

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund and distribute

From: Skylar Ramen

Sent: July 21, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca

Cc: hwsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Defund and distribute

Hi there,

My name is Skylar and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward One. 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, one of the major demands being defunding police.

I would like to see Police defunded in Hamilton by 20%, and have the money allocated towards helping our homeless and ill population. It is heartbreaking to see so many of the same people always out on the street in extreme weather without a place to go, without food to eat, without mental health resources. As a community we must help everyone and it is unfair that so many members within have no place to go or basic necessities. We can put more money into affordable public housing, qualified mental health professionals, addiction treatment centres, public washrooms/places to shower for those who don't have access to hygiene care. To get to the root of why people struggle mentally and/or are homeless and treat it accordingly is the best way to prevent future incidents. If we can provide places for people to stay long term and specialized therapy/treatment for illnesses, over time people will be able to recover and stay off the streets. People are constantly released from mental health and addiction centres such as CAMH when they are released if they no longer are experiencing crisis or using drugs, and this is usually very short term. The drug use will return, the illness will return because they are supervised until the issue is "over". There is simply not enough help given to these people seeking it in order for them to benefit enough to be able to manage their issues. I would like to continue to support you in the next election, so I hope that my demands are acknowledged

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.

There is too much money spent on so few people. We should have wealth distributed all around equally so all of our services have a chance to thrive. We really need more support in our healthcare industry, especially regarding drug use and prevention and mental health. I believe doing so can help us reduce our homeless population and keep our community healthy and happy. Thank you for reading.

Skylar Chung