



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Meeting #: 23-001(f)
Date: February 6, 2023
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 5987

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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
4. COMMUNICATIONS	
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From: Robyn Deshaies
Sent: January 26, 2023 5:57 PM
To: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Hamilton Police Budget

Dear Councillor Wilson,

My name is Robyn Deshaies and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 1.

I am calling upon you to vote *against* the proposed 6.71% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget, and to advocate *for* an investment into community-led, harm reduction supports.

For decades, the Hamilton Police Service budget has been rising; meanwhile housing costs are surging, food is less affordable, and people struggle to access basic medical and social support. Public safety means ensuring that *all* community members have access to the basic necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and community.

Investing in police does not provide for any of these essentials. Investing in police does not even prevent crime. Police arrive after-the-fact, and coerce, manipulate, and brutalize poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer and trans people.

In 2022, Hamilton Police Services requested a budget increase of **2.98%** when, over the previous five years, calls to HPS only increased by 3.5%. In fact, HPS still has a surplus from last year's budget, so this unprecedented ask of a **6.71%** increase in 2023 is unnecessary and indefensible.

Not only does increasing the police budget fail to address the inaccessibility of housing, it brings violence against the most vulnerable members of our communities. Police play an active role in dismantling encampments, they ticket people living on the street for simply existing in public. And when community members require mental health support, rather than de-escalating distress the police tend to escalate it, ultimately causing more harm and sometimes even death, killing those they claim to protect.

We don't need to criminalize encampment residents, or anyone deprived of safe and accessible housing – we need *real* housing solutions. Poverty will not be erased by disappearing people or displacing them from one location to another. We don't need police to respond to sexual assault – we need trauma-informed, gender-based violence services, in a sector that's perpetually underfunded. The municipal police budget has no right to eat into our city budget.

There is extensive documentation linking social determinants of health to experiences of community members in this city stratified by wealth and class. A [CBC study](#) found that of the 460 police murders of civilians from 2000 onwards, 70.3% of them experienced mental health struggles or substance-based disorders. Responding with force to disabled community members is counterintuitive to any narrative of the police's alleged role in "public safety." Police are funded to primarily manage the comfort and *perceived* anxieties of people worried about property – with **real, deadly consequences** and **bodily harm** for others. Think critically about where real harm is occurring. We don't need the police to respond to mental health calls. We need the city to fund housing, harm-reduction, community-based and mental healthcare services. Investing millions of dollars into a police budget with an existing surplus is a waste of our resources. In 2021, there were 171 confirmed – and entirely preventable – deaths

related to the opioid overdose crisis in our city. According to [city data](#), Hamilton paramedics responded to 814 incidents related to suspected opioid overdoses in 2022, compared to 430 such incidents in 2017. These growing emergency calls will not be addressed by increased police presence: yet there is often no funding cited as available for safe consumption sites, despite extensive advocacy from experts that safe supply and consumption [unilaterally save lives](#). Where life saving supports can be funded - expanding police budgets places value in systems of harm, rather than prioritizing life. I am speaking to you as a concerned constituent you are elected to represent. I am not comfortable funding police in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centers, mental health services, sexual assault services, safer infrastructure, playgrounds, youth centres, food accessibility, harm reduction supports, etc. What we need are people-centred supports like: mental health outreach workers, mental health support centres, hotlines, crisis workers, housing centres, safe injection sites, safe drug supply, education/prevention programming, youth programming, recreation centres, access to community-based care, satellite health centres.

Investing in our communities is a step towards addressing the root cause of most “crime”, which is often need-based and a consequence of poverty. We need to fund and reimagine services that address these root causes and know how to better respond to 911 distress calls. Instead of punishing our neighbours for trying to meet their needs, we can resource people and communities so those needs are met. We **must** reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that offer services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, conflict mediation, mental health support, and deeply affordable, accessible housing.

Sincerely,

Robyn Deshaies
Ward 1

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Suzy S**

Date: Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 12:22 PM

Subject: Proposed Increase to HPS budget

To: <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: <ward1@hamilton.ca>

Dear Councillor Wilson,

My name is Suzy Sebeslav and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Westdale.

I am calling upon you to vote *against* the proposed 6.71% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget, and to advocate *for* an investment into community-led, harm reduction supports.

For decades, the Hamilton Police Service budget has been rising; meanwhile housing costs are surging, food is less affordable, and people struggle to access basic medical and social support. Public safety means ensuring that *all* community members have access to the basic necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and community. Investing in police does not provide for any of these essentials. Investing in police does not even prevent crime. Police arrive after-the-fact, and coerce, manipulate, and brutalize poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer and trans people.

In 2022, Hamilton Police Services requested a budget increase of **2.98%** when, over the previous five years, calls to HPS only increased by 3.5%. In fact, HPS still has a surplus from last year's budget, so this unprecedented ask of a **6.71%** increase in 2023 is unnecessary and indefensible.

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We don't need to criminalize encampment residents, or anyone deprived of safe and accessible housing – we need *real* housing solutions. Poverty will not be erased by disappearing people or displacing them from one location to another. We don't need police to respond to sexual assault – we need trauma-informed, gender-based violence services, in a sector that's perpetually underfunded. The municipal police budget has no right to eat into our city budget.

There is extensive documentation linking social determinants of health to experiences of community members in this city stratified by wealth and class. A [CBC study](#) found that

of the 460 police murders of civilians from 2000 onwards, 70.3% of them experienced mental health struggles or substance-based disorders. Responding with force to disabled community members is counterintuitive to any narrative of the police's alleged role in "public safety." Police are funded to primarily manage the comfort and *perceived* anxieties of people worried about property – with **real, deadly consequences** and **bodily harm** for others. Think critically about where real harm is occurring. We don't need the police to respond to mental health calls. We need the city to fund housing, harm-reduction, community-based and mental healthcare services.

