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**Mayor and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
clerk@hamilton.ca**

June 22, 2020

4.10 (ee)

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Hamilton Police Service Budget

There has been much discussion of the budget of the Hamilton Police Service and there is a strong chorus in the community in favour of defunding this line item and redistributing the funds to strengthen and improve services and transfers, while also transferring functions of government back into the hands of civil servants rather than an occupying paramilitary force.

I concur strongly with this sentiment. The Hamilton Police Service should be defunded.

HPS has just received a lengthy critique of an important operational failure, the Pride In Hamilton Report received on June 8. The critique was damning, but rather than accept responsibility, the Chief released a statement claiming to be responsible, but failing to deal in the accepted way of accounting for such basic failures, by resigning. He stays on as head of this occupying force.

HPS has just been informed that the City's shortfall of operating funds due to COVID-19 is north of \$60 million. In response, it has elected to blow its 2019-20 budget surplus on guns and cars.

The HPS treats you with unsurpassing contempt. It is time to look at the enormously bloated budget used to support this service, that performs at consistently poor levels and with a great deal of collateral damage through this city. I would urge you to read once again (if you have read it) the Pride In Hamilton report commissioned by the PSB for a lengthy examination of that poor service.

You have all warned of the need to tighten belts. The entire COVID savings can be obtained here.

With thanks and regards,

Craig Burley
Barrister & Solicitor