

**From:** Scarlett Robinson  
**Sent:** June 1, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>  
**Subject:** Hamilton Police Funding

Hello,

My name is Scarlett Robinson, I recently moved to Hamilton with my partner, who has lived in Hamilton for over a decade. I am writing to you as I am concerned over the budget allocation towards the Hamilton Police Service and Board-- which has increased significantly over the past few years.

In light of recent events in Toronto, regarding the death of Regis Kachinski-Paquet, and the history of violence against black people in Hamilton at the hands of police officers, I believe the city should review the positive impact-per-dollar of Hamilton's tax income. In 2019, shootings had increased significantly, which led to the increase of police patrols, I believe this is a misguided decision, studies have shown that increasing police budgets have less of a positive impact on violence and crime than community organizations and services (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0003122417736289>), and adversely over-policing leads to more violence (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0211-5>). Given these facts, I would like to see my tax dollars go towards more positive programs, such as mental health programs, city infrastructure, and jobs programs.

Additionally, I would like to see Hamilton Police's budget made completely transparent, and with a focus on harm reduction. Additionally, I would like to see the budget used to invest in the adoption of the 84 recommendations in the 2014 report by Frank Iabucci, aimed at reducing fatal encounters with people in emotional distress.

Thank you, to the chair, council, and committee, for your time in hearing my concerns.

Scarlett R.