

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund police budget by 20%

From: Laura Howden

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:22 AM

To: HWDSB kids; Farr, Jason; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Pauls, Esther; Danko, John-Paul; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi; Wilson, Maureen; Nann, Nrinder; VanderBeek, Arlene; Clark, Brad; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Defund police budget by 20%

I am writing 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 one of your constituents in (ward/neighbourhood). I am asking you, (Councillor name) to move or support a motion to defund the HPS budget by 20%.

Thank you and have a good day.

Laura Howden