Investing millions of dollars into a police budget with an existing surplus is a waste of our resources. In 2021, there were 171 confirmed – and entirely preventable – deaths related to the opioid overdose crisis in our city. According to [city data](#), Hamilton paramedics responded to 814 incidents related to suspected opioid overdoses in 2022, compared to 430 such incidents in 2017. These growing emergency calls will not be addressed by increased police presence: yet there is often no funding cited as available for safe consumption sites, despite extensive advocacy from experts that safe supply and consumption [unilaterally save lives](#). Where life saving supports can be funded - expanding police budgets places value in systems of harm, rather than prioritizing life.

I am speaking to you as a concerned constituent you are elected to represent. I am not comfortable funding police in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centers, mental health services, sexual assault services, safer infrastructure, playgrounds, youth centres, food accessibility, harm reduction supports, etc. What we need are people-centred supports like: mental health outreach workers, mental health support centres, hotlines, crisis workers, housing centres, safe injection sites, safe drug supply, education/prevention programming, youth programming, recreation centres, access to community-based care, satellite health centres.

Investing in our communities is a step towards addressing the root cause of most "crime", which is often need-based and a consequence of poverty. We need to fund and reimagine services that address these root causes and know how to better respond to 911 distress calls. Instead of punishing our neighbours for trying to meet their needs, we can resource people and communities so those needs are met. We **must** reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that offer services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, conflict mediation, mental health support, and deeply affordable, accessible housing.

Sincerely
Ms. Suzy Sebeslav
Ward 1

From: Grace Cameron
Sent: January 26, 2023 6:39 PM
To: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>
Subject: HPS 2023

Dear Councillor Wilson,

My name is Grace Cameron and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 1.

I am calling upon you to vote *against* the proposed 6.71% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget, and to advocate *for* an investment into community-led, harm reduction supports.

For decades, the Hamilton Police Service budget has been rising; meanwhile housing costs are surging, food is less affordable, and people struggle to access basic medical and social support. Public safety means ensuring that *all* community members have access to the basic necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and community. Investing in police does not provide for any of these essentials. Investing in police does not even prevent crime. Police arrive after-the-fact, and coerce, manipulate, and brutalize poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer and trans people.

In 2022, Hamilton Police Services requested a budget increase of **2.98%** when, over the previous five years, calls to HPS only increased by 3.5%. In fact, HPS still has a surplus from last year's budget, so this unprecedented ask of a **6.71%** increase in 2023 is unnecessary and indefensible.

Not only does increasing the police budget fail to address the inaccessibility of housing, it brings violence against the most vulnerable members of our communities. Police play an active role in dismantling encampments, they ticket people living on the street for simply existing in public. And when community members require mental health support, rather than de-escalating distress the police tend to escalate it, ultimately causing more harm and sometimes even death, killing those they claim to protect.

We don't need to criminalize encampment residents, or anyone deprived of safe and accessible housing – we need *real* housing solutions. Poverty will not be erased by disappearing people or displacing them from one location to another. We don't need police to respond to sexual assault – we need trauma-informed, gender-based violence services, in a sector that's perpetually underfunded. The municipal police budget has no right to eat into our city budget.

There is extensive documentation linking social determinants of health to experiences of community members in this city stratified by wealth and class. A [CBC study](#) found that of the 460 police murders of civilians from 2000 onwards, 70.3% of them experienced mental health struggles or substance-based disorders. Responding with force to disabled community members is counterintuitive to any narrative of the police's alleged

role in “public safety.” Police are funded to primarily manage the comfort and *perceived* anxieties of people worried about property – with **real, deadly consequences** and **bodily harm** for others. Think critically about where real harm is occurring. We don’t need the police to respond to mental health calls. We need the city to fund housing, harm-reduction, community-based and mental healthcare services.

Investing millions of dollars into a police budget with an existing surplus is a waste of our resources. In 2021, there were 171 confirmed – and entirely preventable – deaths related to the opioid overdose crisis in our city. According to [city data](#), Hamilton paramedics responded to 814 incidents related to suspected opioid overdoses in 2022, compared to 430 such incidents in 2017. These growing emergency calls will not be addressed by increased police presence: yet there is often no funding cited as available for safe consumption sites, despite extensive advocacy from experts that safe supply and consumption [unilaterally save lives](#). Where life saving supports can be funded - expanding police budgets places value in systems of harm, rather than prioritizing life.

I am speaking to you as a concerned constituent you are elected to represent. I am not comfortable funding police in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centers, mental health services, sexual assault services, safer infrastructure, playgrounds, youth centres, food accessibility, harm reduction supports, etc. What we need are people-centred supports like: mental health outreach workers, mental health support centres, hotlines, crisis workers, housing centres, safe injection sites, safe drug supply, education/prevention programming, youth programming, recreation centres, access to community-based care, satellite health centres.

Investing in our communities is a step towards addressing the root cause of most “crime”, which is often need-based and a consequence of poverty. We need to fund and reimagine services that address these root causes and know how to better respond to 911 distress calls. Instead of punishing our neighbours for trying to meet their needs, we can resource people and communities so those needs are met. We **must** reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that offer services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, conflict mediation, mental health support, and deeply affordable, accessible housing.

Sincerely,
Grace Cameron
Ward 1

From: **Thea Haines**

Date: Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 4:40 PM

Subject: Hamilton City Budget

To: Wilson, Maureen <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>, Office of the Mayor
<mayor@hamilton.ca>

Dear Maureen and Andrea,

I'm writing to you to ask you to reject the request of the Hamilton Police Service for a budget increase of 6.7%, and to advocate for investment in community led, harm reduction supports.

For decades, the Hamilton Police Service budget has been rising; meanwhile housing costs are surging, food is less affordable, and people struggle to access basic medical and social support. Public safety means ensuring that *all* community members have access to the basic necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and community. Investing in police does not provide for any of these essentials. Investing in police does not even prevent crime. Police arrive after-the-fact, and coerce, manipulate, and brutalize poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer and trans people.

In 2022, Hamilton Police Services requested a budget increase of **2.98%** when, over the previous five years, calls to HPS only increased by 3.5%. In fact, HPS still has a surplus from last year's budget, so this unprecedented ask of a **6.71%** increase in 2023 is unnecessary and indefensible.

