

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Police abolition-- What are you doing?

From: Jiya C

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:54 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Police abolition-- What are you doing?

Dear Jason Farr,

I am writing to you today to express my outrage regarding the ways in which Hamilton Police Services has been allowed to operate over the years and continues to terrorize our black and brown communities. As a citizen of your ward, I trust that you will read the full extent of this email. I am outraged at the allocation of **\$171 million to the Hamilton Police Service budget, in comparison to a mere \$158 million to social services** for the City of Hamilton. This astronomical police budget costs the taxpayer more than firefighters, paramedics, libraries and public housing combined. I stand with Hamilton's Black community in demands to **start divesting from the systematically violent Hamilton Police Service immediately.**

I support the full demands of Hamilton's Black community, which you can find [here](#).

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change. We have seen that investing in body cameras, civilian reviews or de-escalation and implicit bias training [doesn't work](#). What we need in Hamilton is leadership that can initiate a reduction in the immense police violence that targets our most marginalized people, **towards the abolition of police and prisons**. In order to do this, I call on you and the City Council to **begin defunding police with the ultimate goal of abolishing, in these ways:**

- Withhold pensions and don't rehire cops involved in excessive force cases
- Require cops to be liable for misconduct settlements
- Reduce the size of the police force, and stop sending armed/uniformed cops on mental health-related calls.

An increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities (BIPOC, the LGBTQ2S+ community, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc). Instead of investing in policing, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, mutual aid, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

I trust that as a councillor in my city, you will hear what I and my communities are demanding and ensure our voices are represented at City Council. This is what we elected you for, and we are closely watching your actions to ensure that these demands are not only recognized, but acted upon. I also trust that you will pledge to act as quickly on the anti-black racism pandemic as the city has acted in its response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. If I do not hear back from you in 3-4 business days, I will follow up.

Jiya Chaudhary , Hamilton Ontario