

July 16 2020

To the Toronto Police Service Board,

To offer true community accountability and to demonstrate that the town hall meetings are not just performative, means that the Toronto police board needs to truly work within and towards the demands laid out by Black Lives Matter Toronto (<https://blacklivesmatter.ca/defund-the-police/>), and centre Black and Indigenous communities in the response to accountability. Anything less than meeting the demands laid out by Black Lives Matter Toronto is insufficient.

I am concerned with commitments towards body cameras in policing and away from defunding the police. Studies have shown that body cameras do not work and that we need to move away from adding additional funding to policing, and reinvest in true forms of community care and support. We need measures that will prevent police violence, which body cameras have not been proven to do. Again, Black leaders, such as Black Lives Matter Toronto, have not called for cameras, but rather a defunding of police. We need to listen to those who are most effected by racist policing, and body cameras is not what is being asked for. Reform has been attempted and has not worked. There have and continue to be devastating loss at the hands of police, and therefore the police must be defunded so that other forms of community support and care can be made possible.

Again, Black Lives Matter Toronto have clearly laid out the demands that would begin to offer proper safety and care for all communities. If you are not meeting these demands you are not doing enough. You have community members showing the way. Support and implement the demands made by Black Lives Matter Toronto.

Thank you,
Mallory Leger