

## **MAYOR PATRICK BROWN**

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August 2, 2020

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P.  
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Dear Ministers:

I am writing to you about the tragic murder of Darian Hailey Henderson-Bellman that took place in Brampton on July 28. As a result of this investigation Peel Regional Police have charged Darnell Reid with the following offences:

- Second Degree Murder
- Possession of a Loaded Firearm
- Fail to Comply with Release Order (X2)

This is a perfect example of the real and heart-breaking consequences of our revolving door justice system. This was preventable. Enough is enough. This is infuriating. The police did their job. The justice system failed us.

I want to echo the comments made by Peel Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah. He stated, “This represents a tragic outcome for a young person who carried a bright future....is mixed with frustration for a complete failure of our justice system to protect her.” When are the laws going to change?

Of the 31 homicides in Peel Region last year, 13 were domestic fatalities, the highest number to date. There was a total of 18,377 reports, including 10,818 intimate partner calls where 3,107 charges were laid. Of the 7,519 family violence calls, 963 charges were laid.

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At the time of this incident, the accused was the subject of an interim judicial release stemming from a previous domestic violence incident between the accused and the victim. Since that charge, he had been arrested on four separate occasions for breaching terms of his release by being in contact with her. The family and police struggled to keep her safe.

In May 2020, the accused was arrested for possession of an illegal firearm for an unrelated matter. After only six days in custody, this accused who regularly ignored his conditions of release, and continued to offend by possessing illegal firearms was released back into the community with a GPS monitoring device. This was despite clear concerns regarding his risk to the victim, the community and the potential to continue to re-offend.

This resulted in another life being taken by a violent offender with another illegal firearm. We must do better at protecting victims of domestic abuse. There needs to be a better balance between the rights of the accused and the rights of the victims. Our justice system has failed victims of crimes far too often. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown  
Mayor

cc: Members of Brampton City Council  
Brampton MPs  
Brampton MPPs  
Police Chief N. Duraiappah, Region of Peel