_8
_(g)_Correspondence_from_Luther_Griggs_respecting_Concern_Over_Policing_in_Hamilton_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660668-v1-04_8
_(f)_Correspondence_from_Elliot_Classen_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660667-v1-04_8
_(e)_Correspondence_from_Charlit_Floriano_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; EDRMS-#660666-v1-04_8
_(d)_Correspondence_from_Ashley_Watson_respecting_Police_Violence_and_Anti-Black_Racism_(redacted).PDF; Danica Eving.pdf

Kirsten Stevenson,

Re: Correspondence respecting Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

At the meeting of June 3, 2020, Hamilton City Council received and referred the attached correspondence to the Hamilton Police Services Board.

Regards,

*Christine Vernem,
Legislative Secretary*

on behalf of
Janet Pilon,
Deputy Clerk

File C20-013
4.8

4.8 (c)

From: Alex Ramsay

Sent: June 1, 2020 6:54 PM

To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

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

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism and violence in Hamilton, especially at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died at the hands of police 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (c)

Thank you for your time and attention,
Alex Ramsay

4.8 (b)

From: Alex Jacobs-Blum
Sent: June 2, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear General Issues Committee,

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 3.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Alex Jacobs-Blum

4.8 (a)

From: Abedar Kamgari <

Sent: June 1, 2020 9:30 AM

To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Maureen Wilson, 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 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress. This is only the most recent example of a Black person dying in an encounter with police, something that has been happening in the GTHA for decades. The police have a long history of race-based violence. For example, data reveals that Toronto's Black residents are 20x times more likely to be killed by police officers than white residents, and that 70% of individuals who die in encounters with police struggle with mental health issues, substance abuse or both. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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 the Black community.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and not taking the necessary precautions to provide safety to Black and Indigenous people in our community. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force is not equipped with body cameras -- a request that has been voted against 4 times. We need to see measures implemented now that will lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black lives are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, jobs and affordable housing. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing issues that lead it at their source.

4.8 (a)

- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and public training plan for all police officers and personnel.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best wishes,

Abedar Kamgari

From: Scarlett Robinson
Sent: June 1, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Hamilton Police Funding

Hello,

My name is Scarlett Robinson, I recently moved to Hamilton with my partner, who has lived in Hamilton for over a decade. I am writing to you as I am concerned over the budget allocation towards the Hamilton Police Service and Board-- which has increased significantly over the past few years.

In light of recent events in Toronto, regarding the death of Regis Kachinski-Paquet, and the history of violence against black people in Hamilton at the hands of police officers, I believe the city should review the positive impact-per-dollar of Hamilton's tax income. In 2019, shootings had increased significantly, which led to the increase of police patrols, I believe this is a misguided decision, studies have shown that increasing police budgets have less of a positive impact on violence and crime than community organizations and services (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0003122417736289>), and adversely over-policing leads to more violence (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0211-5>). Given these facts, I would like to see my tax dollars go towards more positive programs, such as mental health programs, city infrastructure, and jobs programs.

Additionally, I would like to see Hamilton Police's budget made completely transparent, and with a focus on harm reduction. Additionally, I would like to see the budget used to invest in the adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Labucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you, to the chair, council, and committee, for your time in hearing my concerns.

Scarlett R.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors,

We are writing today to request that Hamilton City Council join the call to request emergency funding from the federal and provincial governments to support the ongoing operation of public transit in our city.

As an organization serving many low-income and vulnerable residents on Hamilton Mountain, including recent immigrants, refugees and disabled persons, Neighbour to Neighbour knows the important role access to quality, affordable transit services plays. Many of the people we serve can only access our programs and services through using transit. This includes not only access to our food bank and counselling services but also vital programs that contribute to individual and community well-being such as educational programming, volunteering, and community meals at the Community Food Centre. We hear from participants their stories highlighting difficulties faced prior to this pandemic, and have heard positive feedback in regard to the City's response; having no-cost transit these past months. We know that many people continue to rely on transit for essential travel and have seen in the foodbank that numbers of users is continuing to rise as people slowly move out of isolation and need to access supports. We are concerned that any cuts to transit will have an impact on those most vulnerable in our community.

