

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)  
**Subject:** To the Hamilton Police Service Board  
**Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:57:30 PM

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Attention: Kirsten Stevenson (please forward),

I live across from Powell Park, a very well-used green space in the Gibson neighbourhood. This area is home to many Black, Indigenous, and POC individuals, including my own husband.

From drug busts to peaceful visits with local youth, we've watched as officers have carried out their work in the neighbourhood. I've watched as they've checked in on individuals using drugs and as they've investigated local murders. I've seen police who are kind, passive, and sensitive and police who are unaware, forceful, and aggressive.

Before moving here I would have never suggested that police be defunded, but I had no exposure to places that saw constant police presence. The more I witness, the more I become convinced that there is a better way for our City and for Gibson. I am privileged to feel personally safe when I see a police vehicle parked outside, but I feel fear for my Black, Indigenous, POC, and economically poor neighbours. I feel fear for my husband, that he will be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This, along with other less pressing reasons, is why I see defunding as a very real and necessary goal.

I acknowledge that major systematic change doesn't happen overnight. In the meantime, I call for the protection of Black, Indigenous, and POC members of this City through the use of body-worn cameras. Prioritizing this in the budget would be a start in the creation of accountability and trust-building between law enforcement and the people of Hamilton as we embark on the long journey of imagining a society that is safe and healthy for all.

Please inform me as to how I can engage in this conversation going forward.

Thank you for hearing me,

Joanna Aitcheson  
[REDACTED]