

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund HPS

From: MADISON BROCKBANK

Sent: July 20, 2020 6:48 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca; ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca; Andrea Horwath, MPP <ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca>; FILOMENA.TASSI@parl.gc.ca; SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca; donna.skelly@pc.ola.org; Bob.Bratina@parl.gc.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; info@defundhps.com; HWDSB Kids Need Help <hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com>; info@hcci.ca

Subject: Defund HPS

Hi there,

My name is Maddie Brockbank and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 11. I am emailing to demand the defunding of Hamilton Police. As a social worker and graduate student at McMaster University, I have witnessed - firsthand - the kind of harm that Hamilton Police have perpetrated by targeting, surveilling, and harassing marginalized folks, including those that are street-involved, houseless, experience mental health concerns, use substances. Additionally, I have witnessed Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer, trans, and/or disabled folks be targeted, harassed, and surveilled in Hamilton and on McMaster's campus. The punitive nature of HPS is not benefitting or supporting the community.

A few weeks ago, Black organizers released the following demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States:

- We call on the city of Hamilton to defund the Hamilton police.
- We call on the city of Hamilton to invest the tax dollars that would have otherwise gone to the police towards initiatives fighting against food insecurity, racism and towards more affordable housing.
- We call on the City of Hamilton to ensure that HPS are not ticketing houseless people for existing in public.
- We demand that the Hamilton Police Services cease the ticketing and surveilling of homeless and disabled people in Hamilton, and that there be a moratorium on the hiring of police constables in Hamilton given the documented over-surveillance of homeless people during the pandemic.
- We demand that the Hamilton Police Services stop surveilling communities, and that they halt the expenditure of tax dollars on high tech surveillance equipment.
- We demand that the Hamilton Police Services stop targeting and criminalizing activists and communities pushing back against Yellow Vesters and other forms of white supremacy.
- We demand that the provincial police act be rewritten to give municipalities full control over police boards. Currently, in Hamilton, the Hamilton Police Services operates as an autonomous body, giving municipalities little to no oversight in terms of what they invest in and the ways that they militarize themselves.

Here are some facts about why the police budget needs to be reduced by 20% immediately:

- We spend \$171 million on policing but only \$158 million on social services here in Hamilton (and social services are continually facing funding cuts/freezes and are working over capacity)

- 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%.
- Policing costs are the highest cost to Hamilton's taxpayers.

The community needs to see these changes. As elected officials, we would like to see you engage with these demands and bring them to fruition.

Best,

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Maddie Brockbank [she/her]
H.BSW, MSW (c)