

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Meet with Defund HPS Publicly

From: Danielle Hitchcock-Welsh

Sent: December 1, 2020 3:19 PM

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

Subject: Re: Meet with Defund HPS Publicly

Mr. Mayor:

I've just read your correspondence with the CBC in the article about the coffin in front of your home.

You hope the police throw the book at them? These are the youth of our city. They're asking for your compassion and open-mindedness for a new way forward. They have been nothing but peaceful in front of city hall and they should have the book thrown at them? This is unacceptable for you to say or to think.

They've been clear they want a public meeting because they want it on record.

Personally, I'm not in favour of abolishing the police, I think they have a place in society — but we can divest. We can look to new ways to prevent crime. Police do very little in terms of crime prevention. Access to housing, mental health workers, etc. are what create less crime. There is so much data and information out there about police and how they are called upon for *everything*. We need new systems. We need to listen to youth and BIPOC folks, to the LGBTQ+ community. When they are saying they're targeted by police, they're harmed by police, we need to believe them.

There is great information about moving forward here. If you haven't, maybe look into it:

<https://www.mpd150.com/faq/>

Also, watching the way you're handling this, it's clear you haven't invested in anti-racism training. Hamilton has a serious white supremacy problem and you, your whole staff and the entire city council need to be properly trained on this issue. If you were, perhaps you'd be coming at this from a different stance and with a more open mind.

Danielle