

THE HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 11, 2024

Media Release: Hamilton Police Service Board Seeks Input on Body-Worn Cameras Policy

The Hamilton Police Service Board has released its draft **<u>Board Policy</u>** on the use of bodyworn cameras (BWCs) and is inviting public input.

At its June 27, 2024 meeting, the Board approved the purchase and use of BWCs by the Hamilton Police Service. Following this decision, the Board directed the Administrative Director to draft a comprehensive policy on the use of BWCs. The draft policy is aligned with key privacy and governance frameworks, including the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario's *Model Governance Framework for Police Body-Worn Camera Programs in Ontario* (June 2021) and the *Guidance for the Use of Body-Worn Cameras by Law Enforcement Authorities*, developed in consultation with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. The draft policy complies with Ontario's access and privacy laws while ensuring transparency and accountability in its oversight of the program. Legal counsel for the Board has reviewed the draft policy to ensure alignment with these guidance documents.

Body-worn cameras are intended to enhance transparency, protect public rights, and provide accountability in situations involving police use of force. The recordings can also be used to improve policing practices, identify training needs, and assist in fair and timely investigations of any misconduct allegations.

The Hamilton Police Service Board welcomes feedback from the community on this important draft policy. All interested individuals are encouraged to provide their input by emailing <u>kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca</u> no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

For more information and to review the draft policy, please visit the Board's website at <u>www.hamiltonpsb.ca</u>.

For more information relating to this media release please contact <u>Kirsten Stevenson</u>, Administrative Director for the Police Service Board.

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