



Monday, May 26, 2025

**Re: Written delegation in support of motion 11.1 May 29 Board Meeting**

To Members of the Hamilton Police Services Board,

The Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion is writing in support of the motion put forward by Dr. Anjali Menezes regarding training and monitoring of Charter violations for Hamilton Police Services. As a member of the Senior Advisory Leadership Table for Hamilton's Community Safety and Wellbeing plan, we hear repeatedly that the police want to build trust and demonstrate their commitment to responding to concerns in tangible ways. The steps outlined in this motion move the needle on building that kind of trust by both providing avenues to reduce the impact and prevalence of Charter violations and reduce the impact on criminal cases and victim families of seeing charges dismissed. The Board has taken important decisions to enhance training on the impacts and systemic realities of racial profiling and this motion expands on that crucial work.

It is a reality that Charter violations in policing remain an issue and that systemic racism means that racial profiling continues to disproportionately impact and put at risk Black and Indigenous residents. The Hidden Racial Profiling Project and the Toronto Star reported in 2022 on at least 600 cases in Canada where police violated Charter rights, which they also note is most likely less than the total number since to have a violation recorded in court requires additional steps (such as charges moving forward). In Hamilton, we are not strangers to Charter violations as highlighted in the motion, and increased awareness as well as public accountability for any violations would be an important step for trust building. Beyond trust, though, we believe there is a public interest and public good in openness and transparency about police conduct and its impact. Hamilton Police Services continues to receive substantial budget increases year over year and there is a public good in reporting both how often Charter violations are happening and the specific disciplinary and educational action taken in response.

As police across Ontario are being called on to enforce new and stricter Provincial mandates for 'community safety', such as restricting public use of substances (when safe consumption site options have been closed) and increased enforcement of bans on encampments, there are also additional risks for Charter violations related to search and seizures or racial profiling. Residents concerned about the housing and drug crises are likewise concerned that responses to these crises may result in additional and disproportionate harm. Building a system for public accountability to mitigate further inequalities that can result from police actions is needed.



This motion provides the Police Services Board with a pathway forward to providing the context needed to identify Charter violations as well as a clear mandate for increased public reporting. We hope to see the Board approve this motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Caitlin Craven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Caitlin Craven, Executive Director  
Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion  
T: 905-297-4694

