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Pilon, Janet

Subject: issue for committee agenda

From: olifraser1

Sent: November 30, 2020 3:02 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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For the Mayor and Members of Council,

I would like to raise the issue of the grossly over-funded Hamilton Police Services and the inappropriate comparison made publically by Mayor Fred Eisenberg to compare the measly 50 million dollar housing budget over 10 years, that equates to averagely 5 million dollars a year, to the 171 million dollar budget the HPS is given in one year alone.

As a Hamiltonian I am disgusted and frustrated the Mayor would make false public statements saying the protest in the City Hall forecourt is a small number of people that do not reflect the broader community, when in fact it represents a large portion of the broader communities view. Many of whom have elected not to physically appear at the protest while still donating and supporting in other ways due to health and by-law limitations set on capping participants of outdoor events at 25. It is irresponsible, and unprofessional to make such claims without any backing, nor public survey of the broader community, and quite frankly is racially profiling, classist, and ableist to those present, and those unable to attend for a variety of COVID-19, and other health related issues, on top of those who are forced to not physically participate in the protest due to their work and monetary necessities.

Hamilton is the hate crime capital of Canada, as it has been for a number of years, and somehow you still manage to hold ignorant views despite public research that is broadly accessible showing that over-policing, and underfunding human rights, and necessities like safe, secure, unconditional housing only leads to further criminalization of the poor, racially profiled, unhealthy, and otherwise marginalized groups in communities.

Mayor Fred Eisenberg's comments of late on CHCH and other media sources have been reflective of the privilege and arrogance he holds to gaslight the Hamilton community when he feigns support, yet refuses to acknowledge the source of issues, and the gross biases and prejudices both himself and the HPS hold.

If a majority of the HPS budget goes to staffing salaries, perhaps look at the evidence and atrocities in this city that show clearly we are over-policed. While resources are underfunded, the inflation of the HPS budget only continues to grow, despite not even meeting their budget limit in the previous year.

Mounted officers are an example of the continued use of scare tactics and forceful intimidation to handle events that do not call for such a thing, and while I would personally argue the use of horses in the Hamilton city environment is abusive, it factually is a reflective sign of how the HPS doesn't know how to handle events or 'issues' in a manner outside of physical intimidation and violence. The same is to be said for officers stalking, surveying, and intimidating legal protestors leaving events or other activities, and also for the physical intimidation and removal of encampments and shelters while you continue to make no substantial progress in actually understanding or supporting any of the people involved in such instances.

The notion of procedure and refusing to meet publicly with the Defundhps organizers while claiming you understand their concerns is gaslighting and ironic. I speak only as a member of the 'broader community' witnessing what is happening between the publicly available media sources. It is unethical and immoral to allow people to die unknown, unreported, and unhoused in the streets of Hamilton while you continue to hide behind an excuse of procedure.

If you have disagreements when this matter is brought up, then I would request you read out the official procedural policy that stating where and why you cannot meet with the organizers in public. Then I would ask you to explain how you have any form of ethics, logic, or statistical evidence to support the immoral budget of 171 million dollars a year to HPS while only 5 million dollars averagely is allocated to housing the people your police force is criminalizing for having the audacity to exist in public or city spaces when they have no safe, and affordable housing to otherwise exist in?

Please, make it make sense without falling back on your ignorance, classism, ableism, or racism, because so far that is all I have gathered from the Mayor's public comments, and it is all the city of Hamilton is reflecting when they 'brush off' the issues at hand without concrete action to actually fix them.

Regards,
Oliver Fraser