

Pilon, Janet

Subject: A letter from a concerned constituent

From: Erika McMeekin

Sent: July 20, 2020 5:38 PM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: A letter from a concerned constituent

Hi Mr. Farr. My name is Erika McMeekin, and I live in your ward. I am writing to express my support of a 20% cut to the Hamilton Police Services Budget, as demanded by local Black organizers. They have suggested that \$30 million be cut from HPS salaries, specifically from Divisions 1, 2, and 3, community mobilization (mounted unit, ACTION team, victim services) and support services (mounted services).

Another \$2.5 million should be cut from HPS materials and supplies in order to demilitarize the police force, and \$2 million should be cut from overtime and part time pay to HPS staff.

There are several other places where money could be saved, for example not buying armoured cars and other weapons that essentially turn our police into a military force; ceasing ticketing and surveilling of homeless & disabled people; replacing horses with bikes; taking away expense accounts; no longer paying for choirs, bagpipers, and other ceremonial frills; and many more common sense measures that I'm sure could easily be found doing a line-by-line examination of the HPS budget.

As a taxpayer and business owner in the City of Hamilton, I stand with Black organizers in demanding that YOU, as a longstanding and leading member of our city council, move immediately to redirect 20% of HPS funds, and invest those tax dollars towards initiatives for food insecurity, antiracism work, and more affordable housing & other social services.

THE TIME IS NOW TO DO THE RIGHT THING! If you do not stand with us on this issue, I will not be voting for you again. I know many people in our ward feel the same way.

Thank you for your time. I truly hope you will fight for what's right.

Sincerely,

Erika McMeekin