

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Councillor Nrinder Nann-A Response to the Defund HPS Coalition's Demands

**From:** Emma Countryman

**Sent:** December 19, 2020 7:24 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Fwd: Councillor Nrinder Nann-A Response to the Defund HPS Coalition's Demands

Emma Countryman

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Nann, Nrinder" <[Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca)>

**Date:** December 18, 2020 at 3:56:48 PM EST

**To:** Emma Countryman

**Subject:** Councillor Nrinder Nann-A Response to the Defund HPS Coalition's Demands

Dear Emma,

I stand with you and with peaceful demonstrators engaging with empathy for our neighbours facing [houselessness](#).

Thank you for writing to express your compassion for the most marginalized members of our society, and for holding elected officials--including me, to account on this crisis.

We need safe, dignified, affordable, and permanent housing now. To eradicate houselessness, we need every level of government to work with creativity, courage and urgency to allocate funds for both housing and support services. City staff, many community partners, and neighbours are hard at work on the front lines to outreach and connect with vulnerable residents. The need is great, and we simply do not have enough community resources to support this work.

Please see my statement in solidarity with demonstrators from November 24<sup>th</sup> [here](#) and my statement calling to defund the Hamilton Police from June 17<sup>th</sup> [here](#).

While the estimated Hamilton Police Services surplus of \$567K won't fund much in the way of housing, it could go a long way to fund essential support services we lack in the City. For example, we need funding to round out evening and weekend availability of Community Outreach Workers who use a relationship-based and trauma-informed approach to connect people with the services they need. We need funding to ensure winter access to public washrooms, handwashing facilities, and drinking water. We also know harm reduction services are not available in all shelters across Hamilton. And, residents want training and capacity building to support our neighbours when they experience a health crisis.

I believe City budgets are a value statement. We are in the middle of a pandemic and investing in health for all is required now more than ever. The city has made a commitment to end chronic homelessness across Hamilton by 2025. During this budget cycle, we must assess and right size all budgets based on the outcomes they provide. When it comes to houselessness, it is reasonable to reallocate funds and responsibility of Hamilton Police Services towards trusted organizations and services that are a better fit.

I will table a motion within this budget process to the effect.

I would recommend, that if you would like your original email to become part of the public record and formally received by Council, email it to [Clerk@Hamilton.ca](mailto:Clerk@Hamilton.ca)

Yours in Community,

**Councillor Nrinder Nann**

*She/Her*

**Ward 3 – City of Hamilton**

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