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We don't need to criminalize encampment residents, or anyone deprived of safe and accessible housing – we need *real* housing solutions. Poverty will not be erased by disappearing people or displacing them from one location to another. We don't need police to respond to sexual assault – we need trauma-informed, gender-based violence services, in a sector that's perpetually underfunded. The municipal police budget has no right to eat into our city budget.

There is extensive documentation linking social determinants of health to experiences of community members in this city stratified by wealth and class. A [CBC study](#) found that of the 460 police murders of civilians from 2000 onwards, 70.3% of them experienced mental health struggles or substance-based disorders. Responding with force to disabled community members is counterintuitive to any narrative of the police's alleged role in "public safety." Police are funded to primarily manage the comfort and *perceived* anxieties of people worried about property – with **real, deadly consequences** and **bodily harm** for others. Think critically about where real harm is occurring. We don't

need the police to respond to mental health calls. We need the city to fund housing, harm-reduction, community-based and mental healthcare services.

Investing millions of dollars into a police budget with an existing surplus is a waste of our resources. In 2021, there were 171 confirmed – and entirely preventable – deaths related to the opioid overdose crisis in our city. According to [city data](#), Hamilton paramedics responded to 814 incidents related to suspected opioid overdoses in 2022, compared to 430 such incidents in 2017. These growing emergency calls will not be addressed by increased police presence: yet there is often no funding cited as available for safe consumption sites, despite extensive advocacy from experts that safe supply and consumption [unilaterally save lives](#). Where life saving supports can be funded - expanding police budgets places value in systems of harm, rather than prioritizing life.

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Yours sincerely,
Thea Haines
Ward 1

From: Adi Gelb
Sent: January 30, 2023 12:18 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Fwd: URGENT please read

Dear Councillor Wilson & Council,

My name is Adi and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Westdale.

I am calling upon you to vote *against* the proposed 6.71% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget, and to advocate *for* an investment into community-led, harm reduction supports.

For decades, the Hamilton Police Service budget has been rising; meanwhile housing costs are surging, food is less affordable, and people struggle to access basic medical and social support. Public safety means ensuring that *all* community members have access to the basic necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and community. Investing in police does not provide for any of these essentials. Investing in police does not even prevent crime. Police arrive after-the-fact, and coerce, manipulate, and brutalize poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer and trans people.

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disabled community members is counterintuitive to any narrative of the police's alleged role in "public safety." Police are funded to primarily manage the comfort and *perceived* anxieties of people worried about property – with **real, deadly consequences** and **bodily harm** for others. Think critically about where real harm is occurring. We don't need the police to respond to mental health calls. We need the city to fund housing, harm-reduction, community-based and mental healthcare services.

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Sincerely,
Adi Gelb
Ward 1 Resident

From: Alix MacLean
Sent: January 31, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Marchand, Pascale <Pascale.Marchand@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Please vote no to a police budget increase

Hello Councillor Hwang,

Congratulations on being elected our new councillor. I'm excited to have another more progressive voice at the council table.

I am writing today to ask you to vote against a Hamilton Police Services budget increase. They are not sufficiently accountable with the money they already have, and at a time of crippling social problems all over our city, including homelessness and addictions and unsafe streets, they should not be able to access any additional budget. Police do not prevent crime and additional police do not make communities safer, especially for racialized and marginalized groups, as has been shown time and time again in this city, and in cities all over the country and all over North America.

There needs to be much stronger accountability mechanisms in place for additional funds for the police. For example, they should be able to show the additional efforts they are making to prevent pedestrian deaths. They should be able to show a reduction in police use of force, etc. These things should be measured and metrics need to be in place to justify additional funding and be transparent to the public. I am hopeful with our new council that carte blanche budget increases will no longer happen.

Thank you,
Alix MacLean

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: January 4, 2023 2:41 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Wed, 01/04/2023 - 14:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Anthony Marco

Hamilton & District Labour Council

Reason(s) for delegation request

To introduce Care Fare Transit to the GIC (Budget) process.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/09/2023 - 09:28

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Elizabeth Wong, Vice President (Education) & Simranjeet (Sim) Singh, President
McMaster Students Union
1280 Main St. W. MUSC room #201
McMaster Univeristy
Hamilton, Ontario. L8S 4S4
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca
905-525-9140 ext. 24017

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
The McMaster Students Union (MSU) would like to present at the February 6 meeting of GIC, in relation to public delegations concerning the 2023 municipal budget. The MSU will present the views of McMaster students, and suggest some priorities for Council as 2023 budget process process unfolds.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/16/2023 - 00:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Miriam Sager

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

I wish to speak to the budget (February 6)

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/16/2023 - 15:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Alex Bonenfant

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

Hamilton is blessed to have over 100 waterfalls, but the bylaw enforcement of popular falls is holding them back from the potential they have.

The previous council approved this pilot in 2021, which continued into 2022. It's expected you will debate whether it'll be permanent beyond 2023.

While parking enforcement should continue, visitors should be able to access the bottom of the falls, particularly Albion and Smokey Hollow, without worrying about a \$75 trespassing ticket.

Current bylaws prohibiting access aren't effective, as people regularly ignore the signs and go off trail anyway. A google search of Albion, Chedoke, etc.. will give you tons of pictures down there.

At the same time this punishes responsible hikers who previously hiked down with no issues, but can't anymore due to the new rules. This petition with 2590 signatures also wants access to be improved: <https://change.org/dontblockthefalls>

The base provides the best views, views the viewing platforms simply don't have. If the viewing platforms had the best views, you wouldn't have people constantly going off-trail.

Global News found the enforcement last year costing \$360,000. This money shouldn't be spent on guards patrolling the waterfall, and should instead fund programs that allow viewers to safely access the falls' base.

A guided/self guided tour to the bottom every couple of weeks would allow viewers to legally access the bottom, and is cheaper than building infrastructure like stairs. It could be done on days where there's no flash flood chance, and only done in the summer/fall months.

Visitors could pay \$5-10 to be part of the tour group, and sign a waiver to protect the city's liability. That is much better than a \$75 ticket.

