

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police budget
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Police Services Board:

I support calls for substantial reductions in the Hamilton Police Service budget, to be reflected in

- * Across the board reduction in policing budget proportionate to current reduction in police calls due to COVID19: City can provide for food, transportation and other needs related to the pandemic instead.

- * Complete cessation of police 'street checks' of homeless and transient people: City can provide permanent housing, food, health/mental health services instead.

- * Complete cessation of police response to calls for 'wellness check' or 'person in crisis': City can fund intervention by qualified mental health professionals instead.

- * Selling off armoured and off road vehicles.

- * Defund and disallow tactical response for ANY civic matters (eg, protest): Fund only for high risk criminal matters. Disallow the use of tear gas, 'rubber' bullets, etc. in public spaces and against public gatherings of any kind.

Note: There is an increasing tendency among Hamilton police to target and criminalize people's Constitutional rights of freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. **This is a violation of the law and police duty to uphold Constitutional rights, including Aboriginal rights,** of every person, in every situation, every time. Symbols and symbolic actions of Aboriginal, Black LGBTQ2S and other activists and allies are civil rights, not criminal actions.

- * Defund and penalize any police actions, orders or police officers that escalate, criminalize or withhold service to civic actions or activists in support of Aboriginal, Black, LGBTQ or other civic communities or causes.

Civic actions, mental health crises and homelessness are not criminal matters and HPS has proved not only incompetent, but prejudiced, aggravating, escalating and punitive in providing (or withholding) 'service' ... and less than truthful in any investigations into their inappropriate actions.

Public trust in HPS's ability to provide service in non-criminal matters is broken. In addition, their ability even in criminal and domestic matters is blinded by prejudices and must be strictly monitored and consequated. Public accountability is either lacking or less than truthful.

Connie Kidd
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