

From: Alix MacLean
Sent: January 31, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Marchand, Pascale <Pascale.Marchand@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Please vote no to a police budget increase

Hello Councillor Hwang,

Congratulations on being elected our new councillor. I'm excited to have another more progressive voice at the council table.

I am writing today to ask you to vote against a Hamilton Police Services budget increase. They are not sufficiently accountable with the money they already have, and at a time of crippling social problems all over our city, including homelessness and addictions and unsafe streets, they should not be able to access any additional budget. Police do not prevent crime and additional police do not make communities safer, especially for racialized and marginalized groups, as has been shown time and time again in this city, and in cities all over the country and all over North America.

There needs to be much stronger accountability mechanisms in place for additional funds for the police. For example, they should be able to show the additional efforts they are making to prevent pedestrian deaths. They should be able to show a reduction in police use of force, etc. These things should be measured and metrics need to be in place to justify additional funding and be transparent to the public. I am hopeful with our new council that carte blanche budget increases will no longer happen.

Thank you,
Alix MacLean