

4.5 (z)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: hello! please defund the police.

From: **Katie King**

Date: Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 8:13 AM

Subject: hello! please defund the police.

To: <mayor@hamilton.ca>

CC: kids Hwdsb <hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com>

Hello Mayor Eisenberger,

I grew up in Hamilton and currently live here. I work in Hamilton. I plan to have children here. I know you have been mayor for a while and I appreciate your work and dedication; however, you have a very critical job to do right now...

I 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 3. 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. Please listen to us. This needs to happen. Enough is enough. We must feel safe in Hamilton and we are telling you that we do not and many folks HAVE NOT felt safe for a very very long time.

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. People are being harmed and this is what we are telling you. Please listen.

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 one of your constituents in ward 3. I am asking you, Fred Eisenberger, to move or support a motion to defund the HPS budget by 20%.

Thank you so much for listen, and I look forward to seeing the police defunded.

Katharine King