

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defunding police and Commonwealth games

From: Alix MacLean

Sent: August 5, 2020 4:22 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Defunding police and Commonwealth games

Mayor Eisenberger,

First, I want to express my opposition to the idea of hosting the Commonwealth games. These kinds of major sporting events are massive money losers and Hamilton is in absolutely no financial position to spend money on this. People are unhoused, living in tents, the waitlist for social housing is years long, and it's all about to get much worse due to the Covid crisis.

It is absolute insanity that anyone is even considering the games at this time.

Related to this budget craziness, I have serious concerns about the growth of the police budget year after year without enough oversight.

- The police service budget has gone up almost 50% in 5 years.
- We spend 171 million on policing but the city of Hamilton will only spend 158 million on social services.

I'm sure you must know by now that investing more money in social services can lead to a decrease in crime and a reduced need for policing.

I support the demands of the HWDSB Kids group, including:

- Immediate 20% reduction
- Full transparency of the line by line police budget
- We want 30 million cut from HPS salaries, specifically from division 1,2, and 3. We want money cut from the mounted unit (horses), ACTION team, and victim services.
- We are demanding a 2.5 million dollar budget cut from materials and supplies in order to demilitarize the police. And 2 million should be cut from overtime and part time pay.

I know the city tries to paint people who support defunding the police as a bunch of radical anarchists, but I assure you, we are anything but. We just want marginalized people to be able to live their lives with dignity and safety, and not be criminalized for poverty and addiction. This idea is growing more popular, with a recent poll showing 51% of Canadians supporting reallocating police budgets.

I'm tired of the city rubber stamping the police budget, and the way the Police services board evades accountability. The only way to restore any trust in HPS is through radical accountability, transparency, and increased investment in social programs and services that HELP marginalized communities, not HARM them.

Thank you,
Alix MacLean
Ward 1