
From: CARY Toronto <info@carytoronto.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:00 AM

To: FBergens@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 <joe@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]
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Subject: Demand for Answers, Transparency and Accountability in the Case of 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 friend and community supporter, Mr. Erixon Kabera by officers of the Hamilton Police Service. Despite the passage of time, the community continues to grapple with numerous unanswered questions and concerns surrounding the lack of transparency and accountability in this case.

Attached is a letter from the [Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth \(CARY\) - Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area](#) addressing these deeply troubling issues. The letter outlines our urgent call for transparency, accountability, and systemic change in response to this devastating incident.

Unfortunately, our youth and children have been severally impacted by this tragic incident and we are hoping that swift justice and answers will be provided. Erixon was an incredible role model and mentor for our youth community. Community trust and safety has been broken by the Hamilton Police Services and our youth and community members in Hamilton do not feel safe anymore.

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

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

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Canadian Association of Rwanda Youth - Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area Board of Directors

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



www.carytoronto.com

info@carytoronto.ca

"To connect, equip and support the Rwandan youth community in the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area"



Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth (CARY) – Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area
339 Queen St E, Suite 208 Toronto, ON M5A 1S9

January 8, 2025

Chief Frank Bergen

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

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

Dear Chief Bergen,

It has been 60 days since the tragic and fatal shooting of Mr. Erixon Kabera by officers of the Hamilton Police Service. On November 9, 2024, Mr. Kabera was shot multiple times in his own home and succumbed to his injuries at 00:47 a.m. on November 10. His death has devastated his family, our Rwandan Canadian community across Canada, and the broader Hamilton community.

In addition to being a father to three young boys, Mr. Kabera was a cherished mentor for the Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth - Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area members, where he dedicated nearly 15 years, uplifting the community through leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others. His loss is immeasurable, and the circumstances surrounding his death demand a transparent and thorough investigation.

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According to police reports, officers responded to a call from a resident of the apartment building where Mr. Kabera resided. However, the [events that led to his death remain unclear](#), leaving us with critical questions that must be addressed:

- What exactly transpired between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on November 9 to result in such a violent and fatal outcome?
- Why was Mr. Kabera shot?
- Why was the use of deadly force deemed necessary?
- Were non-lethal options, such as Tasers, considered or deployed?
- Why were the officers not equipped with body cameras? If they were, why weren't the cameras on, and could this have provided crucial evidence?

The profound impact of Mr. Kabera's death extends beyond his immediate family and community. It has instilled fear and mistrust among the broader Rwandan Canadian, African, and Black communities in Hamilton and beyond. This fear was exacerbated when the [Hamilton Police Association](#) released a statement on November 13, 2024, unequivocally supporting the officers involved—days after the tragedy and long before any facts of the case were established.

Such statements, coupled with the lack of transparency following Mr. Kabera's death, have further eroded public trust in the Hamilton Police Service. Community members, including children, now fear police presence at public events—a testament to the gravity of this loss and the systemic issues it underscores.

Moreover, the systemic nature of police violence toward diverse communities, as highlighted by the [Hamilton Police Services' 2023 Use of Force report](#), demands urgent attention:

- Black individuals were the targets of 17.2% of use-of-force incidents, despite representing only 5% of Hamilton's population.
- Black individuals are 3.14 times more likely to be subjected to police force compared to others.

These troubling statistics illustrate a pattern of racial bias and over-policing, which raises further pressing questions:

- Was the level of force used necessary to de-escalate the situation?

[Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth \(CARY\) – Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area](#)

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- Were the officers involved trained in de-escalation techniques, and could this tragedy have been prevented?
- Did racial bias influence the officers' actions, and was Mr. Kabera perceived as a threat because of his race?

Our community believes that the core principle of police is public safety. However, when police fail to protect communities equitably, it leaves us questioning the very system meant to safeguard all citizens. This is why we, alongside the broader community, demand the truth and meaningful reform.

Based on what we've learned so far, it's very difficult to trust the SIU to deliver a fair report when 50% of its members are former officers.

Our Demands:

The **Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area** calls for your office to initiate a full and transparent inquiry into the events surrounding Mr. Kabera's death, including:

- **Transparency & Accountability:** Clear and timely updates from Hamilton Police Services, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and all relevant authorities to rebuild public trust.
- **Disclosure of Information:** Release the names of the officers involved, audio recordings from the incident, and details of the 911 call that led to this tragedy.
- **Racial Bias Examination:** A comprehensive review of systemic racial bias within Hamilton Police Services and the policies that perpetuate it.
- **Mandatory Body Cameras:** Immediate implementation of body cameras for all Hamilton Police officers.

These actions are not merely requests but necessary steps toward justice and systemic change. Only by addressing these issues head-on can we prevent further tragedies and ensure that Black communities—like Mr. Kabera's—are no longer disproportionately targeted by those entrusted to protect them.

Your action today holds the power to effect generational change. We urge you to use the full authority of your office to act decisively and transparently in this matter.

We await your response and the measures you will take to address these critical issues.

Sincerely,

[Canadian Association of Rwandan Youth \(CARY\) – Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area](#)

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Julian N. Falconer, legal counsel

Ontario Human Rights Commission
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Media Outlets

BCC:

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Relevant Sources:

- <https://pub-hpsb.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=5264>
- <https://www.harrc.ca/post/excessive-use-of-force-on-black-and-racialized-communities-by-police-is-unacceptable>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/use-of-force-report-2022-community-reaction-1.6886644>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-police-use-of-force-2024-race-data-1.7248728>

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