



HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

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Hamilton Police Service Board Members
Mayor Horwath
City of Hamilton Councillors

Update on Our Efforts to Address Gun Violence in Hamilton

I want to address the ongoing concerns regarding the recent rise in gun-related crimes in our city and provide an update on the actions being taken by the Hamilton Police Service to address this critical issue.

Please be assured that the Hamilton Police Service is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and is actively working to combat gun violence. We have recently made our dedicated Shooting Response Team a permanent fixture within our Service. This team is specifically trained and equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to incidents involving firearms. Their presence has already made a significant impact, and we are confident that their continued efforts will contribute to reducing gun-related crimes in Hamilton.

Just this week, our efforts led to the successful seizure of multiple firearms on the Hamilton Mountain. This investigation highlights the dedication and hard work of our officers in making our streets safer. You can read more about this investigation in our recent [News Release](#).

In addition to the work of our Shooting Response Team, we are enhancing our community outreach and engagement initiatives. We are committed to fostering stronger relationships with community members and leaders to gather crucial information that can help prevent crimes before they occur. Our strategy includes increased patrols in high-risk areas, collaboration with local organizations, and the use of strategic policing partners to track and deter criminal activities.

Furthermore, we have enhanced our Offender Management strategy to focus more intensely on serious repeat violent offenders with firearms. The recent C-48 Bail Reform, which came into effect this year, has provided us with additional tools to manage these offenders more effectively, ensuring that those who pose the greatest risk to our community are kept off the streets.

It is also essential to recognize that addressing gun violence requires the active involvement of our entire community. This effort starts with engaging at-risk youth early in their lives, providing positive role models, and steering them away from a life of crime. We often face challenges due to a lack of witness support, which hampers our investigations. Therefore, I urge all community members to come forward with any information they might have, no matter how small it may seem. By working together and sharing information, we can make a significant difference. Anyone with information can contact the police directly or provide tips anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

In addition, the Province of Ontario has been actively collaborating with us to address this issue. Funding and resources have been allocated to support our initiatives, and we are working closely with provincial policing partners to ensure that our community has the necessary tools and support to combat gun violence effectively.

For your reference, here are the numbers of shootings in Hamilton over the past five years:

- 2020: 51 shootings
- 2021: 39 shootings
- 2022: 45 shootings
- 2023: 35 shootings
- 2024: We are currently at 37 shootings

I understand the importance of transparency and accountability, and we are committed to keeping you informed about the steps we are taking and the progress we are making. Since January, 2024, members of our Service have taken 248 firearms off our city streets.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we can make Hamilton a safer place for everyone. Please feel free to contact me directly at 905-979-0333 if you have any further questions or concerns. Additionally, our Public Affairs team is always available for any inquiries you may have. They can be reached at 905-546-4901 or publicaffairs@hamiltonpolice.ca.

Be safe. Be well.



Frank Bergen
Chief of Police