

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defund HPS Now

From: Reem Mandil

Sent: December 1, 2020 1:35 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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To Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council:

I am emailing you with regards to the demands being made by the peaceful protestors at City Hall who are fighting for the safety and protection of unhoused people. I want Hamilton City Council to:

- Enact an immediate 50% reduction in the Hamilton Police budget,
- Deny the requested increase of 4 million dollars to the HPS budget, and to take back the surplus to begin investing in **free** housing for unhoused people, and
- Urge Police to stop intimidating the young black organizers who are demanding housing for all.

The Office of the Mayor has stated:

"The Mayor along with the City Manager offered to meet group representatives in City Hall with appropriate social distancing measures in place. However, the group declined his offer. Despite this, the Mayor's office remains open to listening to their concerns."

It is important to note that the Mayor was offering a **private** meeting and is unwilling to have a **public** meeting with the organizers. DefundHPS has stated that it is not interested in a private meeting and it has stated very legitimate reasons for this. The unwillingness of the Mayor to engage in public dialogue with these organizers is troubling at best.

It is also important to note that these organizers take **very seriously** the safety and health of fellow community members, particularly those engaging in their efforts of securing housing for unhoused people and defunding the Police. Organizers have maintained social distancing, as well as supplied gloves, masks, and sanitizer at their sites. Let us not forget that the housing crisis is also a public health crisis. Failure to recognize that when claiming organizers are not adhering to public health guidelines is irresponsible and lazy.

Lastly, I would like to note the failure of Councillor Ferguson of Ward 12 to respond to any of my correspondence regarding divestment from the HPS.

The organizers at City Hall are to be commended for their dedication to support and care for their community, when our elected officials have failed to do so. I urge you to stop maintaining the status quo and make real, transformative change by defunding the HPS in order to end the housing crisis in Hamilton.

Yours Sincerely,
Reem Mandil
Ancaster, ON