Dear City of Hamilton elected officials

I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the Hamilton Police Services 2020 budget of $172 million from the total $924 million operational budget for the City of Hamilton. This is roughly a 4% increase from the 2019 Police Services Budget. Despite this astronomically high budget, the Hamilton Police are not required to wear body cameras and the Hamilton Police Board has voted against the use of body cameras on four separate occasions. The Hamilton Police (on the City approved budget) will spend $78,806 on ammunition, $95,000 on surveillance and $61,409 on tasers. Comparatively, only $158 million will be spent on social services, including transit and healthy/safe communities. In light of ongoing unrest between the public and police, it is crucial that the Hamilton Police Force begin to use body cameras. Body cameras can provide transparency and more accountability surrounding police use-of-force. I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

 1. Not approve the 2021 Police Services Budget unless it allocates funds to body cameras.

 2. Ensure the Hamilton Police Services uphold their promise to "take action to eliminate racism" (Hamilton Chief of Police, Eric Girt, 2020).

 3. Eliminate unnecessary budget increases to Hamilton Police Services.

In a recent statement issued by Police Chief Girt, Hamilton Police Services have acknowledged that instances of police brutality "erode public trust in police". In order to uphold relationships with the public and reaffirm their commitment to order and diversity, the Hamilton Police Services should be required to use body cameras.

By not approving the future Police Services Budget unless it includes funds for body cameras, the City of Hamilton has the potential to affirm its commitment to enhanced social justice.

Sincerely,

Ariana Moore

Sent from my iPhone