

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hamilton police services budget
Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:03:41 PM

I have already written to Maureen Wilson and Mayor Eisenberg on this topic.

I am writing to you today to express concern that during COVID-19, police budgets should not be prioritized over firefighters, paramedics, libraries, transit, parks or public housing.

I am asking that The Police Services Board prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Hamilton Police Service.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change, rather than excessive police service budgets.

An increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities.

Instead of investing in policing, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, mutual aid, social workers, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

Our city can lead the way in defining public safety through community not cops. I am asking you to create a better future for all residents of Hamilton and set an example for other cities, by divesting from policing and investing in services.

Sincerely,

Gary Capon
Hamilton

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