

**MINUTES OF THE HAMILTON  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

Thursday, September 3, 2020  
1:03 PM

Virtual Meeting

The Police Services Board met.

There were present: Fred Eisenberger, Chair  
Donald MacVicar, Co-Chair  
Fred Bennink  
Chad Collins  
Robert Elms  
Tom Jackson  
Pat Mandy

Also present: Chief Eric Girt  
Deputy Chief Frank Bergen  
Deputy Chief Ryan Diodati  
Anna Filice, Chief Administrative Officer  
Marco Visentini, Legal Counsel  
Leanne Sneddon, Director, Human Resources  
John Randazzo, Director, Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
Kirsten Stevenson, Administrator  
Lois Morin, Retired Administrator

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Eisenberger called the meeting to order and read an acknowledgement :

The Hamilton Police Services Board is meeting on the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, HuronWendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It was further acknowledged that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and it was recognized that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

Chair Eisenberger read the following joint statement on behalf of the Board and Hamilton Police Service pertaining to systemic racism and community safety:

At Hamilton Police Service, our vision is to be a trusted partner in delivering public safety in partnership with our communities. We recognize that the public trust is fragile, and that the legitimacy of policing is in question.

We recognize that generations of discrimination have led to distrust and we acknowledge that systemic racism exists in policing, including within Hamilton Police Service. We must address these issues, and take action to eliminate racism and discrimination in all its forms. We are not perfect and we have more work to do.

Our communities are demanding change and we are prepared to work with you. Discussions about systemic racism and how police respond to situations are important. These are complex and challenging conversations that need to take place – with all voices at the table.

We are encouraged by the discussions taking place around the Community Safety and Well Being plan and are optimistic for collaborative solutions that will bring about necessary change. This framework is designed to break down existing barriers and encourage multi-sectoral solutions to improve the well-being of everyone in Hamilton. Community safety is a collective effort.

Now is the time to adapt internally in order to affect change externally. As a public institution, the onus is on us to take the first steps towards meaningful change. We have recently committed to undertaking a diversity audit in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, as well as starting a Diversity and Inclusion Internal Support Network to support our members' understanding of diversity, inclusion and equity both within the service and the work we do in our communities.

We have an opportunity to press the reset button in reimagining what policing looks like in Hamilton. We cannot do this alone. The first step is building and strengthening the relationship between police and our communities. Relationships are the key to understanding. What is important is that we become partners and problem solvers together.

Moved by: Member MacVicar  
Seconded by: Member Mandy

That the Board endorse the joint statement read by Chair Eisenberger.

**CARRIED.**

### **1.1 Changes to the Agenda**

Addition of New Business Item 6.3 update from Member MacVicar

## **2. Public Presentations & Deputations**

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Collins  
 Seconded by: Member Jackson

That the Board suspend the rules to allow for a deputation request pertaining to an item on today's agenda, Item 5.2 Body Worn Camera Steering Committee Final Report (PSB 20-075).

**CARRIED.**

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member MacVicar  
 Seconded by: Member Collins

That the Board approve the deputation request from Jasmine Tandan with regards to body cameras.

**CARRIED.**

**2.1 Deputation from Jasmine Tandan with Regards to Body Cameras (in relation to Item 5.2 Body Worn Camera Steering Committee Final Report PSB 20-075 on today's agenda)**

Jasmine Tandan provided her deputation to the Board with respect to Body Cameras.

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Mandy  
 Seconded by: Member Jackson

That the deputation from Jasmine Tandan with regards to Body Cameras be received as provided.

**CARRIED.**

**2.2 COVID-19 Update: Eric Girt, Chief of Police (verbal update)**

Eric Girt, Chief of Police, Anna Felice, CAO and Ryan Diodati, Deputy Chief of Police provided verbal updates on COVID-19.

Moved by: Member Collins  
 Seconded by: Member MacVicar

That the Board receive the updates as provided.

