

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Defund the Police, More Representation
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 7:53:12 AM

Police Services Board,

I am writing to offer my support for defunding the Hamilton Police. I look to support Chad Collins of the police services board and Ward 5 motion to reduce HPS budget by 20%.

The police have been taking on more and more roles in our community in areas they are not experts in and do not have the appropriate training or education to respond (i.e. welfare checks).

The expense of the HPS dwarfs all other areas of city funding. Areas of mental health, food security, anti-racism, housing, addictions services and other community supports are underfunded and the community is suffering. These are the services which make meaningful and lasting positive changes to the community.

The HPS is currently looking at how to spend its surplus of roughly \$1.4 millions dollars. This should be reinvested back into community resources and the people. Not to buy more guns, like the \$61,040 suggested for buying Carbine Colt C-8 for frontline use in the community.

When looking at reallocating these funds, it is necessary to speak and consult with the communities most affected by the police present - Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+.

Additionally, I do not support the purchasing of body cameras for the police. This is yet another way for the police to obtain further tax dollars which should be dedicated to community supports mentioned above. Body cameras do not work. We do not need more monitoring or more policing. We need less.

I also want to express the importance of having an Indigenous member on the board with Mrs. Pat Mandy to allow for the unique issues that the Indigenous community have with the Police be brought forward. However, we can do better with the presentation of minorities including more representation from women, the Black community and the LGBTQ+ community. These communities have unique presentive and challenges when it comes to their interaction with the Police and community as a whole. We cannot expect to be able to understand what these needs are and meet them when they do not have a seat at the table.

Emma Battiston
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