

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defunding the police in Hamilton

From: claire bodkin

Sent: July 22, 2020 10:05 AM

To: Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>

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

Subject: Defunding the police in Hamilton

Hi Councillor Merulla,

I'm a constituent of yours in Ward 4. A few weeks ago, Black organizers released the following demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States. "Enough beating around the bush. We are calling for an immediate 20% reduction to the police budget, which amounts to \$35 million dollars."

As a property owner and tax payer, I am appalled at the percentage of the Hamilton City budget that is spent on police services while we have neighbours who are homeless. As a doctor, I am angry that police are called to respond to mental health crises - this is how teenagers in crisis end up killed by police <https://www.chch.com/one-year-anniversary-of-death-of-19-year-old-shot-by-police/>.

I am emailing to express my full support for the demands from Black organisers in the city to defund the police and invest in community. I hope you consider this as you participate in this discussion at city council.

Sincerely,

Claire Bodkin