

4.5 (q)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: ward 4 resident supporting the call to defund hps

From: Sarah Hanlon

Sent: July 21, 2020 9:18 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: info@defundhps.com

Subject: ward 4 resident supporting the call to defund hps

Hi there,

My name is Sarah Hanlon and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in ward 4 in the Homeside neighborhood.

A few weeks ago, Black organizers released these

linked [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4RDFMG4uisiE_OBN2-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4RDFMG4uisiE_OBN2-zbGURBBKjKxYjSkQJHwC5be4nl9Kw/viewform)

[zbGURBBKjKxYjSkQJHwC5be4nl9Kw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4RDFMG4uisiE_OBN2-zbGURBBKjKxYjSkQJHwC5be4nl9Kw/viewform) demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

I am writing today to wholeheartedly support that action and their demands. I have seen police work here in Hamilton and I have witnessed multiple bad actors and abuses by the police to civilians a handful of times in only a few years of living here. Here are just a few examples: When police were called to the University area to control a large number of parties - I watched a cop on a horse trample a young woman and ride away completely unphased as to her health or safety. When I was once at the precinct reporting a break in to my car - i was met with hostility and rudeness by the officers on duty but there was something worse happening: a young man was being demeaned by an officer and his personal information was being talked about in a way in which the whole entire room could hear, it was clear from the officers words, he was being charged for cannabis possession - merely WEEKS away from legalization, getting a record for a ridiculous reason that so many people are now making money off of while getting his right to privacy trampled. The way in which these officers talked to this young man in front of a crowd of strangers was disgusting. I could go on but my experiences aren't really the point here.

If any of us have been listening to Black, Indigenous, and other communities of colour we are well aware of what they are saying about their relationship with police and how it must change.

When I look at the breakdown of my taxes I am APPALLED to see that we pay at least 100 dollars more a year each for HPS funding than we do for ANYTHING else - why are we paying more for police than for education - this is not right. this is in fact very very wrong and it needs to change.

I would like it to be very clear:

I WILL NOT BE SUPPORTING OR VOTING FOR ANY POLITICIANS OR COUNCILLORS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT CALL FOR A SUBSTANTIAL DEFUNDING OF 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.
We should be investing in our communities not punishing its citizens
- 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. This is outrageous. I do not support this. This is not what I want to pay my tax dollars too and I will find a municipality that doesn't have such a discrepancy and move if I have to.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sarah Hanlon

ward 4 resident