

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund the Hamilton Police Support

From: Evan Ubene

Sent: November 25, 2020 12:35 PM

To: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Defund the Hamilton Police Support

Hello Maureen,

Over the past few days a commendable protest has been ongoing at City Hall to bring attention to the inconceivably high police budget that is continually approved by the city year after year while hundreds of homeless citizens are left to struggle outside and sometimes die. I stand with this group in calling for the police budget to be defunded immediately by at least 20 % (with a plan to eventually defund up to at least 50 %) with that money going to public housing units that can be occupied by the people who need them.

If you truly believe in safer neighbourhoods as you promote on your website you should support this initiative. Higher crime rates have been shown to correlate with unemployment and poverty, and it is much easier for citizens to seek jobs when housing is provided first [1], [2]. Policing works to oppress the working class and disproportionately affects lower income citizens who are unable to pay fines and bail [3]. It has also been shown to be LESS costly for taxpayers when society gives citizens their basic needs rather than oppresses them by using a police force [4].

We need to stop viewing people living in poverty as lazy. It is often not their fault that they have ended up in the situation they are in. We need to help them live a half decent life.

Please see my references below and I hope you will consider this initiative. The protesters have shown much courage and strength as police who have nothing better to do sit idly by in cruisers nearby and at times escalate the situation. This is not a great look for a force who sat by and watched as white supremacists undermined the Hamilton Pride Parade in 2019.

Thank you,

Evan Ubene Ward 1 resident and student at McMaster University.

[1] M. Charron, "Neighbourhood Characteristics and the Distribution of Police-reported Crime in the City of Toronto," <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-561-m/2009018/part-partie1-eng.htm>

[2] Martin A. Andresen, Paul J. Brantingham, "Hot Spots of Crime in Vancouver and Their Relationship with Population Characteristics," 2007. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272943652_Hot_Spots_of_Crime_in_Vancouver_and_their_Relationship_with_Population_Characteristics

[3] G. Marquis, "1. Policing in nineteenth-century Canada". In Policing Canada's Century. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993. doi: <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.3138/9781487578480-006>

[4] <https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/at-home>