

Pilon, Janet

Subject: HPS Board Meeting - Call for 20% Reduction

From: Rebecca Steckle

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Date: July 22, 2020 at 19:06:16 EDT

To: SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca

Hi there,

My name is Rebecca and I currently live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 5. A few weeks ago, Black organizers released a list of demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

The police services budget has increased by almost 50% in the last five years. Why? The budget for police services exceeds that of other programs and services that support our community. Why? What is the goal of the police? Is it to keep our communities safe? If so, there is ample evidence this purported safety does not extend to our Black, Indigenous, and other radicalized communities. There are other ways to create safe communities. I am asking for a defunding of the police in Hamilton, starting with the proposed 20% reduction. And I would also ask that as we move forward, the re-investment of these funds be done in conjunction and collaboratively with the people and communities who are calling for change.

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

I believe in a better future. I believe there is a way forward. I believe this is one small step in that direction.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Rebecca