This could be first piloted where Albion falls's base is open to the tour, and if the program is successful, expand it to other off-limits falls like Chedoke, or even Tews/Websters if the HCA is on board.

The program can ensure visitors have the right equipment to hike these areas, as well as hazards to look out for. With proper education and programs, these areas can be safely hiked.

Covid taught us to embrace our natural areas, as they're essential for one's mental health and wellbeing. For some, it's as simple as hearing the falls up close and feeling the mist of the water.

If the enforcement program remains unchanged, expect the same result where people keep ignoring signage, and bylaw struggling to keep them out. This will get worse over time, as the GTA/Hamilton area keeps growing and blogs further advertise these locations.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my concerns. With the right ideas, we can safely improve the access of our waterfalls, and make Hamilton a more liveable city.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

General Issues Committee Delegate Submission (Waterfall Enforcement)

Madam Mayor and members of the General Issues Committee, my name is Alex Bonenfant, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am an avid hiker that explores many of Hamilton's natural areas, particularly the waterfalls. I've been exploring them since I was 12, but they really piqued my interest during the lockdowns, as that was one of the only things you could do at the time.

I'm also a member of the Hamilton: The City of Waterfalls Facebook Group, where we share pictures of Hamilton's natural beauty.

Hamilton is arguably the best city geographically in the area, since we are blessed with over 150 waterfalls right on our doorstep.

The bylaw enforcement however is holding these attractions back from the potential they could have.

The previous council approved the bylaw pilot in 2021, and in 2022. It's expected you will look at it in the coming days to decide if it'll be permanent in 2023.

I agree the parking enforcement should continue, but many people myself included have an issue regarding the lack of accessibility for these attractions.

I believe visitors should be able to access the bottom of the falls, particularly Albion and Smokey Hollow, without worrying about a \$75 trespassing ticket.

The current bylaws prohibiting access aren't effective, as people regularly ignore the signs and go off-trail to the bottom anyway. You can do a google/Instagram search of Albion, Chedoke, and other off-limits falls, and you'll see tons of pictures of people down there.

This at the same time punishes responsible hikers, who previously hiked down for decades without issue, but can't anymore due to the new rules. I created a petition in 2021 you may be aware of to bring back access, and as of right now it has 2600 signatures.

I also created a poll in the City of Waterfalls group asking if you prefer viewing waterfalls from the top or the bottom. While 6 people said from the top, 57 preferred viewing from the bottom.

Furthermore the bottom provides the best views, views the viewing platforms simply don't have. Viewing platform views are often blocked by trees, and is much farther from the waterfall, while at the bottom you have an unobstructed view, as well as being able to get up close and intimate with the falls.

Waterfalls are also a natural source of negative ions, which according to many studies have positive psychological effects on mood and stress levels, which can help improve productivity.

Combine these with how 90% of people polled prefer viewing from the bottom, it's no wonder why you still see people trying to get down despite the enforcement.

Global News found the enforcement last year costing \$360,000. This money shouldn't be spent on guards patrolling the waterfall, and some of it should instead fund programs that allow viewers to safely access the falls' base.

Now I'm aware these attractions faced issues in 2016/17, particularly the amount of rope rescues/deaths that occurred at the time. So I know any reopening of access would have to be different compared to what it was like in the past.

I'd normally say building new infrastructure like stairs would be good, however they are very costly and have to go through many studies before shovels get in the ground. With so many waterfalls in Hamilton, the costs would rack up very quickly.

I'm thinking instead, a guided/self guided tour to the bottom every couple of weeks would allow viewers to legally access the bottom, and is much cheaper than building infrastructure. It could be done on days where there's no flash flood chance, and only done in the summer/fall months.

Visitors could pay \$5-10 to be part of the group, and sign a waiver to protect the city's liability. While the price may get some pushback, it's much cheaper than a \$75 ticket, and reduces the cost the city needs to pay for this program.

I'm thinking it could first be piloted where Albion Falls' base is open to the tour, and if the program is successful, expand it to other off-limits falls like Chedoke, or even Tews/Websters if the HCA is on board. As the demand to view these areas from the

base is there, I can imagine people will jump on the opportunity to be a part of these tours.

Unlike in the past where dozens upon dozens were down there at once, the capacity is controlled this time, and the program can ensure visitors have the right equipment to hike these areas, as well as hazards to look out for.

I know from experience you're more likely to need a rope rescue if you're inexperienced and wearing flip-flops, compared to someone who has the experience and knowledge of the area, and wears proper hiking equipment. With proper education and programs, these areas can be safely hiked.

Keeping the tours to once every 2 weeks would also prevent over-tourism, since I'm aware these are environmentally sensitive areas.

We learned from the pandemic that our natural areas are essential for a healthy lifestyle, and our waterfalls are beneficial for relieving stress and our mental health.

If the enforcement program remains unchanged, expect the same result where people keep ignoring signage, and bylaw struggling to keep them out. As the GTA/Hamilton area continue to grow, and blogs further advertise these locations, a permanent closure will be much harder to enforce over time.

I once again thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. With the right ideas, we can safely improve the access of our waterfalls, and make Hamilton a more liveable city.

Stress levels impact productivity:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7889069/#:~:text=This%20study%20suggested%20there%20is.associated%20with%20lower%20productivity%20scores.>


Negative ions in waterfalls:

<https://switzerlandtravel.swisshikingvacations.com/the-waterfall-effect/>

Bylaw program costing \$360,000 last year:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8613760/hamilton-waterfalls-bylaw-parking-enforcement-extended/>

Polls I did regarding viewing falls from the top/base (waterfall groups):


 **Alex Bonenfant** created a poll in **Waterfalls of Ontario**.
January 18 at 10:50 AM · 🌐


Do you prefer viewing waterfalls from the top or the base?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top	8% >	✕
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Base	92% >	✕

Add poll option...

