

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Defund HPS by 20%

From: **Arden Hagedorn**

Date: Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 10:13 AM

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To: <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>

Hi Mayor Eisenberger,

I am emailing 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 Ward 1, I live on Locke Street S 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.

While a 20% reduction may seem far-fetched, it is just a first step towards the goal of ultimately defunding and abolishing the police. 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 urge you to hear my voice as one of your constituents in Ward 1. I am asking you, to move or support a motion to defund the HPS budget by 20%.

Thank you and have a good day.

Arden Hagedorn