
From: Prime Luminisce Rwanda <info@primeluminiscerwanda.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:55 PM

To: FBergen@hamiltonpolice.ca; crashford@hamiltonpolice.ca; publicaffairs@hamiltonpolice.ca; jpenman@hamiltonpolice.ca; compliments@hamiltonpolice.on.ca

Cc: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; info@ohrc.on.ca; sbron@torstar.ca; Nicole O'Reilly <noreilly@thespec.com>; Aura Carreño Rosas <aura.carreno.rosas@cbc.ca>; Samantha Beattie <samantha.beattie@cbc.ca>; Hamilton CBC <Hamilton@cbc.ca>; torontonews@bellmedia.ca; temoin@radio-canada.ca; Joey Coleman N <joey@thepublicrecord.ca>; info@thecanadianpress.com; John Best <john@bayobserver.ca>; contact@support.chch.com; feedback@chch.com; Catherine.McDonald@globalnews.ca; Kevin Nielsen <kevin.nielsen@globalnews.ca>; anthony@thecaribbeancamera.com; newsroom@insideottawavalley.com; cbcnewsottawa@cbc.ca; ottawanews@ctv.ca; kmalloy@hilltimes.ca; cevelyn@hilltimes.ca; rhiltz@postmedia.com; mipearson@torstar.ca; [REDACTED] kconnor@postmedia.com; sarah.onyango@cbc.ca; shelbyp@falconers.ca;

Subject: Urgent Call for Transparency and Justice for Mr. Erixon Kabera

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Chief Bergen,

It's been over 60 days since the tragic and fatal shooting of our beloved community member and supporter, Mr. Erixon Kabera, by officers of the Hamilton Police Service. Despite the passage of time, our community continues to grapple with unanswered questions and concerns surrounding the lack of transparency and accountability in this case.

Attached is a letter from **Prime Luminisce Rwanda** addressing these deeply troubling issues. The letter outlines our urgent call for transparency, accountability, and systemic change in response to this devastating incident.

Mr. Kabera was an active and cherished member of our community who embraced his culture and loved music, which he promoted with heartfelt passion. He was an exemplary leader, consistently showing up to support all Prime Luminisce Rwanda initiatives. His absence is deeply felt, and the profound impact of this tragedy has left our youth and community members in Hamilton and GTA feeling unsafe and disheartened.

We respectfully request that your office reviews the attached document thoroughly and takes immediate action to address the concerns raised by our organization and the broader community.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact us at info@primeluminiscerwanda.org.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Prime Luminisce Rwanda

A Collective of Rwandan Canadian Artists

CC:

Hamilton Police Service Board
Mayor of the City of Hamilton
Julian N. Falconer, Legal Counsel
Ontario Human Rights Commission
Community Organizations and Advocates
Media Outlets

BCC:

Other Community Organizations, Advocates, and Media Outlets



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A Collective of
Rwandan Canadian Artists



339 Queen St E, Suite 208
Toronto, ON M5A 1S9
January 08,2025

Chief Frank Bergen

Hamilton Police Service Headquarters
155 King William Street Hamilton,
Ontario, Canada L8R 1A7

Subject: Demand for Transparency, Accountability, and Justice Following the Fatal Shooting of Mr. Erixon Kabera

Dear Chief Bergen,

It has been 60 days since the heartbreaking and fatal shooting of Mr. Erixon Kabera by officers of the Hamilton Police Service. On November 9, 2024, Mr. Kabera was tragically shot in his home and succumbed to his injuries hours later, leaving a void not only in his family but also in our community and beyond.

At Prime Luminisce Rwanda, our mission is to illuminate, empower, and elevate Rwandan Canadian artists while fostering cultural pride, intergenerational exchange, and community cohesion. Mr. Kabera was an active and cherished member of our community, embodying these values to the fullest. He embraced his Rwandan heritage with love and passion, using music as a tool to connect, heal, and inspire. As a staunch supporter of our initiatives, he consistently showed up to champion our work, demonstrating leadership, kindness, and unwavering commitment to uplifting those around him. To us, he was not just a community member but a model of excellence and a true cultural ambassador. The circumstances surrounding Mr. Kabera's death demand immediate and transparent scrutiny. The unanswered questions, lack of clarity, and subsequent erosion of trust have left his family and our broader community in profound pain. We join others in asking:

- What events led to the use of deadly force on November 9, 2024?
- Were non-lethal options considered or deployed?
- Why were the officers involved not wearing or using body cameras?
- Could racial bias have played a role in this tragedy?

Furthermore, we cannot overlook the systemic inequities evident in the Hamilton Police Service's use-of-force data, which disproportionately impacts Black communities. These patterns compound the fears and distrust felt by Rwandan Canadians and other marginalized groups.

In alignment with our mission and values, Prime Luminisce Rwanda calls for the following actions:

- Transparency and Accountability: Immediate and public updates from the Hamilton Police Service, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and other relevant authorities.
- Disclosure of Information: Release the names of the officers involved, all available evidence, including 911 call details and audio/video recordings.
- Examination of Racial Bias: A full review of policies, practices, and training within Hamilton Police Services to address systemic racism and ensure equitable treatment.
- Mandatory Body Cameras: Implementation of body cameras for all officers to enhance accountability and transparency.

These steps are vital for rebuilding trust and ensuring justice for Mr. Kabera and others who have suffered similar tragedies. We believe this is an opportunity for the Hamilton Police Service to take decisive action and demonstrate its commitment to meaningful reform.

Mr. Kabera's legacy reminds us of the power of community, culture, and resilience. Honoring his memory requires not only justice but also the assurance that no other family or community will face such devastating loss.

We await your response and stand ready to work alongside all stakeholders in building a more just and inclusive future.



Sincerely,
Mike Rukundo
Executive Director & Founder
Prime Luminisce Rwanda



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