**CARRIED.**

**3. General**

**3.1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 4. Consent Items

##### 4.1 Approval of Consent Items

Moved by: Member MacVicar  
 Seconded by: Member Collins

That the Board approve the consent items listed as 4.2 – 4.4 ab, as amended.

**CARRIED.**

##### 4.2 Adoption of Minutes - July 23, 2020

That the minutes of the meeting held on July 23, 2020, be adopted as printed.

##### 4.3 Auction Account Fund

That the Board approve the purchase of tickets to attend a virtual breakfast to support the Mental Health & Addiction Program at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at a cost of \$75 per ticket, to be paid from the auction account fund.

##### 4.4 For the Information of the Board

- 4.4 a Budget Variance Report as at June 30, 2020 (PSB 20-073)
- 4.4 b Capital Project Status Report as at June 30, 2020 (PSB 20-074)
- 4.4 c Coroner's Inquest Into the Death of Anthony Divers (PSB 20-054)
- 4.4 d Correspondence from Mariel Rutherford with respect to concerns regarding police budget
- 4.4 e Correspondence from Janice Galasso with respect to not in favour of defunding the police
- 4.4 f Correspondence from Laura Howden with respect to defund police budget by 20%
- 4.4 g Correspondence from Ed & Karin Horn with respect to defund Hamilton police
- 4.4h Correspondence from Adrian Underhill with respect to defund the Hamilton Police Service by 20%
- 4.4 i Correspondence from Kailey Cutillo with respect to concerns over the Hamilton Police Services and city council budget
- 4.4 j Correspondence from Genevieve O'Grady with respect to a message for the Hamilton Police Services Board
- 4.4 k Correspondence from Colleen Murray with respect to defund the Hamilton police
- 4.4 l Correspondence from Connie Kidd with respect to city discriminates against vulnerable people

- 4.4 m Correspondence from Don Oliphant & Doris Boettger with respect to do not defund the police
- 4.4 n Correspondence from Joda Kuk with respect to HPS
- 4.4 o Correspondence from Graham Crawford with respect to Letter to Members of the HPS Board
- 4.4 p Correspondence from Robert & Nancy Savelli with respect to police support and encouragement
- 4.4 q Correspondence from Susanne Noordyk with respect to the hijacking of Main Street West by Black Lives Matter
- 4.4 r Correspondence from Xavier Michaud with respect to objection to calls to defund & abolish the police in Hamilton
- 4.4 s Correspondence from Andrew Pettit with respect to addressing systematic racism & re-evaluating police funding
- 4.4 t Correspondence from the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Aboriginal Legal Services, Black Legal Action Centre and the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario with respect to the Hamilton Police Services' use of COVID database
- 4.4 u Correspondence from Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion with respect to Hamilton Police accessing COVID database during state of emergency
- 4.4 v Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to Updated Special Investigations Unit Act In-Force Date
- 4.4 w Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to Expiry of Emergency Order, O. Reg 120/20
- 4.4 x Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to 2020-2022 Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) Grant - Call for Applications
- 4.4 y Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to Tobacco Enforcement Grants Pilot Program Extension
- 4.4 z Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to Ontario Closed Circuit Television Grant Program - Call for Applications
- 4.4 aa Memorandum from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General with respect to Federal Calls for Proposals to Combat Human Trafficking
- 4.4 ab Outstanding Business List as of September 3, 2020

Moved by: Member Collins  
 Seconded by: Member Jackson

That the expected completion date on Item 4.4 ab) Outstanding Business List, item #1 Other Business listed as September 3, 2020 be amended to the end of Q1 2021.

**CARRIED.**

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **5.1 Pride Recommendations (PSB 20-076)**

Chief Girt provided a presentation and answered questions of the Board with respect to Pride Recommendations Report PSB 20-076.

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Mandy  
Seconded by: Member Bennink

That the report and presentation be accepted and received, as provided.

**CARRIED.**

### **5.2 Body Worn Camera Steering Committee Final Report (PSB 20-075)**

Superintendent Worster provided a presentation on Body Worn Camera Steering Committee Final Report PSB 20-075. Superintendent Worster and other Hamilton Police Services staff answered questions of the Board with respect to the presentation and report.