57 Votes 7 comments


 Like  Comment  Send




 **Alex Bonenfant** created a poll in **Hamilton - The City Of Waterfalls**.
February 12, 2022 · 🌐

Do you prefer viewing waterfalls from the top or the base?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top	10% >	✕
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Base	90% >	✕

Add poll option...

 4 64 Votes 8 comments

 Like  Comment  Send

Alex Bonenfant Waterfall Presentation





We are blessed to have over 100 waterfalls in Hamilton's city limits.

Hamilton has been nicknamed the "waterfall capital of the world" as a result.

Hamilton Issued Dozens Of Tickets To People Breaking Rules At Waterfalls Last Week

Residents are being reminded not to hike up the falls.

 **Patrick John Gilson**
Toronto Staff Writer

May 18, 2021, 10:40 AM — Updated

[This story was fact-checked](#) 





Park-related bylaw charges in 2021 (Enter prohibited area)

Ward 6 has Albion/Buttermilk Falls

Ward 14 has Chedoke Falls

Ward 15 has Smokey Hollow

HAMILTON THE SPECTATOR [Subscribe Now](#)

Bylaw charges by ward for 2021

Breaking down last year's 5,638 charges within the city of Hamilton

Search in table

Page 1 of 2 >

Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
0	43	493	5	1
7	1	1	9	
116	54	60	71	16

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Bylaw charges by ward for 2021

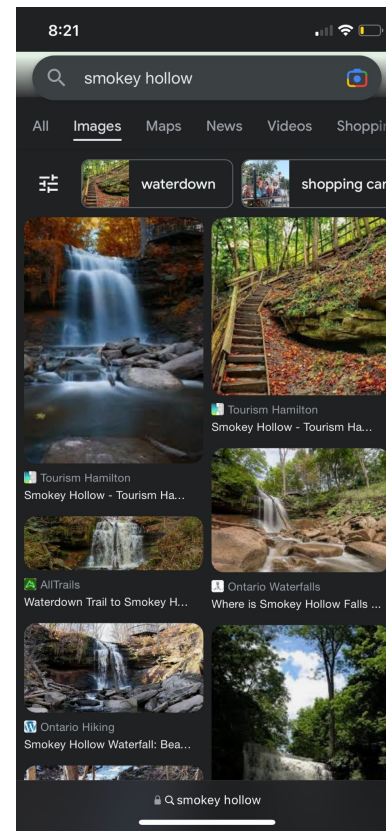
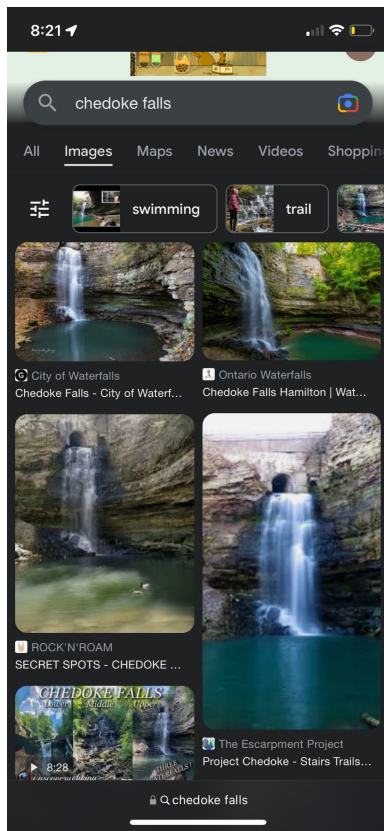
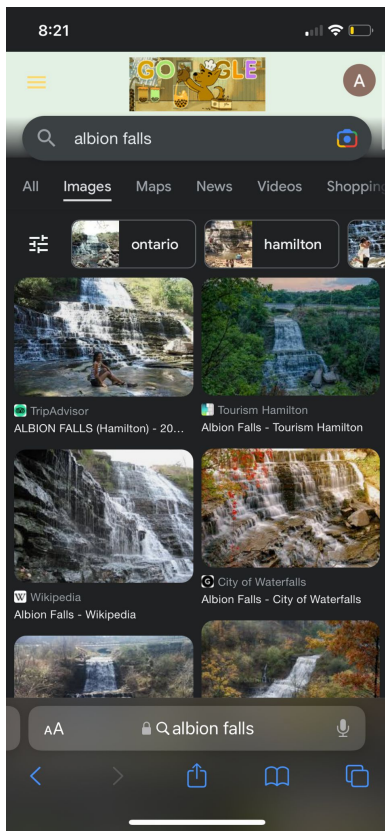
Breaking down last year's 5,638 charges within the city of Hamilton

Search in table

Page 1 of 2 >

Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14	Ward 15	Total bylaw charges
3	40	798	918	2,437
3	0	0	0	66

Google searches for Albion/Chedoke/Smokey Hollow





[Redacted Name]

As far as the stairs ... I have been safely visiting Albion Falls for 35 years and have never had an issue. There is a well worn trail to the bottom. Yes, it's not accessible for everyone but if you are physically fit and wearing decent hiking shoes it's really not that tough of a hike. My daughter has been there dozens of times since she was 4 and even helped with the illuminations.

Like Reply 4y



[Redacted Name]

I've been down to the falls, since I was a baby. Thankfully I was able to bring my son and nieces down there before it was Blocked off. Walking down there with 2 dog's, a toddler with help from my husband and we never has any accidents.

Like Reply 50w



[Redacted Name]

Nice! People should be allowed to enjoy the falls! We went all the time in years past and I'd like to go again!

Like Reply 4d



[Redacted Name]

I'd like to get back down there myself 🙄


Like Reply 4d



Petition I created to stop blocking waterfall access

Stop blocking access to Hamilton's popular waterfalls!



 [Alex Bonenfant](#) started this petition to Mayor Fred Eisenberger and [15 others](#)

Waterfall adventurers wanting to get to the bottom are being viewed as criminals in the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton is blessed to have more than 100 waterfalls within the city limits, and gets the well-deserved nickname "Waterfall Capital of the World."

Unfortunately, the natural wonders have recently received more visitors than the areas could handle, and rope rescues, especially at Albion Falls and Spencer Gorge became more frequent, and sadly, there were more deaths.

