

Pilon, Janet

Subject: policing, housing

From: Scott Neigh

Sent: December 3, 2020 1:18 PM

To: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; HWDSB kids <hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com>

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Hello Councillor Wilson and Mayor Eisenberger,

I am a resident of Ward One and I am writing to express my support for the BIPOC youth organizers that have been demanding that the City of Hamilton defund the police and put more money into housing solutions. These youth are paying keen attention to the ways that policing harms many people in our community and the ways that a lack of affordable housing harms many people as well, and they are acting in a way commensurate with the urgency of those harms. I wish the same could be said of Hamilton city council.

I am also distressed by the disrespectful ways that certain members of council have been talking about these organizers in the media, and the poorly informed ways they have been talking about the issues. To give just one example among many, Mayor Eisenberger, on the Bill Kelly show on December 1 you said, "I can't think of an occasion where a homeless person died as a result of that homelessness." This is a shockingly misinformed statement, and I urge you to not only meet publically with the BIPOC youth organizers who have been present at city hall, but to make time to learn from the health professionals in the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT) about the terrible toll that homelessness takes on people's health.

Please make our community safer by defunding the police and increasing funding for social housing.

Thank-you,

Scott Neigh
Hamilton