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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Constitute Communication

From: Patricia Varanesi

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:02 PM

To: Office of the Mayor; Wilson, Maureen; Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca; ahorwath-gp@ndp.on.ca

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; Defund HPS and HWDSB Kids Need Help Coalition

Subject: Constitute Communication

Hi there,

My name is Pat and I've lived in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 1 for 3 years now. I have been spent these years learning about some great communities here in Hamilton. Learning about how I can better support those who have been marginalized and also more recently, why we need to Defund the Hamilton Police.

I have been listening in on our city council meetings since the pandemic started and I am bittersweet about the impact the City of Hamilton council has made to help support their citizens. The Hamilton Police budget is astronomical for what little support and safety they provide to the community. Why have we agreed to continue to increase their budget over these years? This takes away from systems that should be receiving more support. The lack of affordable and supportive housing this city has, it's disgusting. Housing is a human right, and the city is responsible for ensuring the correct systems are developed. How are we suppose to do that if there is no money going to those systems?

When would Hamilton Police services ever need a large armored vehicle for a wellness check?? Have you thought of maybe giving these officers a wellness check? They clearly aren't well in the head if they cannot deescalate a situation. We had an officer shot a citizen just this past week, they died from their gunshot wounds! These people should not be in control, they should not have automatic rifles or carry weapons during a WELLNESS CHECK, and their actions need to be addressed. Why is over half the police force on the sunshine list?? Why on earth is it called a sunshine list? These officers are criminals! Why are we paying them? What benefit are they truly providing?

If the City of Hamilton Council is smart, they will agree to the demands listed by the Black organizers in Hamilton. The council needs to listen to their voices and they need to make change for the community. There is no where else to turn but in the better direction. Your citizens are watching.

I hope you take the time to fully read and acknowledge my communication, I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Pat Varanesi