

From:
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com
Subject: Concerns Regarding Police Budget
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:18:33 PM

Hi there,

My name is Mariel and I live in Hamilton, Ontario specifically in Ward 1. In light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States, Black organizers released demands, specifically calling for an immediate 20% reduction to the police budget, which amounts to \$35 million dollars.

I can not stand behind the use of taxpayer money to over-inflate the budget of a police force which disproportionately targets Black and Indigenous people. I believe defunding the police is about valuing the lives of Black and Indigenous people over personal property, by reallocating funds into community programs that can address social inequities at their root rather than criminalizing poor and marginalized people.

I'd like to specifically highlight words from our Mayor, stated towards the end of the police board meeting on June 11th, Mayor Fred Eisenberger highlighted injustices demonstrated toward a Black individual in his life, stating that this individual was stopped more by the police because of her Blackness, he prefaced this statement with: "We must accept the fact that racism exists not just in the United States but in Canada". A pinnacle member of the Hamilton Police Board acknowledged how systemic racism and white supremacy impacts the livelihood of Black folks in our community, yet you continue to dismiss the concerns of the community.

I urge the police board to listen to the voices and demands of Black organizers in this city and make changes to keep Black and Indigenous folks safe.

Here are some additional facts, which I find extremely troubling, about why the police budget needs to be reduced by 20%.

- We spend \$171 million on policing but only \$158 million on social services here in Hamilton.
- There are 675 police officers on the sunshine list. That equates to 36.51% of city employees on the sunshine list employed by the police.
- The percentage of all Hamilton Police on the sunshine list is 61%.
- The percentage of sworn officers on the sunshine list is 79%.
- Average salary of a Constable \$116,527
- Average salary of a Detective Constable is \$123,073
- Average salary of a Sergeant 1st Class is \$135,110
- Average salary of a Sergeant 2nd class is \$122,979
- Policing costs are the highest cost to Hamilton's taxpayers.

Best,

Marcel