

March 4, 2025

Chief Frank Bergen
Hamilton Police Service
155 King William Street
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 1A7

Dear Chief Bergen:

Re: 2024 McMaster Campus Safety Services Annual Report

On behalf of McMaster University, we are pleased to submit the 2024 Campus Safety Services Annual Report to the Hamilton Police Service and the Hamilton Police Services Board.

As an economic partner and neighbour to the residents of Hamilton, McMaster values its strong partnership with the Hamilton Police Service.

Executive Summary

McMaster University is a vibrant and diverse community, and ensuring the safety, well-being and belonging of our students, faculty, and staff is the foremost priority for Campus Safety Services.

In 2024 Campus Safety Services responded to major legislative changes with the introduction of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, becoming one of the first universities in Ontario to solidify designation of our Special Constables. In addition, through collaboration with our campus partners, we achieved significant reductions in three criminal incident categories, as noted in this report.

Comprising of 34 staff, Campus Safety Services operates year-round, providing 24/7 support. Our Special Constables, who are appointed as Peace Officers by the Board under the Authority of the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, manage safety for the main campus and all off-campus sites.

Training and development remain a priority, with staff maintaining a high level of virtual and in-person training, including regular Block Training facilitated by Hamilton Police Service's Training Bureau.

The team also conducted numerous outreach presentations on campus safety for faculty and student groups, fostering a strong connection with the community.

Campus Safety Services 2024 Statistics

A short summary of the incidents reported to Campus Safety Services in 2024, classified as Criminal and Provincial Offences, is included below:

- There was a total of 446 reported Criminal Incidents in 2024.
- The overall number of Criminal Incidents decreased by 19% from 2023 to 2024.
- One hate crime incident was reported, a drastic decrease from the 11 incidents reported in 2019.
- No incidents were reported in the following categories: Breach of Recognizance/Probation, Obstruct Peace Officer, and Sexual Assaults.
- Three Criminal Incident types had major reductions from 2023 to 2024:
 - Theft and Possession of Stolen Property (195 from 296)
 - Harassment/Sexual Harassment (19 from 29)
 - Threatening (10 from 20)
- Harassment and Sexual Harassment incidents decreased by 34% from 2023, and by 57% since a high of 44 incidents in 2019.

Working with our Community

The President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR) has brought the University and its neighbours together for close to three decades. Co-chaired by the Chair of the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association (AWWCA) and McMaster's Chief Executive of Internal and External Engagement, the group includes representatives from the neighbourhoods that surround the university, landlords, Westdale BIA, Hamilton Police, City of Hamilton By-law, the Ward One Councillor, students, the McMaster University Faculty Association and other university leaders, including the Dean of Students and the Director of Campus Safety Services.

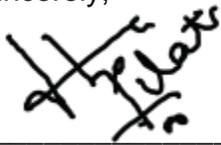
PACCR meets regularly to share information, discuss concerns, and provide a community perspective when planning for events such as Welcome Week and unauthorized street parties.

Throughout 2024, McMaster continued to invest in the "Mac 91/92" Paid-Duty Policing program, working closely with the Hamilton Police Service to hire Hamilton police officers to augment proactive patrols in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale neighbourhoods.

The number of Paid Duty Officers increases at key times of year, including Welcome Week and later in the fall when unauthorized street parties have historically occurred. Campus Safety Services works closely with HPS in its planning for these events. Additionally, McMaster works closely with Police and the City of Hamilton to ensure proactive and coordinated communications are available to students. This work compliments the university's ongoing Good Neighbour program to remind students of the important role they play in building strong and respectful communities around the University.

Please see the annual report attached to this letter. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Hamilton Police Service in support of community safety, wellbeing and belonging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saher Fazilat", written over a horizontal line.

Saher Fazilat
Vice-President (Operations and Finance)
McMaster University

Attachment (1)

cc: Ivan L'Ortye, Director, Campus Safety Services
Wanda McKenna, Associate Vice-President and Chief Human Resources Officer

ac/correspondence/2025