

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Support of motion to reduce the HPS budget

**From:** Rosa Zetler

**Sent:** July 20, 2020 7:07 PM

**To:** Nann, Nrinder <[Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca)>

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**Subject:** Support of motion to reduce the HPS budget

Hi there,

My name is Rosa Zetler and I live in Hamilton, Ontario, Ward 3. Recently, Black organizers released [demands](#) in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States. I stand in solidarity with these demands to defund the police and reinvest in the community.

Personally, I have had interactions with the police that have been unnecessary and unproductive. When my apartment was broken into, I called the police as my landlord required me to file a claim for insurance policies. A police officer showed up, I filed, and never heard from anyone again. When I called 911 to report an overdose that needed medical attention, I wanted an ambulance but multiple police officers showed up. I do not believe in the criminalization of drugs and saw no reason for multiple armed police officers in this situation.

As a white, cis, financially stable person I recognize that my interactions with the police are likely more positive than Black Indigenous People of Colour or trans persons. However, I see the need in my community to remove police and replace them with community programs that create stable housing, food security, and increased access to mental health services. This is the way to create a safe community. Not by simply funding militarized destruction through policing services.

As well, here are some facts 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.

I hope the city of Hamilton makes the decision to reduce the police budget and reinvest in the community.

Thank you,

Rosa Zetler