

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Asking the Mayor to Meet With Defund HPS

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From: Ward 14 <14forprogress@gmail.com>

Sent: December 5, 2020 12:15 PM

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

Cc: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Asking the Mayor to Meet With Defund HPS

Dear Mayor & City Councillors,

On November 23rd, 2020 the Defund HPS coalition held a press conference on the forecourt of City Hall. Concerned about our houseless neighbours, Defund HPS has asked for a multi-level government response to homelessness and poverty in Hamilton. Their ask to Council is a 50% reduction to the Hamilton Police Service and that the 2020 surplus be reallocated towards supporting our neighbours living in tents across the City.

The Defund HPS coalition has sparked and started a conversation on housing and policing among residents, community organizations, unions, and a number of Councillors including our Councillor (Terry Whitehead). Thus far the Mayor has not met with organizers.

We are writing to Council to ask for the following:

- * That the Mayor meet publicly with the Defund HPS coalition. As residents of Ward 14, we would like to hear what the Mayor has to say. Private meetings on a public issue do not allow for accountability or transparency.
- * We would like the Police Budget to be cut by 50% as suggested by the Defund HPS coalition. Our group of Ward 14 residents believe we have to start investing in housing, public health, transit, bike lanes. These investments create safe communities. The over-reliance on Policing (with a budget of \$171 + million) works to criminalize houseless residents, burdens our City and fails to attend to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

In addition to our request, we will be contacting Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament on this matter.

Signed by residents of Ward 14 (14forProgress)