

Hamilton Police Service Board  
c/o Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director  
155 King William Street  
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7

June 24, 2025

Dear Chief Bergen and Chair Don Robertson,

**Re: 2024 Use of Force Statistics and the Need for Greater Data Transparency**

As the executive director of the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC), I am writing to express concern following the recent release of the 2024 Use of Force statistics, which report a 14 per cent increase from 2023, with 303 incidents recorded. According to the report, Hamilton police officers encountered more individuals believed to be armed, many reportedly with firearms, than in recent years.

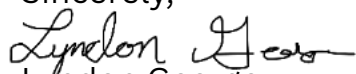
HARRC recognizes the complex and often high-risk circumstances in which Hamilton Police are required to make decisions. However, this upward trend raises important questions about how perceived threats are assessed and how force is ultimately used. Of particular concern is the lack of publicly available data verifying whether a weapon was in fact present during these encounters, and if so, the type of weapon involved. In the interest of public accountability and trust, HARRC calls on the Hamilton Police Service and the Hamilton Police Services Board to enhance the transparency of weapons-related calls by:

- 1) Collecting and publishing data indicating whether a weapon was confirmed to be present following each weapons-related call.
- 2) Specifying the type of weapon involved (example, no weapon found, firearm, knife, replica firearm, other).

Without this level of detail, the public is unable to assess the proportionality and necessity of force used in each incident. Increased transparency and disaggregated data are essential for building trust, improving policing outcomes, and accountability.

We urge the Hamilton Police Service and the Board to act swiftly to ensure that future reporting includes this critical information.

Sincerely,

  
Lyndon George

Executive Director  
Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre