



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Emergency & Community Services Committee
From:	Senior Advisory Committee <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> (Penelope Petrie, Chair)
Date:	November 5, 2021
Re:	Proposed resolution regarding Hamilton Police Service Board and Hamilton Police Services failure to provide adequate and effective police services in long-term care homes in the City of Hamilton

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 pandemic continues to have a negative impact on senior residents living in retirement and long-term care homes (“homes”) throughout Canada, Ontario, and the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2021, Detective Sgt. Darrin Murphy of the Hamilton Police Service (“HPS”) appeared before the City of Hamilton’s Senior Advisory Committee to explain the HPS investigative response regarding the 119 resident deaths in Hamilton homes during the COVID 19 pandemic period;

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2021, the Ontario Long-Term Care COVID Commission Final Report concluded the cause of death of approximately 33 % of residents in Ontario homes resulted from neglect, malnutrition, and dehydration, not COVID-19. An aggravating factor contributing to these deaths and unacceptable living conditions was a lack of adequate and effective staffing by the licensees of these homes;

WHEREAS, the Senior Advisory Committee was displeased with the inadequate HPS investigative response into the 119 resident deaths occurring in 4 Long-Term Care homes in the City of Hamilton. Therefore, on May 21, 2021, as a private citizen, Mr. David Broom appeared before and gave a deputation to the Hamilton Police Services Board (“Board”) highlighting for the Board, details of the inadequate HPS effort;

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2021, the Board requested Hamilton Police Chief Frank Bergen report back to the Board at a future meeting and provide “more fulsome

comment” relating to the care and deaths of residents in Long-Term Care and Retirement homes in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Chief of Police Frank Bergen through Deputy Chief Ryan Diodati reported back to the Board asserting that from January 2020 through June 16, 2021, the Coroner’s Office investigated only 31 deaths, specifically at Long-Term Care homes in the City of Hamilton. Of these, only 4 were reviewed by the HPS and none of the four were deemed to be criminal in nature; and

WHEREAS the HPS and the Board failed to address the remaining 88 of the 119 deaths that took place in these homes in the City of Hamilton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Council for the City of Hamilton be made aware that 88 of the remaining 119 deaths in Hamilton’s long-term care homes require Hamilton Police Services (HPS) investigation and that such inaction constitutes inadequate and ineffective police service as set out under section 31(1) of the Police Services Act;

That the following request be forwarded to the Police Services Board (PSB); and

That the Chief of Police Frank Bergen and the Hamilton Police Services Board appear before Council to explain why these 88 deaths have not been adequately investigated.

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the senior population, especially those in long-term care homes. The Senior Advisory committee created a statement for resolution with recommendations for Hamilton City Council and Hamilton Police Services to improve their involvement.

At the November 5, 2021 Senior Advisory Committee meeting, Item 11 (Motions), which refers to the resolution regarding the failure of Hamilton Police Services and the Hamilton Police Services Board to provide adequate police services in long-term care homes in Hamilton.

Analysis/Rationale:

The Senior Advisory Committee does not believe that enough action has been taken by Hamilton Police Services in response to the large number of deaths in long-term care homes that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Senior Committee urges the City of Hamilton to intervene by enforcing the recommendations listed above.