

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Defund Hamilton Police Campaign

**From:** Karin Horn

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:49 PM

**To:** Office of the Mayor; Partridge, Judi

**Cc:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); [hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com](mailto:hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Defund Hamilton Police Campaign

Hello,

We are Ed and Karin Horn and we live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 15. A few weeks ago, Black organizers released demands in light of police brutality happening in Canada and in the United States.

Although the situation in Canada is not exactly the same, we do recognize that Hamilton police funding in all areas has increased disproportionately to the funds allotted to mental health care in the city. Why has the police service budget gone up almost 50% in 5 years? Why are policing costs the highest costs to Hamilton tax payers?

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

This discrepancy is crucial to us because of the difficulties we've experienced in getting help for a member of our immediate family who has been in crisis. Based on our experience with police responding to crisis calls, we know the individual in crisis would be much better served and helped by a health professional, rather than a uniformed, armed, confrontational police officer. Our loved one has also been targeted and questioned while walking down the street. Although we are not a visible minority (we are of German ancestry), we know this targeting happened because of our slightly darker complexion. Considering those two factors in combination, we are terrified to consider what may happen the next time a crisis occurs and we have to call 911.

We totally support the demands made by the Defund Hamilton Police Services Campaign, if these demands are not met, you can rest assured that we will continue to uphold the cause and we will not be giving you our vote in the next election.

We also strongly suggest that the disbursement of funding to mental health care be directed by active mental health professionals within our local community.

Sincerely, Ed and Karin Horn