Dear TPS Board,

Thank you for holding this very important town hall. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my thoughts and point of view.

I believe in public safety that benefits and protects everyone equally. I would like the TPS board to work with community and anti-racism groups to develop anti-racist policies and procedures that combat system racism in the TPS and in our city.

As an individual, I don't feel safe with guns around. Guns do not get rid of guns or help anyone in actual need. Guns mean those looking to break laws know they'll be met with guns, and therefore may arm themselves in kind. Guns are not required for the vast majority of TPS responses, however, having them on their belt makes it the quickest and, dare I say easiest, response from an officer. We need to focus on sending the proper type of professional in response to non-violent related calls.

Leave the guns locked in the car, only to be accessed if deemed necessary by the situation.

No innocent citizen should fear an officer pulling a gun if pulled over or going about their daily life. This is not Toronto, and this is not Canada.

We're better than this, and your officers are better than this. Let's prove it.

As a born and raised Torontonian, I expect that the Board would prioritize these activities as much as possible as it is a matter of life and death to people in our community.

Let's remember the “serve” in “serve and protect” as we, the taxpayers, are paying these salaries, but we don't pay for innocent people to have guns pulled on them for minor or no infraction.

Progress takes work, so do the work. As our city grows and changes, so must TPS.

Thank you,

Zane Akoodie

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Corktown, Toronto