

HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

- INFORMATION -

DATE: September 3, 2020

REPORT TO: Chair and Members
Hamilton Police Services Board

FROM: Eric Girt
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: *Service Implications of a 20% Budget Reduction - Defunding Police*
PSB 20-077

BACKGROUND:

At the June 11, 2020 Board meeting, a motion was approved for the Chief to provide a report on the service implications of an up to 20% reduction to the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) budget.

A 20% reduction in the HPS budget amounts to \$34.3M (based on the 2020 approved budget). Since over 90% of the budget is comprised of employee salary and benefits, the \$34.3M reduction equates to 279 sworn officers.

Section 4(2) of the *Police Services Act* (PSA) requires that “adequate and effective police services” must include, at a minimum, all of the following core police services:

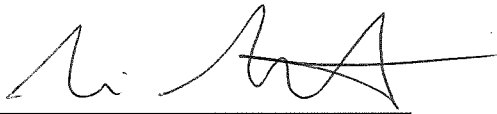
- Crime Prevention
- Victim Assistance
- Law Enforcement
- Public Order Maintenance
- Emergency Response Services

Reductions would impact services that the HPS currently provides related to the services listed below, while maintaining a minimum level of service for core functions as outlined by the PSA:

- Frontline patrol
- Traffic safety
- Senior and vulnerable person support
- Youth and adult offender management
- Property crime
- Mental health response and support

- Crime analysis
- Case preparation
- Community special event support
- Crown liaison
- Street outreach
- Bike, foot and mounted patrol
- Community relations
- Victim services
- Bail compliance
- Further reduction of specialized investigators in the Investigative Services Division for crimes such as homicides, shootings, human trafficking, sex crimes, child exploitation, technology crimes and robberies.

Any staffing reductions would have a significant impact on the frontline as increased workload and responsibilities would be shifted to them. These reductions would result in increased response times, decreased visibility in the community, a decrease in self-initiated policing, and a decrease in service delivery. In order to achieve a proper transition of these services to other agencies, the appropriate infrastructure and legislation needs to be put into place before the responsibilities are removed from the police.



Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/J. Randazzo

cc: Frank Bergen, Deputy Chief – Operations
Ryan Diodati, Deputy Chief – Support
Anna Filice, Chief Administrative Officer
John Randazzo, Director – Finance