

Pilon, Janet

Subject: I support defunding Hamilton Police Services

From: Jenn C.

Sent: December 1, 2020 12:26 PM

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

Cc: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Re: I support defunding Hamilton Police Services

Hi Marco,

Thank you for your response, I have copied the Office of the City Clerk on this email. After reading the Mayor's recent comments following the demonstration outside of his house, I have further thoughts on this matter.

First, whether the Mayor officially directs operational matters by police and by-law enforcement officers or not, he is at the highest level of power in the city and he does have an influence. The fourteen officers that arrived at the demonstrations destroyed people's homes; many of those individuals lived in their tents and now have no shelter. The Mayor could have spoken out. The notion that the Mayor of Hamilton has no power over the Hamilton Police Services is deeply troubling.

Second, I am appalled by the Mayor's complete lack of empathy for the members of Defund HPS. Saying he is "delighted" that the HPS may have information on the demonstrators is appalling language. Many of them have lost their homes, belongings, and loved ones. They need support from the city, not policing. While their actions from last night may seem extreme, they have tried writing letters, making phone calls, and protesting outside of City Hall. Since the Mayor and City Council are still refusing their demands, clearly none of traditional avenues of civic engagement have worked.

Third, defunding the police is not an irrational thought. People are dying because they have no housing, no food, and no safe way to manage their addictions. Paying the police to harass them and steal their belongings will not pull them out of their situations. Access to housing, food, and addiction support is so much more valuable than policing them for existing.

I appreciate your clarification on the Mayor's offer to meet with group representatives. I am not in direct contact with the group so I have no way of confirming either side. I would also like your clarification on the reason for dismantling the protest in front of City Hall. The protest seemed peaceful and in line with the public health guidelines; could you please specify which municipal bylaws were violated?

Regardless, I am still in support of the group's demands to defund the HPS by 50%, deny the requested increase to the HPS budget, and re-allocate the HPS surplus to free permanent housing.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cross

From: Jenn C.

Sent: November 30, 2020 4:40 PM

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

Cc: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: I support defunding Hamilton Police Services

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing to express my solidarity with the people at the Freedom Camp and Defund Hamilton Police Services calling for better housing and defunded police in Hamilton. I also want to say how disappointed I am. I'm disappointed in you for caring more about optics than about listening to and protecting your constituents. And I'm disappointed in myself for voting for you and believing that you would create positive changes in Hamilton. I should not have made that mistake.

Please prove me wrong. Begin a productive, public conversation with the occupants of the Freedom Camp and members of Defund Hamilton Police Services. Change city policies to provide better housing and less policing for Hamiltonians that have been placed in vulnerable situations because of our current policies. Specifically, defund the HPS by 50%, deny the requested increase to the HPS budget, and re-allocate the HPS surplus to free permanent housing.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cross
Ward 1 resident