

From: Sasha Katz
Sent: February 9, 2021 2:14 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: HELP

Dear Mayor Fred,

My name is Sasha Katz and I am born and raised and currently reside in Hamilton in the North End. I am reaching out to express my disappointment regarding not only the current HPS budget but their request to increase it even more.

I have nothing personal against police officers and understand their job is tough and that most of them are hard working and care about our community. I also believe it's unfair and illogical that police are responsible to deal with all of our societal issues.

In what civilized world does it make sense for such an exorbitant amount of money be put towards policing and penalizing our community members when those funds could be much better utilized SUPPORTING our community, which would ultimately reduce crime to begin with? Not to mention the disgusting statistics of racial profiling and the police's proven inability to properly handle their interactions with various sectors of the public. Who do the police really keep safe?!

Crime rates in Hamilton, Ontario, and Canada have been declining for the last two decades, with *all* categories of crime rates in Hamilton dropping during COVID-19. Yet, police budgets continue to inflate.

Why do police have more than triple the budget of housing and other social services? The city is paying more for cops to penalize the homeless and disadvantaged than they are to actually help those who are vulnerable. Does this make sense to you??

And now, even with a \$567,000 surplus, they ask for even MORE?

This 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.

I am BEGGING you to vote *against* the proposed of 2.98% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget vote and instead re-allocate these funds back into housing and community-led, harm reduction supports for facing housing, mental health, addiction crises.

I am not comfortable continuing to fund policing in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centres, etc.

If you are unable to offer immediate, meaningful action in response to the demands outlined above, then I ask that you please reflect on who you really are representing and who you are leaving behind.

Sincerely,
Sasha Katz
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