



John Tory
Mayor

July 23, 2020

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
Province of Ontario
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Solicitor General Jones:

Re: Changes to Policing in Toronto and Ontario

Over the last month, Torontonians and people around the world have been raising their voices and calling for an end to anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and for better outcomes when it comes to how police interact with these communities. The City of Toronto is committed to confronting and taking action to eliminate systemic racism to improve the day-to-day lives of Indigenous, Black and racialized communities.

This call for action includes actively addressing concerns about systemic racism within police services and the inability of the current policing model to adequately and effectively serve marginalized individuals and communities. Not taking action to confront these systemic concerns would threaten the equal rights, justice and well-being of Indigenous, Black and racialized communities.

The safety and well-being of Toronto's residents is a priority I know we share. Toronto City Council is dedicated to ensuring that Toronto remains a safe city where everyone feels safe. To that end, Toronto City Council has endorsed the development of alternative service delivery models for community safety response that would allow police to remain focused on core policing services, and ensure communities are receiving the support needed to address the issues they are facing. Toronto City Council's approach is consistent with Statistics Canada's September 11, 2019, report, "The Canadian Police Performance Metrics Framework: Standardized indicators for police services in Canada."¹

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¹ Link: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00004-eng.htm>

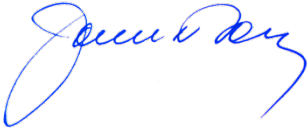
Over the past two years, the City has been actively engaged with the Province as it worked to establish the new Community Safety and Policing Act and to develop supporting regulations. Although great strides have been made so far, further review and amendments to the Police Services Act and the Community Safety and Policing Act are needed to accelerate the pace of change. On June 29, 2020, Toronto City Council adopted CC22.2 Changes to Policing in Toronto, which included the following requests of the Province:

- Immediately review and overhaul the Equipment and Use of Force regulation (Reg. 926) to emphasize de-escalation and incorporate alternative models and best practices which address the use of deadly force.
- Amendments to significantly expand the instances in which suspension without pay and revocation of a police officer's appointment as a police officer is available where serious misconduct is alleged or ultimately established.
- Amendments to require that complaints made about a police officer's public conduct that alleges serious misconduct be investigated by the Province's independent police complaints agency (currently, the Office of the Independent Police Review Director) and not any police service's professional standards unit.
- Eliminate any and all appeal powers for the Toronto Police Services Board to overturn Toronto City Council decisions pertaining to Police Budget matters including requests for reduction, abolition, creation or amalgamation of police services.
- Amendments to allow the City of Toronto to have direct oversight over the Toronto Police Services Budget.
- Immediately reinstate the reforms recommended by Justice Tulloch, particularly those reforms focused on enhancing the independence and notifications requirements of the Special Investigations Unit.

Please see Toronto City Council's decision CC22.2 Changes to Policing in Toronto and accompanying staff report, for further details. Full text is available at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.CC22.2>. As you can see from the decision, Toronto City Council will also be exploring other changes to policing which may necessitate further discussion with your office.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to confront systemic racism and bring sensible, meaningful change to policing.

Sincerely,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

- c. Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Solicitor General
Jim Hart, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board
Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto
Chris Murray, City Manager, City of Toronto