

## 4.2 (bf)



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**15 December 2020**

Office of the City Clerk

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

**Re: Protests re defunding the police – item 4.2 on 2020-12-16 agenda**

I would like to echo the concerns of the significant majority of correspondents on this matter, that the City has not done enough to reach out to protesters seeking to defund police services and redirect defunded amounts to relief of our homeless crisis.

**The City's attempts to deal with this crisis have utterly failed. The crisis is mushrooming.**

**On a recent night, according to Medora Uppal of YWCA, 28 women seeking shelter needed to be turned away from Carole Anne's Place because no shelter or hotel beds were available.**

**Dr. Kallirroï Carayannopoulos of Hamilton Health Sciences reports that she has “lost count” of the number of times they have been unable to safely discharge patients because of a complete absence of shelter beds.**

**We are in crisis, these young people have organized to draw public attention and your attention to the crisis, and instead you arrest them and destroy their possessions and refuse to discuss these matters publicly.**

The City's response has been heavy-handed in the extreme and its extensive use of the Hamilton Police Service as a service provider for City higher-ups during this matter has been an item of significant concern. I will raise that matter with the HPS Board.

Yours truly,

Craig Burley