

Request to Speak to Committee of Council
Submitted on Friday, February 5, 2021 - 9:16am

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Emergency & Community Services Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Annie Webber

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request:

My name is Annie Webber and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in ward 3. As your constituent, as well as an artist and educator, I want to express my deep, continuing frustration concerning the proposed 2.98% increase to the already grossly inflated Hamilton police budget, with an existing \$567k surplus.

Hamilton Police Services MUST be defunded - denying the proposed of 2.98% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget and re-allocating the HPS budget surplus into community-led initiatives. The police budget is already far too high, and money desperately needs to be invested into the community, especially given pandemic conditions and the affordable housing crisis as people are being turned away from shelters and sleeping on the streets - only to have their own shelters removed. Where are people supposed to go?? We have the resources to help, and the way the city has treated houseless folks is utterly shameful.

The HPS reports a 14.5% increase in 911 calls involving a person in crisis. People in crisis should not have to resort to police/should not have police called on them and funds should be reallocated towards proper mental health support. Most people killed by police in Canada since 2000 had mental health or substance abuse related issues.

Police reform will not protect community members experiencing mental health distress, address a culture of dismissing sexual assault and missing person inquiries, nor prevent the criminalisation of certain identities and need-based acts. Reform is a failed tactic. Reform tactics such as body cameras have had little to no tangible effect on reducing police brutality.

We need to defund the police NOW.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No