



## HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JANUARY 24, 2022**

**Board Members**

Pat Mandy, Chair  
Fred Bennink, Vice Chair  
Mel Athulathmudali  
Geordie Elms  
Jason Farr  
Tom Jackson  
Judi Partridge

Kirsten Stevenson, Administrator

### **Hamilton Police Services Board Statement – Calls for a Judicial Review**

The Hamilton Police Services Board provides governance and oversight over the Hamilton Police Service. In that role, the Board must address issues of community concern. There has been much written and questions raised in the community about whether or not the Hamilton Police Services Board will ask for a Judicial Inquiry of the J.C. Beemer Park and Central Police Station occurrences that took place in late November 2021.

In consideration of this issue, it is necessary for the Board to take into account the following factors:

- The Board is a governance body that does not have investigative powers. A Public Inquiry is beyond the Board's powers and mandate. The ability to establish a Public Inquiry rests with the provincial Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- The Hamilton Police Service is subject to numerous levels of effective and accountable oversight, including, but not limited to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Office of the Independent Review Director (OIPRD). These are arms-length agencies that investigate police interactions with the public. They are equipped to investigate matters within their respective mandates.
- The incident in question is before the courts for judicial determination based on facts and evidentiary record.
- This Board has been kept up to date by the Chief and his Command regarding the J.C. Beemer Park and Central Police Station incidents.
- We need to acknowledge and understand the past, but more importantly, we must spend our time and energy on making a better future. The Board and the Service are committed to effecting change together with the communities we serve. That commitment is an ongoing commitment, which predated these incidents and will continue going forward.

After considering all of these factors, the Board does not support any additional review of these incidents beyond what is currently underway.

**For more information, please contact:**

Kirsten Stevenson, Board Administrator

[kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca](mailto:kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca)

[www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/about/police-services-board](http://www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/about/police-services-board)