

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Inquiry regarding police budgets in Hamilton

From: Mariel Rutherford

Sent: July 21, 2020 3:52 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

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

Subject: Inquiry regarding police budgets in Hamilton

Hi there,

My name is Mariel and I live in Hamilton, Ontario specifically in Ward 1. In light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States, Black organizers released demands, specifically calling for an immediate 20% reduction to the police budget, which amounts to \$35 million dollars.

I can not stand behind the use of taxpayer money to over-inflate the budget of a police force which disproportionately targets Black and Indigenous people. I believe defunding the police is about valuing the lives of Black and Indigenous people over personal property, by reallocating funds into community programs that can address social inequities at their root rather than criminalizing poor and marginalized people.

Mayor, during the police board meeting of June 11th, you yourself highlighted injustices demonstrated toward a Black individual in your life, stating that this individual was stopped more by the police because of her Blackness, you preface this statement with: "We must accept the fact that racism exists not just in the United States but in Canada". You acknowledge how systemic racism and white supremacy impacts Black and Indigenous people, please listen to the voices and demands of Black organizers in this city and make changes to keep them safe.

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.

Best,

Mariel