

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Delegation

From: Marie Treasa Levasseur

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 5:56 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

My name is Treasa Levasseur and I live in Hamilton Ontario in Ward 3.

Last week, black organizers released a list of demands in a petition I signed my name to. Here are some reasons why I did so:

A 2018 carding consultation in Hamilton highlighted that Black youth in Hamilton are being carded at their schools, in the streets, and being kicked out of Hamilton libraries without just cause by Hamilton police and security services.

Even during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, police have continued to unjustly target people for existing in the streets. Police have issued expensive fines (upwards of \$800) to houseless people, many of whom cannot afford to pay them off. These tickets have been issued under the guise of enforcing social distancing, but have only served to further entrench people in poverty and target those who cannot access housing.

The violent act of state and municipal oppression must end. It is time for the institutions that have oversight of the police and residents to ask why we spend \$171 million on policing but only \$158 million on social services. The breakdown of the social services budget is \$81 million on Transit, \$25 million on Healthy and Safe communities, and \$52 million on boards and agencies.

The Hamilton Police (on a city approved budget) will spend \$78,806 on ammunition, \$95,000 on surveillance and \$61,409 on tasers in 2020 but only \$28,000 on food for prisoners.

I watched my own neighbour surveilled and eventually taken away by police because he is experiencing a mental health breakdown - this happened only after repeated visits and complaints, and after he harassed a woman to the point of her feeling unsafe. We should be funding mental health and social services adequately so that trained people can respond to these types of incidences

in a timely and trauma informed fashion, not wait until people are endangered and then take someone by force.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider my concerns. I sincerely hope to see meaningful action leading to a more just and equitable society.

Treasa Levasseur (she,her)

Treasa Levasseur (she,her)

www.treasalevasseur.com

I gratefully acknowledge my presence on ancestral Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land, and within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon agreement.