

From: [Peter Meyer](#)
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); [Jackson, Tom](#); [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Police Department Defunding
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 7:50:52 PM

All,

Last week I was surprised to see on the CHCH news, a number of virtual submissions to council, all supporting a significant level of defunding of the Hamilton Police department. What surprised me was how one-sided this discussion was. So firstly I would suggest to council and the PSB that there should be, through an add in the Spectator or by other means, a call for input from the general Hamilton population on this subject. Or perhaps each councilor should take it upon themselves to take a fair straw poll of their constituents on this issue. To me this seems to be migrating into dangerous territory where people, without presenting any empirical evidence or examples of consequences of such an action, would reduce the number of police on our streets, based strictly on emotion and knee-jerk reactions to recent events. Almost as if one goal is to basically punish the police force with little regard for the consequences.

In newscasts on the same program, day after day, we see evidence to the contrary, in the rise of gun and other violence that pro-defunding advocates naively claim would disappear if more funds were directed towards social programs etc. The reality is that there will always be a large criminal element that not only cares nothing for social programs, but would certainly take advantage of a reduction in policing to increase their activity. Defunding would have consequences that probably haven't been considered, such as an increase in gun ownership among law abiding citizens as they're forced to defend their properties and families themselves.

I would remind all councilors that they are duty-bound to represent the views of the majority of their constituents and not cave in to the political correctness of the day. Furthermore, everyone should realize that if there were a significant defunding and the result was an increase in crime in this city, councilors would be held to account at the next election.

However, being a reasonable person, I would suggest the following:

A freeze of the next police budget at the level of the previous budget. This would be a sign of good faith that voices have been heard and realistically, would force the police force to look for efficiencies in their systems and perhaps evolve to concentrate on priority issues.

Secondly, make it known to the public, prior to the next election, exactly where each candidate specifically stands on the issue of police defunding. Then, as a properly functioning democracy should demonstrate, the citizens of Hamilton will decide.

Thank you

Peter (mountain resident)