Jim Hart Chair,

Toronto Police Services Board

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CC Mayor John Tory, and your local counsellor

As the Toronto Police Services Board considers the hiring of the next Police Chief, I urge you to ensure that the new Chief possess “demonstrated experience and success in policing modernization initiatives, with an emphasis on building and sustaining strong collaborative relationships with racialized and marginalized communities . . . “

As you consider candidates, I urge you to seek an individual who has a proven track record of addressing structural and institutional racism, and will commit to addressing and changing current police culture.

We need a police force that serves our community. We need a police force that has more tools in their belts than tasers and guns. We need an emphasis on police using de-escalation skills rather than defaulting to use of force. It goes without saying that police treatment of Black and racialized communities in Toronto has been found wanting. The evidence is clear from the Ontario Human Rights Commission report in 2020, and from the Toronto Police’s own June report on the same issue.

I, as a person of faith cannot stay quiet any longer, I am calling on the TPSB to serve with integrity and honour and select a new Chief committed to addressing the recommendations of the TPSB Antiracism Advisory Panel.

*Your name*

*Address and ward*

*Member of Lawrence Park Community Church*