

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Defund and reallocate

**From:** Ashley Daniels

**Sent:** November 25, 2020 10:18 AM

**To:** Johnson, Brenda <[Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca)>; Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>

**Cc:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Re: Defund and reallocate

Mayor Eisenberger and Cllr Johnson;

No one in our city deserves to die in the street. Everyone deserves to have stable housing and live a dignified life, regardless of their income, disability, mental health, or addiction status.

Right now there is an opportunity for yours to be among the voices calling for substantive change, and, as an elected official, you have the ability and the duty to effect that change.

You may not be convinced by the intersecting message of defunding the police in order to fund housing for our most vulnerable. But if we demand a mile, we may be lucky to get half an inch.

People are dying in Hamilton's streets, and HPS spent \$279,000 on an armoured vehicle. People are dying on the streets, and officers credibly accused of violence and misconduct routinely continue collecting paychecks— an impunity unlike *any* other profession. People are dying on the streets, and the only department that consistently gets significant budget increases is the HPS.

The city's response so far has been to give a black, disabled organizer a ticket of at least \$10,000 for having the temerity to challenge the status quo. Where were the \$10,000+ tickets for the Ancaster car rally? Where were they for the many dangerous anti-mask rallies? Why does enforcement always target the most vulnerable and those fighting for equity?

Hamilton does not even have to be original; steal ideas that work from other jurisdictions around the world that have effectively tackled the housing crisis like Trieste and Helsinki. You can also crib from the demands of the coalition making the noise: do not increase the HPS budget by \$4 million; remove 50% of the existing HPS budget; and stop criminalizing protestors and vulnerable people.

If having tents at your office door is inconvenient, imagine how inconvenient it must be to live and die on the street.

Please do what is right for the most vulnerable in our city. Defund and reallocate.

Respectfully,

Ashley Daniels, M.Ed.

(To the Clerk; if at all possible, please add my letter to the agenda for this morning's meeting as a written delegation. I understand the timing may be difficult.)