

## 4.5 (u)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Defund the Police

**From:** Genny O'Grady

**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:05 AM

**To:** Office of the Mayor; Wilson, Maureen; Farr, Jason; Nann, Nrinder; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Pauls, Esther; Danko, John-Paul; Clark, Brad; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi

**Cc:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Defund HPS and HWDSB Kids Need Help Coalition

**Subject:** Defund the Police

Hello,

My name is Genevieve O'Grady and I live in Hamilton, Ontario, Ward 2 in the Corktown neighbourhood. In the last few weeks, Black organizers released the following demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and the United States.

I wholeheartedly agree with demands to defund the police by at least 20%, as apparently scarce city funds (the COVID deficit is a fraction of the police budget) should be directed to more community services in order to better the lives of community members, not violent enforcement. Public transit, green spaces, mental health services, addiction prevention and treatment centres, youth programs, and anti-racist programs are just a few examples of services and programs that would be much better suited to public funds than the HPS - an organization that fails to protect the public (Pride Report, Bergman) as it is structured now. Hamilton declared a climate change emergency in 2019, so why are city funds allocated as if the real emergency lies in policing our citizens?

With the election in 2 short years, your actions now matter more than ever. Thank you to Councillors Nann and Wilson for supporting the call to defund the police. Councillor Farr, your actions (and votes) on this matter will decide my actions in the next election. Councillor Whitehead, I politely suggest you use spell and grammar check before replying to any emails regarding this issue.

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.

Thank you,

Genevieve O'Grady