

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defunding Hamilton Police

From: Robert Vanderheyden
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 9:05 AM
To: VanderBeek, Arlene
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Defunding Hamilton Police

Hello Arlene,

I wish to add my name to the list of people who feel it is important to defund the Hamilton Police.

I absolutely agree with others that having the police be the first responders to people who are dealing with a mental health crisis is a misuse of resources and can be detrimental to the people in crisis. It's time to do a very thorough investigation into supporting persons with mental illness and using people well trained in supporting persons with mental illness.

My niece who works as an R.N. on a mental health ward in a hospital along with her colleagues face many of the same dangers as police do when working with mental health patients but manage that without guns and tasers. It's time to reallocate the tax dollars spent on police interventions with mental health patients and fund 24/7 year round mental health emergency services. We may well see a cost/tax saving doing this change.

Sincerely,

Rob Vanderheyden

cc: Clerk, Hamilton City Council