

From: [Rachel](#)
To: [Board General Mailbox](#)
Subject: Re: Toronto Police Services Board Town Hall - Call-in instructions
Date: Friday July 10, 2020 11:05:08

Here is my written piece which I spoke about today:

Hello, my name is Rachel, I am here to show you how angry and unsatisfied I am with your services including you councillors. To start, I demand that the police no longer respond to calls related to mental health. I demand that you do not tolerate any signs of staff participating in discriminatory or racist actions, words, microaggressions, tattoos, any of it, fire all of them. I have seen a picture going around of a Toronto police officer with a confederate flag tattoo, a racist symbol, this should not be tolerated, especially since Black folks are 20 times more likely to be shot dead by police in Toronto than white folks despite making up only 10% of the cities' residents. I think that your services, with your billion dollar budget, need to start incorporating actions that align with defunding, disarming, and dismantling the police, and the reallocation of those funds in order to reimagine public safety. For starters, if you're going to murder someone, the very LEAST you can do is to look at what clearly went wrong in each situation, to make sure that it never happens again, and it is very clear. In Ejaz Choudry's case, firstly of course, the police who know very well that they may have to kill someone, should not be responding to mental health crises, may I add, their job is not to kill. Also, the officers were not able to understand Ejaz, due to the language barrier, and vice versa, Ejaz was not able to understand them. Therefore, invest in changes which would address the possibility of a language barrier in each call for police. Invest in experts that can address mental health issues, rather than investing in more lethal weapons. I have experienced a mental health crisis which involved being suicidal before, and from personal experience, what people say is true, I was more of a danger to myself, than I was to others, I was solely focused on my own suffering and desiring it. I think that if you ask others that have experienced mental health crises as well, they will say very similar things, and this is why you need you listen to the people that are actually going through the things that you, as board members and council members, are attempting to address, and doing poorly may I add. I hear people in power say a lot, that they do not understand where the money that you defund from the police will go, or they do not know who else is going to protect us except the police. All you have to do is listen, because there are Black and Indigenous leaders who have done this hard work for you, like BLM Canada or [defund.ca](#) for example, they know exactly where the money should go whether that's education, medical care, and more. Even a simple google search about what can replace the police will get you many answers, and so it's not that hard for you because all you have to do is listen. Sandy Hudson who co founded BLM Toronto said that Covid-19 has shown us how quickly programs can be implemented in this

city, I'm sure that 6 months ago you did not expect to be policing people about how many people they're meeting with or if they're wearing a mask, well, now you're doing so. From this, it's proven how quickly changes can be made when they are prioritized. Well, we cannot be okay with another Black, Brown, Indigenous, person unjustly dying as a result of the deeply corrupt and racist police system again. Prioritize Black and Indigenous lives, and defund the police, invest in the community with your billion dollar budget, do not send police officers to mental health calls, do not tolerate any racism within your services, as a start, and by doing so, you will truly be protecting the city of Toronto.

I also want to add, a board member asked me about sending in the picture of the officer with a confederate flag tattoo, I want to ask him, why was this officer allowed to work there in the first place? It shouldn't just be acting measures but preventative measures which address racism within the police services.

