

From: jess geddes
Sent: February 5, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: City Council Agenda - Statement

Hello Stephanie,

I hope this email finds you well. I would like to add this statement to the agenda if possible in the same grouping as my fellow concerned citizens. I am not sure of the exact process, but I hope this is clear.

I would like to echo the outrage and concerns that many other Hamilton residents are bringing to City Council today regarding the proposed 2.98% increase of the Hamilton Police Services budget. I am a proud resident of Ward 2 and re-allocating the HPS budget surplus into community-led initiatives is necessary to prioritize healing, safety, accountability and community resilience for our residents. Hamilton Police Services are especially prominent in my neighbourhood and the statistics shared about over-policing and violence toward vulnerable communities is evident in my neighbours experiences and the way that I navigate my community. I am concerned that an increase in the HPS budget will lead to further violence and a diminished lack of support services for the most vulnerable members of my community. I ask you to consider the direct needs of our City at this time. More citizens are in need of community services such as food banks, shelter and employment resources than ever before. Please allocate these funds responsibility to community initiatives instead of into further bloating police funds. This is a time for us to take care of each other, and I hope to see you do the right thing in denying this increase. Best, Jess Geddes Ward 2