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**From:** Robin Browne | [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:13 AM

**To:** fbergen@hamiltonpolice.ca

**Cc:** Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Kizito Musabimana <kizito@rchc.ca>; julianf@falconers.ca; info@ohrc.on.ca; patricia.deguire@ohrc.on.ca

**Subject:** Demand for transparency, accountability, and systemic change following the fatal shooting of Mr. Erixon Kabera

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Chief Bergen,

I am writing on behalf of Ottawa's 613-819 Black Hub regarding the fatal shooting of Erixon Kabera by Hamilton police 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, the 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 member of Hamilton's Rwandan community where he dedicated years uplifting his 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.

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 happened between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on November 9 that resulted 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?

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, which are similar in Ottawa, illustrate a pattern of racial bias and over-policing, which raises further pressing questions:

- Did the officers make any attempt to de-escalate the situation before resorting to deadly force?
- Were the officers involved trained in antiracist de-escalation techniques?

- Did racial bias influence the officers' actions, and was Mr. Kabera perceived as a threat because of his race?

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

As we have seen similar deaths at the hands of the Ottawa Police Service, the 613-819 Black Hub supports the demands outlined by the Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre:

- Clear and timely updates from Hamilton Police Services, the SIU, and all relevant authorities to rebuild public trust.
- Release the names of the officers involved, audio recordings from the incident, and details of the 911 call that led to this tragedy.
- A comprehensive review of systemic racial bias within the Hamilton Police Service and the policies that perpetuate it.
- A full and transparent inquiry into the events surrounding Mr. Kabera's death.

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 are no longer disproportionately targeted.

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,

Robin Browne, coordinator, 613-819 Black Hub

**Cc:**

Hamilton Police Services Board

Mayor of City of Hamilton, Andrea Horwath

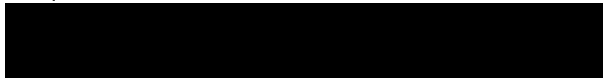
Julian N. Falconer, legal counsel

Ontario Human Rights Commission, Chief Commissioner, Patricia Deguire

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Robin Browne (he/him)

613/819 Black Hub



Website: <https://613819blackhubnoir.ca/en/>

Together we grow stronger.