

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund the HPS - November 2020

From: Hannah Uzelac

Date: Mon., Nov. 30, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Subject: Re: Defund the HPS - November 2020

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

Hi,

Thanks for your response.

The protestors are peaceful, and are asking for the Mayor to meet them publicly. Meeting behind closed doors seems like a cop-out, and plus, it leaves the door open for him to make untrue statements regarding that meeting.

While the Mayor may not "direct operational matters" he still has the duty to listen to his constituents. The people are asking for him to hear them out and call on the rest of the city councillors for meaningful change.

Hamilton's police budget is astoundingly large and if their surplus was invested in housing in an ongoing way, it would help the people throughout the city in shelters or on the streets. You can see them all in front of the FirstOntario center. The problems here are glaringly obvious and an embarrassment. Rather than have the police tear down encampments or harass homeless people on the street, why not direct more funding in a way that will actually address the problem?

Please pass along this call for change directly Mr. Eisenberg. Thank you.

Hannah

From: Hannah Uzelac

Sent: November 29, 2020 11:22 PM

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

Subject: Defund the HPS - November 2020

Hello,

On Monday November 23rd, during a press conference, people of Hamilton put out a list of demands for the various levels of government. Peaceful protestors have set up at City Hall and will not be leaving until our demands are met.

- An immediate 50% defunding in the Hamilton police budget
- Hamilton City Council deny the requested increase of 4 million dollars to HPS budget- Take back the surplus to begin investing in free housing
- Immediately stop criminalizing peaceful protestors on the ground

The Hamilton police have a 171 million dollar police budget, while we are in the middle of a housing crisis across Hamilton with over 20 encampments of unhoused people.

As a resident of Hamilton, I am deeply concerned about how the excess of funding allocated to the HPS takes resources away from my community that would ultimately contribute to its safety. Police do not serve and protect our communities - they criminalize and abuse our communities. These demands are just the beginning. I am hoping that

Hamilton will follow Minneapolis's lead in moving to defund the HPS altogether and implement a community based alternative to policing that is based in restorative and transformative justice practices.

I urge you to hear my voice as one of your constituents in Hamilton, and in (ward/neighbourhood). I am asking you as my councillor to move or support a motion to defund the HPS, invest in free housing, and stop criminalizing peaceful protestors on the ground.

Thank you and have a good day.

Hannah