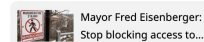
The city had a perfect opportunity to adapt to the new conditions, such as adding trails, safe viewing platforms to the top/bottom, and implementing reservation/paid systems to control the crowds, which would raise funds to

2,607 have signed. Let's get to 5,000!



 At 5,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by local news!

-  Julie Weisensee signed 23 hours ago
-  Nicole Weisensee signed 1 day ago




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8:27

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Petition to 'stop blocking access' to Hamilton waterfalls gains momentum



Oakville student says Hamilton should make waterfall access safer, not block it

By [Kate McCullough](#) Spectator Reporter
▲ Mon., July 12, 2021 | 3 min. read



     

thespec.com


City of Waterfalls FB Group Poll




 **Alex Bonenfant** created a poll in **Hamilton - The City Of Waterfalls.** ...
February 12, 2022 · 

Do you prefer viewing waterfalls from the top or the base?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top	10% >	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Base	90% >	

Add poll option...

 4 64 Votes 8 comments

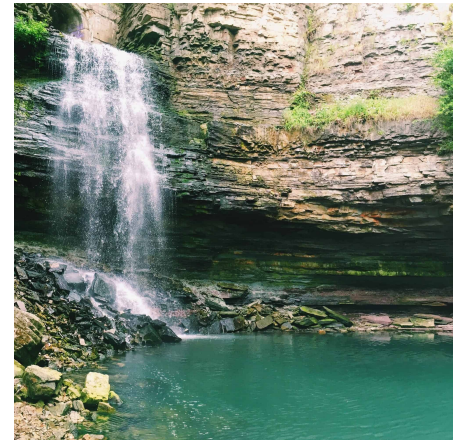
 Like  Comment  Send



Albion/Chedoke from top
(legal view)



Albion/Chedoke from bottom
(currently illegal)



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Negative Is Positive

It's the plethora of negative oxygen ions generated by the crashing water that produces the positive effect. Invisible and unnoticeable as they're tossed into the air, the negative ions are incredibly powerful. Breathe 'em in and it's like recharging your personal batteries. You feel immediately refreshed—you may even feel euphoric. The higher the concentration of negative ions, the better you feel.



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- ✓ September 2021
- ✓ July 2021

Cost of the bylaw enforcement last year



Extra enforcement to continue through 2022 near Hamilton water...



WATCH LIVE

WATCH LIVE: Funeral for former Ontario lieutenant-governor David Onley

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger notes that the pilot program is funded, at a cost of just over \$360,000, from the tax stabilization reserve, “we’re not looking for new money for this, were going to existing reserves to fund it for one more year.”

Safe Infrastructure vs. other options

- Albion Falls' stairs are a great start for safer access, but for multiple waterfalls it can be costly and take a long time to build.
- Guided/self guided tours allow controlled access to the base every couple weeks, and is much cheaper than building infrastructure. This does not punish the hikers that used to hike down there with no issues.
- Can be first piloted at Albion Falls, and if the program is successful expand it to other falls like Chedoke.

- Hikers that are in good physical shape, have proper knowledge of the hazards in the area, as well as have proper hiking equipment are less likely to require a rescue, than an inexperienced hiker with flip flops
- Keeping tours every 2 weeks ensures the environmentally sensitive area doesn't become a victim of overtourism

The Crack at Killarney, another hike with similar terrain to Hamilton's waterfalls



What I learned from 2021-2022 when the enforcement pilot was running:

- If the program stays the same, expect people to continue ignoring signage, and bylaw struggling to keep them out.
- “If you do what you’ve always done, you will get what you’ve always gotten.”
-Tony Robbins

Submitted on Mon, 01/16/2023 - 22:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Tara McFadyen

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Hamilton needs to install security cameras on all escarpment stairs. It needs to be put into the budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

Yes

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/23/2023 - 19:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Kojo Dampsey
Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
423 King Street East
Hamilton, Ontario. L8N 1C5
kdampsey@hcci.ca
905 297 4694

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Delegating on public budget delegation day on February 6th on behalf of the Just Recovery HamOnt Coalition.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