As the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario take steps to reopen facilities, it is important that we think of these most vulnerable residents in developing a transit plan for the upcoming months. For what it is worth, we ask that City Council support calls for emergency transit funding to ensure that access to reliable service remains a priority.

Sincerely,

Denise Arkell,
Executive Director
Neighbour to Neighbour Centre

Krista D'Aoust
Director, Community Food & Family Services

4.8 (k)

From: Vince Soliveri

Sent: June 2, 2020 1:21 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Jason Farr, 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 2.

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.

Vince Soliveri

4.8 (i)

From: SARAH DUNCAN

Sent: June 1, 2020 6:20 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor John-Paul Danko, 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 Hamiltonian living in ward 8.

Although it has always been painfully clear to non-white Canadians, our country is not free of racism. Despite the temptation to compare ourselves to America, we need to realise that this comparison allows many privileged Canadians to remain ignorantly complicit in this violence. I am calling on you, people in positions of authority and power to do something.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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.

In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

4.8 (i)

- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sarah Duncan
Ward 8

4.8 (h)

From: Mariel Rutherford >

Sent: May 31, 2020 11:35 PM

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 Mariel, I am contacting you in light of the recent death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet - Regis's death has been widely publicized, this tragedy is one which 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, and I'm noticing it's extremely difficult to see clear numbers, the Hamilton police force's budget increased by 19 million dollars in 2020 - information provided on the city website - yet they have sighted "cost concerns" when deflecting the implementation of body cameras.

I can't speak for Hamilton but the data that has been collected on police encounters in Toronto reveals 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 for reading!

Mariel

4.8 (g)

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

From: Elliot Classen <
Sent: June 1, 2020 7:07 PM
To: VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Arlene Vanderbeek, 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 13.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- * First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.

- * Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.

- * Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.

- * Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (f)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Elliot Classen

From: Charlit Floriano
Sent: June 2, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Maureen Wilson, 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 1.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented now to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black people are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 20% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Lacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

4.8 (e)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Charlit Floriano

4.8 (d)

From: Ashley Watson <
Sent: June 2, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Nann, 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 three. As a resident of ward 3 I have witnessed first hand police violence and harassment.

We need greater transparency and communication after the loss of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a Black woman in emotional distress who died 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 the GTHA for decades. The police in Canada have a long history of race-based violence. For example, 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. In Hamilton, we regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating outside of city hall inflicting violence and driving buses into crowds with little police intervention during these actions. 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.

I believe the police force of Hamilton is overfunded and contrary to their mission, causing more fear, violence and harm to our communities. We need to see reforms implemented NOW to lead to better outcomes in the future before any more Black, Indigenous, and people of colour are harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see the Police Services held accountable in tangible ways:

- First, I would like to see the Hamilton police budget reduced by at least 25% over the next 2 years, with those tax dollars reallocated into social services, health care, mental health programs, supervised injection sites, jobs and affordable housing. These are the vital services we will need more of to bounce back from the pandemic. Strengthening municipal social supports will reduce crime by addressing the issues that lead to it at their source.
- Second, I would like to see the all Police Services immediately implement a harm reduction strategy, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.

4.8 (d)

- Third, I would urgently like to see the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. Despite advocacy efforts, the Hamilton Police Force has voted against implementing body cameras 4 times.
- Lastly, I would like to see the Police's adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iacobucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

I will continue to follow up with you about the actions you will be taking to hold yourselves and Police Services accountable for their actions while using taxpayer dollars to better support the Black community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ashley Watson - Ward 3 Resident

From: Paparella, Stephanie
To: Pilon, Janet
Subject:

From: Danica Evering
Sent: June 2, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Ariyo, John <john.ariyo@hamilton.ca>; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Violence and Anti-Black Racism

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Sam Merulla, 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 4.

We need greater transparency and communication from police services in every city 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.

In municipalities all across Canada, the police 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.

Regards,
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