

Pilon, Janet

Subject: You All NEED To Listen & Comply w/ our Demands.

From: Alaiya Berti

Sent: July 21, 2020 6:41 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>; 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; Skelly, Donna <donna.skelly@pc.ola.org>; bob.bratina@parl.gc.ca

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; Defund HPS and HWDSB Kids Need Help Coalition <hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com>

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Hi there,

My name is Alaiya Berti and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 1. A few weeks ago, Black organizers released demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

I'm extremely concerned & disturbed at the fact that elected officials are in this much of a denial that the police need to be defunded, and that word is DEFUND, not abolish. Chad Collins' motion to illustrate to the community that defunding is "impossible" this coming Thursday, has shaken me to my core. The reallocation of at least 20% of the \$171 MILLION HPS budget, which 68.6% goes towards salaries, is absolutely essential to the future of marginalized people of Hamilton. Demilitarization of the HPS is also necessary. Why are we not spending more on social services? Why not community outreach? Why not aid for homeless (which the HPS savagely and disgustingly TICKETS for simply being homeless. I have never been so disappointed in my city. SHAME on the HPS for carrying that out) or poverty-stricken people and families getting back on their feet? Why not serious climate action? Which is undoubtably an issue that needs to be addressed and an objective to be made. The environment & the people of this city should be FIRST priority, specifically those in marginalized communities. We cannot possibly give you any more proof or reason to why this NEEDS to happen. We will NOT stop until our demands are met. I am 21 years old and I refuse to let the people in power, which average 60 years old, (2018 data from CBC) decide what the youth of this city needs. I am aware that there are some younger council members, but the ratio is not something myself or any of the youth see appropriate for OUR future. We are screaming at the top of our lungs to be listened to, but for whatever reason we are ignored. Don't be shocked if we one day all revolt in response to your negligence. This world we live in is changing whether you like it or not, there is power in numbers and the youth outnumber. You can either wake up and help us, or be prepared to get run

down. If you do not agree to these demands, you can count on not getting my vote in the next election. And that holds true for my whole demographic, and my family.

We have questions. Why has the police service budget gone up by almost 50% in 5 years? Why are policing costs the highest costs to Hamilton taxpayers? Why is it that of the total number of city employees on the sunshine list, 36.51% are employed by the HPS?

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