

## 4.5 (r)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Hamilton Police Services

**From:** Abedar Kamgari

**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:05 AM

**To:** Office of the Mayor; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); HWDSB kids

**Subject:** Hamilton Police Services

Hi Mayor Eisenberger,

As a Hamilton resident, I was disappointed by your comments at the last HPSB meeting. Defunding the Hamilton police is not an unrealistic request. We regularly remove funding from vital social services, education, and health care, yet the police budget is increased exponentially year after year without question.

I am emailing today to demand that the Hamilton Police Services Board and City Council move to defund the HPS budget 20% for a total cut of \$35 million. I am a resident of ward 1 and I am deeply concerned about how the excess of funding allocated to the HPS takes resources away from my community that would ultimately contribute to its safety.

Of this \$35 million dollars, \$30 million should be cut from HPS salaries, specifically from Divisions 1, 2, and 3, community mobilization (mounted unit, ACTION team, victim services) and support services (mounted services). \$2.5 million should be cut from HPS materials and supplies in order to demilitarize the police force. \$2 million should be cut from overtime and part time pay to HPS staff. There is absolutely no use for these \$35 million in the HPS. It is time to reallocate these funds to departments and organizations in the city that will actually contribute to a safer community.

While a 20% reduction may seem far-fetched, it is just a first step towards the goal of ultimately defunding and abolishing the police. Police do not serve and protect our communities - they criminalize and abuse our communities.

20% is just the beginning. I am hoping that Hamilton will follow Minneapolis's lead in moving to defund the HPS altogether and implement a community based alternative to policing that is based in restorative and transformative justice practices.

I urge you to hear my voice as a resident of Hamilton in ward 1. I am asking you, Mayor Eisenberger, to move or support a motion to defund the HPS budget by 20%.

Thank you and have a good day.

Abedar Kamgari