

From: [REDACTED]
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Cc: HWDSB kids; clerk@hamilton.ca; Stevenson, Kirsten
Subject: Defunding and Demilitarizing the Hamilton Police Service
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:44:46 AM

Adrian Underhill
[REDACTED] Hamilton, ON [REDACTED]
June 11, 2020

Hello,

My name is Adrian Underhill and I am a resident of Ward 1 in Hamilton.

I am extremely disappointed to see Councillor Collins' motion to simply review the implications of a 20% reduction in the police budget. This is not a meaningful way to engage the community and respond to our demands of defunding the police and reinvesting those funds in the community.

The problem with this motion is that it is a delaying tactic. We do not need a review. We already know that the HPS cause consistent harm against the Black, Indigenous, racialized and Queer people in our community. Furthermore, the Police board should not be making autonomous decisions about how money should be divested and reallocated - the community should determine, based on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized people, where money divested from the HPS should go.

Here is a revised motion that has been put forward by Black organizers in our city. Please have a look:

Whereas members of Hamilton City Council and members of the Police Service Board have received correspondence requesting the 'defunding of the Hamilton Police Service'; and,
Whereas the same correspondence requests the reinvestment of the proposed budget reduction into other City funded services (ie. food security, anti-racism and affordable housing); and
Whereas a budget reduction of 20% would substantially alter the current services provided by Hamilton Police Service staff;

Whereas the city of Hamilton has claimed a \$23 million dollars deficit due to the COVID pandemic and,

Whereas the city of Hamilton will spend \$171 million dollars on the police budget, but only \$11 million on children's services; and,

Whereas the city of Hamilton will spend \$171 million on the police budget but only \$44.3 million of housing services and,

Whereas the city of Hamilton will spend \$171 million on the police budget but only \$4,804,750 on unhoused people and,

Whereas the Hamilton Police Service CEO has been approved for a \$10,000 raise totalling a \$308,250 salary in 2020 and,

Whereas the city of Hamilton will spend \$31,300 on a pipe band, police choir and chorus but will reduce funding for food for prisoners by 5.97% totalling \$31,500 and,

Whereas the Hamilton police will spend 78,806 on ammunition and \$61,409 on Tasers, whose sole purpose is to physically harm people while they could be spent on any social services. The city and police should not have the power or tools to physically assault residents and should not have access to these weapons or a budget for them.

Whereas the Hamilton police have 17 new full time officers that work to violently oppress those made vulnerable in Hamilton while Ontario Works lost 44 hires to provide support to those same people.

Whereas it is likely that the Hamilton Police Services Board will attempt to show a 20% budget reduction that is in their favour and not in the interest of demilitarization

Therefore, be it resolved that the Hamilton Police Service board will defund and demilitarize the Hamilton Police.

Be it resolved that the Hamilton Police Service Board release a full, line by line, accounting of their dollars to the public instead of deciding where these hypothetical cuts should come from on their own.

Be it further resolved that the city of Hamilton will invest that money into services such as social housing, youth programming, sexual assault services, transit, food security, mental health response teams, and other community based alternatives to policing.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this matter,
Adrian Underhill