

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Danko, John-Paul](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); [Partridge, Judi](#); Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca; ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca
Cc: hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Motion to Review Police Budget
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:20:55 AM

Greetings Chad Collins and others,

Chad, I am writing you in support of the HWDSB Kids Need Help Demands.

They have informed me that you have put forth a motion to review the implications of a 20% reduction in the police budget, but that is not welcomed by them. Instead, they are asking for an actual and immediate commitment to the following:

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.

As an Evaluator of public services, I fully support HWDSB Kids Need Help's Motion, and strongly encourage you to adopt it. I support their motion for the following reasons:

- Research ethics dictates that we shouldn't cause harm in order to conduct a study/review. I would argue that there is plenty of evidence that Hamilton Police are harmful to Black, Indigenous, racialized and Queer folks. The recent independent report on the events of the 2019 Hamilton Pride Festival and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion's report on "Deconstructing Racism and Islamophobia" are both examples of some of the evidence. I believe you also recognize the harm that the expanded role of the Police is doing to our community, and recognize the value of re-allocating funds elsewhere. However, if the service is causing harm, doing a study or review of it is unethical based on research standards. It is not right to ask groups whose lives and livelihoods are being harmed to wait, while the oppressor groups figures out a slight reform.
- The concept of culturally responsive and anti-oppressive evaluation is gaining traction in the evaluation community. It has been widely recognized that research by privileged groups on oppressed groups is often harmful, instead anti-oppressive evaluation should ideally be done by the oppressed groups themselves. While my expertise is in evaluating public services, I would argue the same principles apply to service design. The Black, Indigenous, racialized and Queer groups in Hamilton are providing a clear vision of the alternatives they want instead of the Police. Rather than ask the oppressors (Police) to study and offer solutions, if we truly want to be accomplices in working towards a community where those groups are no longer oppressed, than we need to commit to implementing and evaluating their solutions.

I strongly hope that instead of asking the Police to report on what a 20% reduction would look like, you immediately commit to working towards the HWDSB Kids Need Help's demands, and pay representatives from the oppressed groups to lead the re-design and evaluation work that will be needed for a responsible transition.

Thank you,

Paul Bakker

Paul Bakker, Credentialed Evaluator

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Collins, Chad](#); [Office of the Mayor](#); [Farr, Jason](#); [Wilson, Maureen](#); [Nann, Nrinder](#); [Merulla, Sam](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Pauls, Esther](#); [Danko, John-Paul](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Johnson, Brenda](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#); [Partridge, Judi](#); Matthew.Green@parl.qc.ca; ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca
Cc: hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Motion to Review Police Budget
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:50:07 PM

Hi Chad Collins,

I have just been made aware of this transcript:

SCOTT RADLEY:

When you bring this 20% reduction motion forward, is this because you believe the funding police might be something worth looking into or is it because you want to show that it would be very difficult to do? or what's the what's the thought process behind this?

CHAD COLLINS:

It's more of the latter. The police budget is an incredibly difficult one even in the best of times.

... I think what we'll see when the Chief comes back with the report is that a 20% reduction, even a 5% reduction, I would even say a freeze on the police budget would take us to a point where we have less officers in the community, we have less cars on the street, and we have less service to provide to our residents and our business community.

... I'm open to the conversation of making investments in programs that help the most vulnerable in society ... including seniors or waiting for affordable housing units or food banks. I mean those are the types of discussions that we should have. I'm not certain my constituents or I am on board for taking those resources away from the police and to enhance those other services.

When you say that you and your constituents are not onboard from moving resources from the Police to other services, you are saying that you and your constituents are in favour of more oppressive approaches to communities safety rather than less oppressive approaches. That would make you and your constituents part of the system of racism in Canada and our communities. I don't think your constituents want to be part of that system. It is up to you as a leader to do the right thing and bring your constituents along to support a less oppressive approach.

Not everyone currently understands, but awareness is growing, and I hope you will stand on the right side of history and work to breakdown systems of oppression rather than fight to maintain them.

Paul.

Paul Bakker, Credentialed Evaluator

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



On Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM Paul Bakker [REDACTED] wrote:
Greetings Chad Collins and others,

Chad, I am writing you in support of the HWDSB Kids Need Help Demands.

They have informed me that you have put forth a motion to review the implications of a 20% reduction in the police budget, but that is not welcomed by them. Instead, they are asking for an actual and immediate commitment to the following:

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.

As an Evaluator of public services, I fully support HWDSB Kids Need Help's Motion, and strongly encourage you to adopt it. I support their motion for the following reasons:

- Research ethics dictates that we shouldn't cause harm in order to conduct a study/review. I would argue that there is plenty of evidence that Hamilton Police are harmful to Black, Indigenous, racialized and Queer folks. The recent independent report on the events of the 2019 Hamilton Pride Festival and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion's report on "Deconstructing Racism and Islamophobia" are both examples of some of the evidence. I believe you also recognize the harm that the expanded role of the Police is doing to our community, and recognize the value of re-allocating funds elsewhere. However, if the service is causing harm, doing a study or review of it is unethical based on research standards. It is not right to ask groups whose lives and livelihoods are being harmed to wait, while the oppressor groups figures out a slight reform.
- The concept of culturally responsive and anti-oppressive evaluation is gaining traction in the evaluation community. It has been widely recognized that research by privileged groups on oppressed groups is often harmful, instead anti-oppressive evaluation should ideally be done by the oppressed groups themselves. While my expertise is in evaluating public services, I would argue the same principles apply to service design. The Black, Indigenous, racialized and Queer groups in Hamilton are providing a clear vision of the alternatives they want instead of the Police. Rather than ask the oppressors (Police) to study and offer solutions, if we truly want to be accomplices in working towards a community where those groups are no longer oppressed, than we need to commit to implementing and evaluating their solutions.

I strongly hope that instead of asking the Police to report on what a 20% reduction would look like, you immediately commit to working towards the HWDSB Kids Need Help's

demands, and pay representatives from the oppressed groups to lead the re-design and evaluation work that will be needed for a responsible transition.

Thank you,

Paul Bakker

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

