

From: Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh
Sent: August 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc:
Subject: GIC August 10th Meeting

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to send a video calling for defunding the police, unfortunately the file is too big and compressing isn't working. I've attached instead a ZIP file of the last half of my video.

These were my major points:

– Invest in people not systems of oppression.

– I agree with my city councillor, Terry Whitehead, that the continued increase in police funding is unsustainable. We over-fund the police and under-fund the rest of Hamilton. We are in dire need of housing, infrastructure, children's services, etc.

– I'm calling for a 20% reduction in the police services budget. It's outrageous we spend \$171 million on police services and only \$11 million on children's services.

– The way the Hamilton Police treated the LGBTQ+ community at Pride last year was disheartening and infuriating. That they allowed people who came into our city to intentionally incite violence to beat, brutalize and harm people participating in Pride was disgusting. Then, the charges that were laid were upon people from the parade *instead of* the instigators of violence. Charges were only brought after public pressure. It's insulting. Police should be protecting all communities and too often they do not.

– As a white person, I used to believe police were mostly there to protect and to help. After listening to Black and Brown communities I have realized just how much that is not true. Too often they are targeted, marginalized, harmed and sometimes killed at the hands of police. That is not acceptable and it's time for the City of Hamilton to come out and agree with its citizens and stand on the right side of history.

– Let's start investing more money into social programs, housing, children's services and communities. These are the things that help people. More police is not the answer, more tasers, more shows of aggression, is not the answer.

– Furthermore, I do not believe we should make a bid for the Commonwealth Games. There are so many things in Hamilton that need investments. Studies have shown cities who host games are often left with a huge bill and debt issues. We already have these issues. Please do not bid for the games.

Thanks for your time,
Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh
Ward 14 Resident