

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund the Police

From: gabi bragues
Sent: July 21, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Bob.Bratina@parl.gc.ca
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com
Subject: Defund the Police

Hi there,

My name is Gabriela Bragues and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 13- Dundas. Last week, a few weeks ago, Black organizers released the following demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

Time and time again, we see police officers abuse their power. Very rarely do we actually see police STOP any form crime, instead they show up after the crime is committed. We are seeing far too many civilians ending up dead after interacting with police officers, and the officers getting away with it. This MUST change. You, as my MP, must show your support and stand behind the demand of defunding the police and allocating those funds to alternatives that will actually keep our communities safe. Reallocating these funds into services such as mental health services, affordable housing, and youth programs (to name a few). We are all taking this very seriously, and your lack of acknowledgement and support will result in losing the support of myself, and many others.

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.

I hope you also take this seriously, too many lives have been lost at the hands of the police. Too many lives are threatened by the presence of the police. Things must change, and the time is now.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Bragues