

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Police budget review - 20% cut

From: Kate Melville

Sent: July 24, 2020 8:23 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: David Bradley Halls <dbhalls@gmail.com>; clerk@hamilton.ca; hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com; info@defundhps.com; info@hcci.ca

Subject: Re: Police budget review - 20% cut

Thank you for your response, Councillor Farr — I appreciate it. I hope you will take further guidance from poverty and housing activists regarding relocation. To me, the physical, social and moral cost of relocation seems far greater than the cost of the use of a single park, especially when there are so many alternative parks downtown?

Our health and safety as a community is of utmost importance. The people living on Ferguson are my neighbours, and your constituents - they may need more services, but they have a right to live here and we as a city have a responsibility to make sure EVERYONE is safe, especially in a pandemic.

Thanks for listening,
Kate Melville

On Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 5:30 AM Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca> wrote:

Thank you, Kate. I appreciate the feedback and your opinions.

The agencies that service the encampment residents are very much welcome to be engaged when we very sensitively provide options for safer and more adequate and humane living conditions than sleeping rough.

As per our Encampment Task Force policy.

I have am keeping an open mind on selecting a city site for those who wish to sleep in tents after having toured a few communities this week. That said, if Council was to offer a site to the organizations advocating for such, I would be challenged to support a site on city streets or parks designed for the use of everyone.

Take care and thanks for engaging, Kate.

J

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 5:40 PM, Kate Melville wrote:

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> Dear Councillor Farr,

> I was dismayed to learn this week that the City of Hamilton spends more on police services than they do on social services. As I walk through our ward with my 6-year-old kid, I see lots of people who need help and support, but I don't think HPS is the best organization to provide it, given their complex, uneasy relationship with the homeless community of our city. Please support the motion to cut the police budget by 20% or \$35 million - so it at least matches the budget for social services. Though I think it could be reduced much further, this seems like a decent first step.

> In other news, I was disappointed to read your remarks in the Spectator this week regarding the tent community on Ferguson Ave. Other residents of your ward, including my family, are strongly opposed to the City displacing this tent community, especially during a global pandemic when it's crucial for social agencies to know the location of their clients. I see the people living in tents on Ferguson (four blocks from our home) as neighbours, ones who need our support. I hope you'll consult a broader cross-section of your residents and social agencies making any more decisions

or comments on this matter.

> Yours truly,
> Kate Melville