



THE HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE BOARD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 20, 2026**

Hamilton Police Service Board Welcomes New Deputy Chief

The Hamilton Police Service Board (Board) is pleased to announce the appointment of Robin Abbott as Deputy Chief of Police, effective September 27, 2026.

Deputy Chief Abbott brings more than 27 years of policing experience to the role, spanning operational, administrative and executive leadership positions. Most recently, she served as Superintendent of Division One. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety, community partnerships and supporting members who serve Hamilton every day.

“One of the Board’s most important responsibilities is selecting senior leaders who will guide the organization and strengthen public trust. Following an open and competitive process that attracted highly qualified diverse candidates from across Ontario and multiple levels of government, we reaffirmed what we already knew: Hamilton Police leaders are among the best in the province and are helping lead the way in policing,” said Chair Don Robertson.

Deputy Chief Abbott took on a leadership role in assisting the Board in building our 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan and has championed several initiatives including Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training and the modernization of organizational policies and practices. As the Division One lead, she also advanced community safety initiatives in Hamilton’s downtown core, including the expansion of Core Patrol and the opening of the Jackson Square police substation.

“A promotion is about more than recognizing past performance. It’s about who we trust to help shape our future. Strong leaders make those around them better, move our mission forward and

understand that leadership isn't about authority, but how you use it," said Chief Bergen. "Deputy Abbott embodies those qualities, and I'm excited about the experience, perspective and skills she brings to our leadership team."

In her new role, Deputy Chief Abbott will oversee Support, which includes crisis response, traffic safety, emergency services and facilities. She will work alongside the Chief and executive leadership team to advance the Board's strategic priorities and respond to the evolving needs of the community.

"We face incredibly complex challenges in our community, and addressing them requires us to listen, collaborate and bring the right people to the table. We can't do this work alone. Community engagement and strong partnerships are the cornerstone of our success," said Deputy Chief Abbott.

Deputy Chief Abbott holds a Professional Certificate in Leadership from Western University and has completed the Police Leadership and Executive Management Program at McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business. Her professional development also includes certifications as a Critical Incident Commander, Public Order Unit Commander and Incident Command Instructor.

Deputy Chief Abbott will assume her new role on September 27, 2026.

Board Members: Chair Don Robertson, Vice Chair Esther Pauls, Cameron Kroetsch, Shaun Padulo, Mike Spadafora, and Robin St. Jean

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