

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Letter to council

>> To the councillors and mayor of Hamilton, Ontario:

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>> Good morning. Hope this finds you and yours well. I write as the

>> father to and parent of four children, as an unwelcomed settler on and thief of Anishinaabeg land, born and raised on their land here in Hamilton, Ontario, as a Christian, as a public-school teacher, and as a member of that broader community about which Mayor Eisenberger spoke that does not, apparently, want policing to be de-funded. I have written to this council in the past of its ability to write to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission to have its policing services abolished, under section 40 of the Police Services Act, but that letter and its recommendations received only a referral to the Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities and its recommendations were ignored and to be addressed by a meeting of the Police Chief with Council, a meeting which never happened as documents from the Police Services Board were sent in his stead.

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>> As a member of that community, I wish to state, categorically, that I am in complete support of and agreement with the de-funding of Hamilton Police Services, leading to its abolition. I am in support of divesting policing of 50% of its budget and its surplus and investing it in free housing for the poor as well as in other public goods and social services as the community of Hamiltonians deems best. Further, I decry the wilful ignorance of our elected officials, past and present, in regards to the laying of a coffin with flowers and naloxone kits clearly visible on the street in front of the mayor's house. The pearl-clutching and the policing of tone by elected officials and by columnists must not detract and distract from the central and essential message that the poor are dying at the hands of the rich and their armed protectors, the city's policing services.

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>> Thank you all for your time and attention in these regards and I long for actions in these regards from this council, beginning with the 50% reduction in the policing services' budget and its immediate re-investment in free housing for the poor.

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>> Kindly,

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>> Joshua Weresch