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From: Rebecca Steckle <

Sent: February 10, 2021 7:35 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>

Cc: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

Subject: Vote for Reallocation of Surplus HPS Budget to Housing and Community Supports

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

My name is Rebecca, I live in Hamilton and I am a resident in Ward 2. I am calling on you to vote against the proposed 2.98% increase to the HPS budget, and instead vote for the proposed return of the HPS budget surplus to the City, and its re-allocation into housing and community-led, harm reduction supports for facing housing, mental health, addiction crises.

As your constituent, you represent me. Failure to act upon these proposed demands is a failure to represent a concerned community of your constituents - a community evidenced through these calls. I am not comfortable continuing to fund policing in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centres, etc.

Investing in our communities better addresses the root cause of most criminalized acts, which are often need-based and consequences of poverty. What we really need are robust services that can effectively respond, such as mental health outreach workers, community and housing centres, and accessible educational/prevention programs.

We need to: reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that are offering the services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, mental health centres, and housing. If you are unable to offer immediate, meaningful action in response to the demands outlined above, then I ask that you resign and make way for leadership that is able to do so.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca  
Ward 2