

Pilon, Janet

Subject: DECREASE, DEFUND HPS

From: Tasha Lee

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:33 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Mayor and members of Council,

I am writing you today to demand that the Hamilton Police Services Board and City Council move to defund the HPS budget 20% for a total cut of \$35 million. I am a homeowner and resident in Ward 2 and I am deeply concerned about how the excess of funding allocated to the HPS takes resources away from my community that would ultimately contribute to its safety.

Of this \$35 million dollars, \$30 million should 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). \$2.5 million should be cut from HPS materials and supplies in order to demilitarize the police force. \$2 million should be cut from overtime and part time pay to HPS staff. There is absolutely no use for these \$35 million in the HPS. It is time to reallocate these funds to departments and organizations in the city that will actually contribute to a safer community. Police DO NOT SERVE AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES they criminalize and abuse our communities.

20% is just the beginning. I am hoping that Hamilton will follow Minneapolis's lead in moving to defund the HPS altogether and implement a community based alternative to policing that is based in restorative and transformative justice practices.

I also request that you demand a review of officers with a history of abuse and problematic cases that still have jobs and are part of the HPS payroll that so importantly needs to be reduced. Push the HPS to be accountable for their officers, in so doing making the use of these sorely needed funds more efficiently..

I wish to see a delegation of a 20% decrease in funding brought before council members.

Thank you and have a good day.--

Tasha Lee Van Dinther