After discussion the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Collins  
Seconded by: Member MacVicar

That the Board petition the province of Ontario to standardize the regulations related to digital evidence management and other relevant legislation related to the use of body worn cameras; and

That the province be requested to make grant funding available to municipalities for body worn camera pilot projects and the full implementation of the same.

**CARRIED.**

After further discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Collins  
Seconded by: Member Jackson

That the report and presentation be received as information.

**CARRIED.**

After further discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Collins  
 Seconded by: Member Jackson

That the Chief of Police report back to the Board in six months with any evidence on body worn camera operations reported in other jurisdictions.

**CARRIED.**

**5.3 Service Implications of a 20% Budget Reduction - Defunding Police (PSB 20-077)**

Chief Girt provided a presentation and answered questions of the Board with respect to Service Implications of a 20% Budget Reduction – Defunding Police PSB 20-077.

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Elms  
 Seconded by: Member MacVicar

That the report and presentation be accepted and received, as provided.

**CARRIED.**

**5.4 Internet Child Exploitation Investigator Contribution Agreement (PSB 20-066)**

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Jackson  
 Seconded by: Member Mandy

That the Chief, on behalf of the Board, enter into an agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General operating through the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), by which one (1) officer of the Hamilton Police Service will be partially funded for the purpose of building local capacity of the Internet Child Exploitation Unit for a 6 month term, commencing October 1, 2020, and

That the Chief be authorized and directed to enter into said Amending Agreement in a form satisfactory to the Hamilton Police Service Legal Counsel.

**CARRIED.**

### **5.5 2021 Police Services Board Meeting Schedule (PSB 20-070)**

After discussion, the Board approved the following, as amended:

Moved by: Member Mandy  
Seconded by: Member Bennink

That the Board approve the following meeting schedule, as amended, which provides for regular public meetings of the Hamilton Police Services Board for the year 2021:

Monday, January 18, 2021  
Thursday, February 25, 2021  
Friday, March 26, 2021  
Thursday, April 29, 2021  
Thursday, May 13, 2021  
Thursday, June 24, 2021  
Thursday, July 29, 2021  
Thursday, September 16, 2021  
Thursday, October 28, 2021  
Thursday, November 25, 2021  
Thursday, December 16, 2021

**CARRIED.**

### **5.6 Deputation request from Shekar Chandrashekar with Regards to the Hamilton Police Services Budget**

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Member Jackson  
Seconded by: Member Elms

That the deputation request from Shekar Chandrashekar with regards to the Hamilton police services budget be approved for a future Board meeting.

**CARRIED.**

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Chief of Police Update**

Police Chief Eric Girt, along with Senior Command and other staff will attend Hamilton's General Issues Committee (GIC) on September 23, 2020 to present information and answer questions of GIC members pertaining to defunding the police as well as community safety.

### **6.2 Community Town Hall**

The Chair suggested organizing a Community Town Hall to engage the broader community about important issues we are facing today.

After discussion, the Board approved the following:

Moved by: Chair Eisenberger  
 Seconded by: Member Bennink

That the Board authorize the Chief, Board Administrator and other staff to set up a town hall within the next month and to share information around the cost associated with organizing this type of event.

**CARRIED.**

### **6.3 Update from Member MacVicar**

Member MacVicar announced that his term serving the Board has been completed and that this would be his last meeting. Member MacVicar thanked Board Members and the Hamilton Police Service.

Board Members expressed their thanks for Member MacVicar's outstanding dedication, community passion and service over the years.

## **7. Adjournment**

Moved by: Member MacVicar  
 Seconded by: Member Bennink

There being no further business, the public portion of the meeting then adjourned at 4:08 pm.

**CARRIED.**

Taken as read and approved.

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Kirsten Stevenson, Administrator  
 Police Services Board

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Fred Eisenberger, Chair  
 Police Services Board