

THESE KIND OF GESTURES ARE MEANINGLESS'

POLICE FACE CRITICISM OVER BLACK HERITAGE CRUISER CONTEST

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A contest launched by Halton police, which asked the public to design a Black Heritage Police Cruiser, is meeting with some mixed reviews from the local Black communities.

The grassroots anti-racism groups Halton Black Voices and the Halton Hills Alliance for Social Change (HHASC) have launched an online petition demanding Halton police immediately retract the contest. As of press time, the pe-

tition had 844 signatures. Halton police announced they would be holding the contest on Feb. 1 in honour of Black History Month.

In their press release, officers said they and their contest partners envision this dedicated police vehicle featuring key figures and imagery to celebrate the region's rich history of African and Caribbean culture.

Bonita Uzoruo, founder of HHASC, however, sees the contest as performative and self-serving, noting it does nothing to address the problems of racism in policing and society in general. "It's a way to look like action is being taken without actually doing real action or taking the real steps that are needed in our community," she said.

"These kinds of gestures are meaningless ... There's so much work that needs to be done."

Kimberly Cato of Halton Black Voices said there is also a big problem with putting revered Black figures and imagery on a police cruiser.

"A cruiser, for the Black community, is a symbol of oppression," she said.

Cato went on to compare putting images of Black heroes on the side of a police cruiser with put-

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