

From: Joshua Weresch [REDACTED] >
Sent: January 13, 2025 11:40 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Public delegation on 2025 budget: written submission

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To the city's clerk:

Hope this finds you well.

Below, please find a written submission to the general issues committee about the 2025 budget. I'm submitting this as a public delegation, the deadline for which is 1200 on Friday, January 17, 2025. Please include it as publicly-available correspondence on the committee's agenda of Monday, January 20th.

Thanks very much.

Regards,

Joshua Weresch
[REDACTED]

To the members of the General Issues Committee of Hamilton, Ontario's Council:

Hope this finds you well. I write as a life-long resident in Hamilton, a home-owning taxpayer living here with my wife and 4 children. This is my written submission as a public delegation on the 2025 budget.

The written delegations (Items 6.2a, b, c, and d) constellate around a similar theme, that of rising property taxes and their mis-spending. I cannot add anything new to them, in that regard. Taxes are too high and they are indeed being mis-spent. The reasons, however, for their increase and the ways they're being mis-spent may differ between fellow delegates and me.

The mayor's memorandum of 13 January 2025 is clear: Hamilton Police Services has received a \$17.3m increase to the tax-payers' net tax levy, whereas all other external Boards and Agencies, including the city's Enrichment Fund, have received only \$3.5m. Policing services,

the most expensive item on the municipal tax bill, received quintuple the amount of all other boards, agencies, and the Enrichment Fund. For this reason, alone, I ask that you reject this budget, as Council cannot amend the Policing Services' portion of the budget. Tax-payers simply cannot afford the increasing costs of policing services, nor has policing services ever kept this city safe nor served it well: both safety and compassionate service grow solely from a caring, person-centred politic of mutual aid and trust, not from policing services' surveillance, harassment, and mongering of fear.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards. Again, as the budget cannot be amended in these regards, it must be rejected. I look forward to your considered actions as members of the general issues committee, heeding tax-paying citizens.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch, Ward 8

