



September 28, 2020

Letter to the Public Security Commission  
275 Notre Dame Street  
Montreal, QC H2Y 1C6

By Email: [commissions@ville.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:commissions@ville.montreal.qc.ca)

Good Day,

Re: Consultation on Police Street Checks

The Playmas Montreal Cultural Association is an organization whose mission is to showcase the rich cultural traditions of the Caribbean region.

We host several events a year that allows the public to discover the music, cuisine, culture and literature, both written and oral, of the proud nations of the Caribbean.

We often work with the City of Montreal usually at the Borough level in regard to our cultural presentations. We appreciate the support that the City of Montreal has given us.

You can imagine then that it is unusual for us to participate in a consultation regarding the police department. But we feel we cannot stand by quietly. We hear too often from young people in our community that they are stopped by police for no reason at all walking in the street or while driving.

We have taken note of the Office Consultation Public Report that confirms that the police racially profile Blacks and other visible minorities.

You must fix this. A young visible minority person stopped by police for no reason at all can be scarred for life. The incident convinces our youth that prejudice runs deep in the police department and that the officers treat us differently than others.

We ask that as the civilian authority that provides oversight to the police that you put measures in place that will reassure the Black community and other visible minorities that we are all indeed equal and that we will be treated with respect by police.

We recommend that you decree an end to discretionary street checks by police. Your goal should be to reduce such checks to the minimum with any incident being a verifiable observation by an officer of an offense.

We also demand that you make it a requirement that officers be obliged to note the race of the person being stopped. The information that the collection of the race of the person stopped will allow the public to see whether the unacceptable practice of Blacks and other visible minorities being stopped more than others is continuing.

We ask that the police are prevented from stopping cars simply because the driver is Black. This isn't anecdotal. It happens.

Ladies and gentlemen, Black Lives Matter.

We count on your committee to make the changes that should have happened years ago to assure that everyone is truly equal before the law and in the behaviour of the police department.

We thank you for your attention to our letter.

Yours truly,



Gemma Raeburn-Baynes  
President