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From: Francesca Morreale

Sent: January 15, 2024 11:04 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written delegation — police budget increase

Hello Clerk & Council,

My name is Francesca and I live downtown near Gore Park.

I care deeply about this city and am constantly disappointed by council's refusal to take steps toward meaningful change when it comes to social service, housing and climate change policies. Choosing to accept the police budget increase request would be yet another let down.

I strongly opposed the police budget increase last year when it was only a 6.71% increase. When a need for affordable housing is at an all-time high, 13.3 million dollars could do a lot to prevent even more people from slipping into the crumbling shelter system or living outside. I've watched numerous delegations of fellow constituents pleading with council to reallocate police budget funds to REAL housing solutions and we've been met with countless excuses and cognitive dissonance. This year I'm still hoping for better. It's time to stop using lack of funds as an excuse for not taking care of the most vulnerable in this city. Declining housing and food security is due to the inaction of governing bodies, and you have the power to do something about it. No more stretching funds for the police service and setting the precedent that police get whatever they ask for from council. The police budget does not quantify our safety.

Sincerely,
Francesca Morreale