

From: [Sarah Cripps](#)
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Defund Hamilton Police
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 11:03:12 AM

Hi there,

My name is Sarah Cripps and I wanted to write to send my solidarity to the [Defund Hamilton Police](#) (Defund HPS) organizers who began their action on November 23 and were subject to [fines and detainment from HPS](#). I'd like to denounce this state intervention and attempt to intimidate, stifle, and silence community members.

Hamilton City Council must respond to residents and meet community needs instead of continuing to support massive increases to police services. The 2020 HPS budget is \$171 million and accounts for 17% of the total City budget. There has been a \$40-million increase to this budget over the past nine years. In the middle of a pandemic, it is unacceptable to increase funding to police services while community members face uncertainty, income and job loss, and families struggle to survive. It is unconscionable for a government to prioritize policing.

Police forces in Toronto and Hamilton are both under the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario, and have a history of targeting Black, Indigenous and racialized people. Defund Hamilton Police has [documented instances](#) of police protecting property over people, surveilling Black, Indigenous and racialized students in schools, ticketing unhoused community members, carding, harming and killing Black, Indigenous, and racialized people experiencing mental health crises. We do not accept this biased, racist surveillance and targeted punitive actions towards our community members and friends.

Sincerely

Sarah