

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund HPS

From: Sarah Van Berkel

Sent: November 25, 2020 2:03 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca;

Subject: Defund HPS

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing today in solidarity with DefundHPS who are outside City Hall right now. I am asking that you meet with them and listen to their demands.

Everyone deserves access to safe housing and the City needs to work with all levels of government to get the funding required to address our current crisis. No one should have to face a winter living on the streets. Our shelters and support staff are underfunded and understaffed to address the current needs. It has been proven that using police to address social problems does not work, yet police budgets skyrocket and social programs do not get a fraction of the amount they deserve. Please let's try a new approach and let Hamilton be a leader in this global movement. Defund the police.

Please see below for the list of demands presented by Defund HPS that I support and believe deserve serious discussion:

- We call on the City of Hamilton to defund the Hamilton police.
- We call on the City of Hamilton to invest the tax dollars that would have otherwise gone to the police towards initiatives fighting against food insecurity, racism and towards more affordable housing & other social services.
- We call on the City of Hamilton to ensure that HPS are not ticketing houseless people for existing in public. We call on the HPS to release accounting on taxes used to surveil & police Black, Indigenous, & racialized communities.
- We demand that the HPS halt purchases of weapons, high tech surveillance equipment, & cease surveilling communities.
- We demand HPS cease ticketing and surveilling of homeless & disabled people.
- We demand that the HPS stop targeting activists & communities pushing back against white supremacists.

Thank you,

Sarah Van Berkel