

Pilon, Janet

Subject: In support of reallocating police funds

From: Alix MacLean

Sent: November 25, 2020 9:34 AM

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

Subject: In support of reallocating police funds

Hello Mayor and Councillor Wilson,

I am inspired by the activists outside of city hall for the last few days, staying out in the cold around the clock to advocate for housing for all.

It's unconscionable that the city could even entertain a 4 million dollar police budget increase in this year, what with the Covid crisis, the housing crisis and the worldwide movement against police brutality. The police have a surplus every year. It would be an easy PR win for the city to freeze the police budget at this point and demand a return of any surplus to go towards our housing crisis. That would be the bare minimum. I don't know why you insist on giving in to every whim of the police department, Mayor Eisenberger, when you refuse to budge on any policy that could actually help vulnerable people in our city.

I also find it disgusting that the police presence at this protest is stronger than it was for hate speech white supremacy rallies, and certainly much stronger than it was at Pride when people were attacked by a violent neo-Nazi.

Social service organizations, hospitals, and schools are always told to do more with less, to accept years of budget cuts, and are expected to offer the same level of services. Should you not now ask the same to the police? That it is there time to sacrifice and make cuts for the good of the rest of us?

Covid-19 has laid bare for many people that the old ways of working and running a city are not working for most of the population who live here. It is time for bold action, and imagining a better world. If you can't do that, Mayor Eisenberger, please get out of the way and let others lead who will take bold action to end homelessness.

Thank you,
Alix MacLean
Ward 1