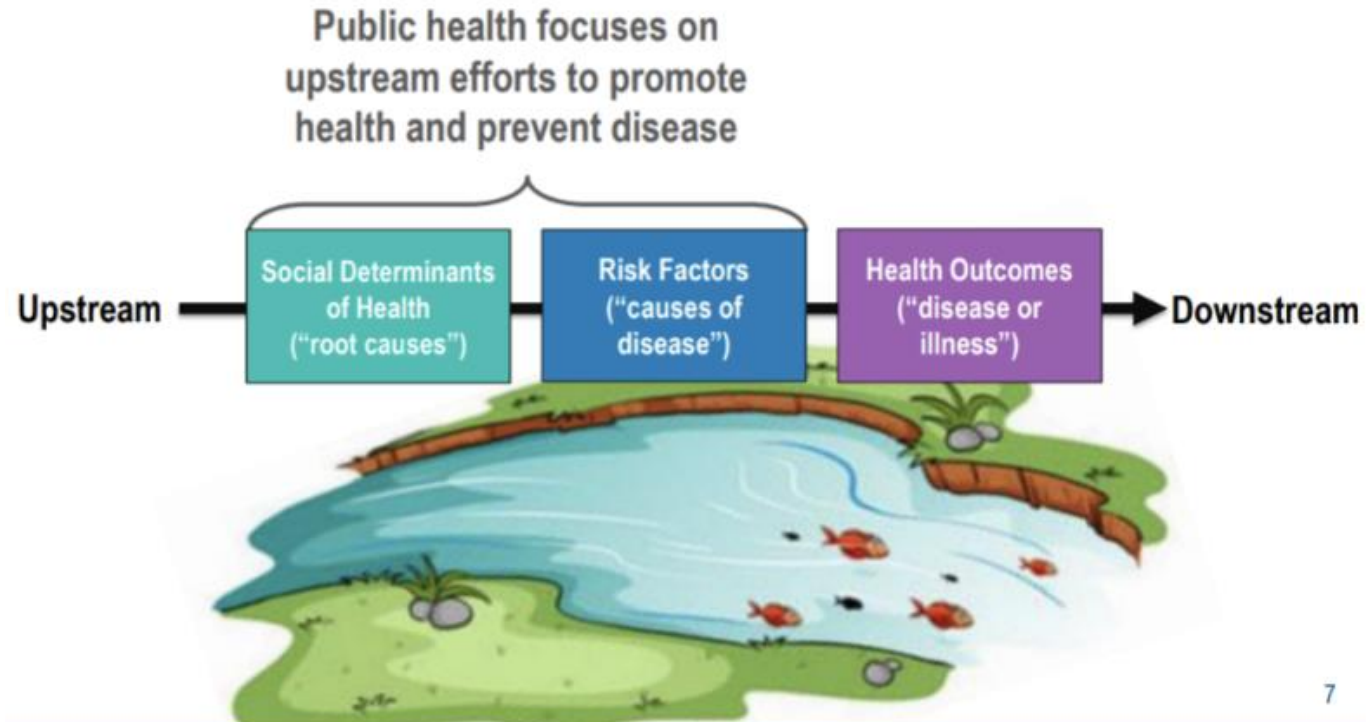


City of Hamilton- 2023 Budget

- HCCI – Civic Inclusion & Civic Engagement
- Coalition Member of the Just Recovery Hamilton Coalition #JustRecoveryHamOnt
- Co-Chair of the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan System Leadership Table

City of Hamilton- 2023 Budget

Public Health Focus



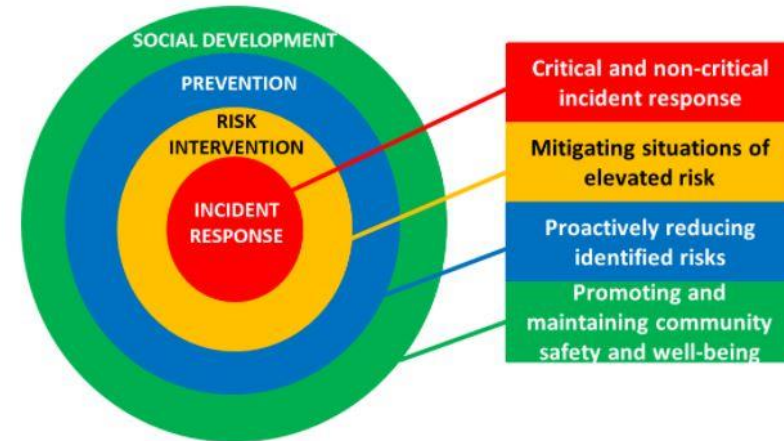
7

Community Safety & Well-Being

- Social Development
- Prevention
- Risk Intervention
- Incident Response

Section 2 – The Community Safety and Well-being Planning Framework

The community safety and well-being planning framework outlined in this section will help to guide municipalities, First Nations communities and their partners as they develop their local plans. It is crucial for all members involved in the planning process to understand the following four areas to ensure local plans are as efficient and effective as possible in making communities safer and healthier:



Local Priorities

Community partners identified six local priorities for further investigation and collaboration that are included in Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. These priorities are:

- hate incidents
- violence
- mental health and stigmatization
- substance use*
- homelessness and access to affordable housing
- access to income



Just Recovery Hamilton

- Investing in Women
- Disability Justice
- Mobility Justice
- Inclusive City Building
- Invest in Decent Jobs, Wages, & Our Local Economy
- Invest in Green Infrastructure, Policy & Public access
- Tackling Systemic Racism
- Housing as a Human Right
- Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities



Just Recovery Hamilton

Urgent COVID Response

- 70. Commit a portion of the city's operational and capital budget to the Urban Indigenous Strategy.
- 71. Provide funding to the Sisters In Spirit Committee of Hamilton and commit to the 231 Calls for Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Final Report.
- 72. Develop a framework with local police services, community partners, education institutions, and residents to dismantle barriers for Indigenous women and girls to feel safe and equality within the city.
- 73. Commit to funding for specific under-resourced racialized communities to meet their own social, educational, health, cultural, and civic needs and development.
- 74. Should restructure the membership of the Board of Public Health to include members of the public from the following equity seeking groups; women, people with (in)visible disabilities, Indigenous peoples, low-income communities, Black and Racialized communities.
- 75. Needs to commit to an Anti-Oppression/Anti-Racism Fund that supports anti-racism work done by community organizations.

Continual Response

- 112. Create a separate Cultural Enrichment Fund to establish a dedicated funding stream for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and other equity-seeking artists and cultural producers.
- 113. Fully fund the Cultural Enrichment Fund so it grows each year to meet industry growth and cost of living increases in Hamilton.
- 114. Create a designated fund either CEF, the Hamilton Future Fund or a combination of Ward Funding to support capital investments in cultural spaces from a wide range of cultural producing partners.

Just Recovery Hamilton



Submitted on Thu, 01/26/2023 - 20:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Ian Borsuk
Environment Hamilton
51 Stuart Street
Hamilton, Ontario. L8L1b5
iborsuk@environmenthamilton.org
9055490900

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
I am requesting to speak on the February 6th public delegation day to speak to the 2023 budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/27/2023 - 10:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Emily Scherzinger

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
As a constituent of Ward 3, I would like to voice my opinion on the police budget that is set to be discussed at this meeting.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sun, 01/29/2023 - 20:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
nicole tollenaar

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
comments on budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sun, 01/29/2023 - 15:32

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Elia Hamelin

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
I'd like to speak at the budget meeting February 6th about the police budget, thank you

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sat, 01/28/2023 - 05:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Rachel Chaplow

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Wish to discuss the detrimental effects of the proposed budget cuts to specialized mental health and addiction services and the negative impact they will have on the citizens of Hamilton who rely on these services.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Madam Mayor and members of the General Issues Committee, my name is Rachel Chaplow.

