

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Defund HPS

**From:** Kevin Sooley

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 3:12 PM

**To:** Office of the Mayor; Farr, Jason; [Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca); Andrea Horwath, MPP

**Cc:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); [hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com](mailto:hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Defund HPS

Hi there,

My name is Kevin Sooley and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in the Beasley neighbourhood of Ward 2. A few weeks ago, Black organizers released the following demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

To be perfectly frank, I have had enough of the violent presence of these officers in my neighborhood. A solitary example of years of behaviour: Just a few months ago, shortly after a man impersonating an RCMP officer in Nova Scotia murdered 20 people, I walked out of my apartment to see a man in his vehicle being pursued by two police vehicles. He stopped next to a third vehicle and began pleading out his window at the officer "Sir, are you a cop? I need help. Are you really a cop?" The officer did not answer and when the man went to drive away, he backed into his car and rammed it onto the sidewalk and proceeded to pull him out, throw him to the ground and kneel on his back. This was a man that trusted the police, and was looking for them for help and unfortunately was met with the standard operating procedure of the hamilton police service.

For a so called "Ambitious" city, we can do better than armed thugs who smash first and ask questions later of people in need. I understand, Mr Mayor and Councillor Farr, that neither of you live in this neighbourhood, but believe me when I say that this is the reality of life in Beasley. I have lived between Corktown and Beasley for the entirety of the 9 years I've lived in this city, and I can tell you I have never felt more unsafe on my streets than when I see HPS officers either on foot, in their ridiculous sports cars, or on their bicycles. The spending on HPS is absurd, as the following will show.

As well, here are some facts about why the police budget needs to be reduced by 20%.

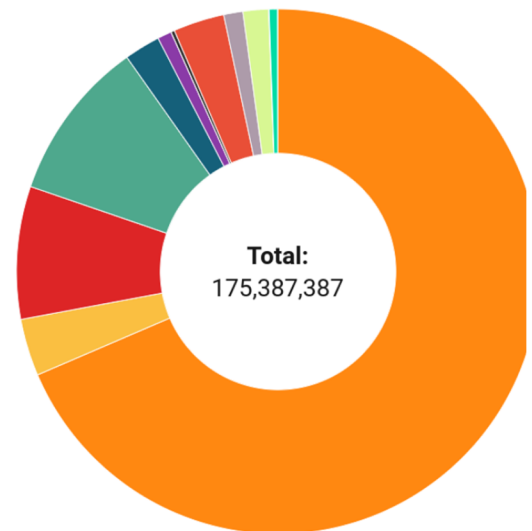
- We spend \$171 million on policing but only \$158 million on social services here in Hamilton.
- There are 675 police officers on the sunshine list. That equates to 36.51% of city employees on the sunshine list employed by the police.
- The percentage of all Hamilton Police on the sunshine list is 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.

## Operating Budget

Hamilton Police Service's 2020 budget (\$)

Salaries (120,244,741)
Part-time, overtime and other pay outside salaries (6,170,300)
Pension (14,329,375)
Benefits, including retired members (17,443,519)
Sick leave, vacation pay etc. (3,903,385)
Allowances including meal, clothing, parking and training (1,530,070)
Prisoner transport (2,000)
Fees (387,625)
Materials and supplies (5,530,847)
Vehicle expenses (2,076,000)
Buildings and grounds (2,756,855)
Consulting (52,600)
Contractual (917,770)
Agency and support payments (42,300)



Updated June 30, 2020, 6 p.m.

Chart: Hamilton Spectator Graphic • Source: Hamilton Police Services • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Did you know over **3/5** of the Hamilton Police Services operating budget goes towards salaries? That is **68.60%** of the their total budget

I am an active and engaged voter, having voted for yourself Mr. Eisenberger in the last election but I can promise you, without a material reduction in HPS budget in favour of non-violent, thoughtful programs that do not criminalize the simple fact that some people have no where to go, during a global pandemic unmatched in the last century, it will be the last vote I cast in your favour. As for Mr. Farr, taking a strong stance here is the main opportunity you will have to earn my vote. I trust federal

and provincial pressure will come from Mr. Green and Mrs Howath, both of whom have earned my support fighting for what is right.

Do the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Sooley