

**From:** Carol Classen

**Sent:** June 2, 2020 5:47 PM

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

**Subject:** Policing changes needed

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

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about anti-Black racism, particularly at the hands of police. I am a Hamilton resident living in ward 13.

We are in need of greater oversight and transparency in our police service to be able to drive out race-based discrimination and violence. Non-white members of the community are simply not treated equally as whites in encounters with police and in the judicial system. We regularly have members of violent and explicitly racist white supremacist groups congregating unchecked outside of city hall. I am concerned and disheartened that my tax dollars are being used to fund a service that continues to criminalize members of the Black and indigenous communities.

I believe the police force of Hamilton needs to be reformed and retrained because, contrary to their mission, they are currently 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 people are unjustly harmed in a police encounter.

I would like to see:

- The Police Services immediately implement de-escalation and harm reduction strategies, with a transparent and ongoing training plan for all police officers and personnel made public.
- The Police Services held more accountable, including the mandatory use of body cameras for all officers at all times. With recent events, the need for this is undeniable.
- More tax dollars put 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.
- Finally, 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.

Carol Classen