I ask you to start off by thinking of a date that you can remember that holds great significance in your mind. For most people, it's usually a wedding, the birth of your first child or your last shift at the office before your retirement. I too have a date. For myself, my date would be June 3, 2020. I woke up, texted my fiancé, Jake asking why he went to work because I thought he was supposed to have the day off. I got out of bed, made myself a bowl of cereal and walked back to the bedroom - only to watch the serial ball, slow motion to the rug when I look to the corner of the room and discovered my fiancé unresponsive on the floor in our bedroom and I immediately called 911 and immediately begin administering CPR and the paramedics arrived. Tragically - despite multiple attempts to revive him - at 10:25AM, the paramedics informed me that all vital signs were absent and there was nothing they could do. Jake was one of approximately 4,660 Canadians who passed away from an opioid related overdose in 2020 but I refuse to let him become another statistic. His name was Jacob James Fedorneac. He was 26 years old, was a loving father of two beautiful children, a skilled tile installer, devoted partner and he struggled with mental illness and polysubstance-use disorder. I stand before you today, as your constituent, to not only share my story, but express my grave concern about the proposed budget cuts to specialized mental health and addiction services in the results they will have on those who depend on these services in Hamilton.

Statistics show that mental illness and addiction are serious and growing problems in not only Hamilton but Canada-wide. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, one in five Canadians will experience a mental health problem in their lifetime. The World Health Organization states that mental disorders are the leading cause of disability worldwide.

Moreover, the opioid crisis in Canada is evidence of the dire need for specialized mental health and addiction services. In 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported that 4,460 people died from opioid-related overdoses, a staggering increase of 40% from the previous year.

The proposed budget cuts will have a devastating impact on those struggling with mental illness and addiction. Without access to specialized services, individuals will not receive the support and treatment they need to recover. This will only lead to a larger, more uncontrollable epidemic of loss and suffering.

Furthermore, the lack of resources will place a significant burden on our healthcare system, emergency services, and the criminal justice system. It is a false economy to cut funding for mental health and addiction services as it will result in increased costs in other areas.

I implore you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts to specialized mental health and addiction services in Hamilton, ON. Investing in these services is an investment in our community and in the lives of those who are struggling with mental illness and addiction. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this growing problem. It's harrowing to realize that my fiancé's death in 2020 was a tragedy that could have been prevented with better access to care and support.

If you've never had to experience the agonizing, gut-wrenching and exhausting grief that sits with you for years after losing a loved one to mental illness or substance use disorder or the "what if's" or secondary losses - I pray you never do. I urge you to please rethink making cuts to these vital services when it is quite apparent that the situation regarding mental illness and substance use disorders has only gotten worse in Hamilton. By cutting funding to these vital services, the horrific stranglehold that mental illness and substance-use disorders have over their victims and their families will continue to get worse. Neither mental illness nor substance-wuse disorders discriminate and unfortunately, some people - myself included - are genetically preconditioned to mental illness or substance use disorders. The reality of it is - we cannot reduce funding to these services because there will always be a need for it.

I would like to thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to share my story today. That being said, my story is just one example of the tragic outcome that will continue for many families if we continue to cut funding to services that are already very limited. In memory of my fiancé, Jacob Fedorneac, and the countless others who have lost their battle to mental illness, drug poisonings or substance use disorders - I urge you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts and provide the necessary resources for specialized mental health and addiction services in Hamilton, ON.

Thank you.

Submitted on Fri, 01/27/2023 - 17:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
ED REECE
Council of Canadians, Hamilton Chapter

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
To address the Care Fare Campaign submission on February 6th.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Presentation to the General Issues Committee (Budget), February 6, 2023 by Edward Reece.

Madam Mayor and members of the General Issues Committee, my name is Edward Reece.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to this meeting of the Committee.

On behalf of myself and the Council of Canadians, Hamilton chapter, of which I am a member, I would like to register our strong support for the Hamilton and District Labour Council's Care Fare Initiative.

Let me state that we strongly believe that public transit, the Hamilton Street Railway system, should be frequent, electric and free.

Free public transit would make life fairer, more affordable and more climate friendly for Hamilton residents, especially those with the lowest incomes. Making the HSR free would benefit the people who are hurting the most. It would sharply reduce inequality, cut traffic congestion and improve the local economy. Free public transit would get more cars off the road, help Hamilton to meet its climate goals, and offer a real alternative to unaffordable gas prices.

The Council of Canadians, Hamilton chapter, along with our allies in Hamilton 350 mounted a public campaign during the last municipal election to make public transit in Hamilton frequent, electric and free. Thirty candidates for office pledged to support our call for the formation of a committee of Council to examine how the City of Hamilton can make the Hamilton Street Railway frequent, electric and free.

Five of those thirty candidates were elected to Council and one of those thirty candidates was elected to the Mayor's position.

The ultimate goal of the Hamilton and District Labour Council's initiative is free public transit for everyone in the city. However, they have indicated that they are prepared to work on a graduated approach to ensure some of our community's most vulnerable people have improved access to public transit: kindergarten to grade 12 students, seniors over the age of 60, people on Ontario Works or receiving Ontario Disability Support Payments, and people with a diagnosed disability.

While it will certainly take time for Council to examine how free public transit could be implemented in Hamilton and to put it into place, we support the Hamilton and District Labour Council's approach as a measure that could have an immense impact in the nearer term.

And we hope that in the longer term a committee of Council can be established to examine how the Hamilton Street Railway can be made frequent, electric, and, most of all, free.

Thank you.

Submitted on Fri, 01/27/2023 - 20:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

~~Audit, Finance & Administration Committee~~ **General Issues Committee**

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Steady Easton

Preferred Pronoun

they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request

Questions about funding ***the police budget.***

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/30/2023 - 17:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Theresa Cardey

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
to address the Care Fare Campaign submission

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/30/2023 - 21:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Katie King

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
2023 budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Tue, 01/31/2023 - 08:37

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Anna Norris

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

To address the Care Fare Campaign submission on February 6th

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

Submitted on Tue, 01/31/2023 - 10:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

anastasia zavarella

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Proposed budget increase for HPS

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No