

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Police System

From: laura biondo

Sent: June 3, 2020 7:33 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Fw: Police System

Hello there,

I am sure you are just as shocked as I am about the events happening with people of colour. We need to put an end to systemic racism and police brutality. The police system is built upon white supremacy, power and control. We need radical change. Please take a moment to think about the position you are in to help make permanent changes to the law system in Canada. We should be demanding change. We need to get police more education, training, mental health evaluations, moral evaluations, physical evaluations, time off between tragic events on duty to their next shift, held more accountable for their actions and overall revamp the police system. Police are covering for each other and literally get away with murder because "they followed protocols". They are following protocols based off a racist built system. It is and always will be inherently unfair to anyone who is not white. Police will always be protected even if in the moral wrong. The way police treat people of colour, LGBT+, trans, poor, drug addicts, prostitutes, and now people in general is disgusting. Power tripping, righteous, and half the time don't even know most laws. How can we change this?

By demanding a defunding of the police. OR funding the proper things instead of weapons and tactic gear, like education.

We need an infrastructure based on human rights, equality, mental health and helping people.

We do not need fear, intimidation and power tripping.

We need to start holding them accountable. Police need body cameras.

We need to start helping them become calmer instead of getting military like offense training. Mental health training. De-escalation tactics.

Ways and options to handle a situation before pulling a gun or placing their hand on gun.

Rubber bullets should be used only for an active shooter or person with a visible weapon.

We should not be intimidated by them. They should not be able to bully us into being arrested for our opinions.

There should be a clearer understanding of what constitutes a police officer's right to put their hands on you and also take you into custody.

The use of tear gas and gassing people in general should be banned. People have asthma and can die. It is very unnecessary and violent.

The use of police force should be minimized. Placing your hands on someone should only happen if they are under arrest.

Random searches should be banned. Random searches based on random calls should be banned. No knock raids should be banned.

Police should be receiving more training on how to handle situations calmly instead of violently and by intimidating.

They should go through ongoing evaluations and different classes like anger management and therapists. Teachers do this. Professional development, and we are held to it by an association and our bosses.

Pepper spray should only be used if someone is a threat coming towards them. Again, some people have asthma and can die.

We have so many people like ME in the system for police unprofessionalism or lack of education. It backs up the system and makes jails full and clerks stressed.

Racial profiling is real. If they had more moral evaluations done and education on how to treat people, police wouldn't be so biased.

We should have police that run off similar good positive morals. They should be receiving this education in school and on the force. That way, officers go into the force with behaviour management skills, people skills, mental health skills, de-escalation tactics, ways to help instead of arrest, etc. We need police for the people.

ALL PEOPLE.

These are only a few of many things/laws that should change. We need to change the system completely.

We are not innocent until proven guilty. I am a white female in Hamilton. I am a teacher. I was attacked by two people on my way home from work. I ran for my life to my home after defending myself. I called police and was arrested immediately without my side of the story. I then spent 20-30 minutes hyperventilating and panicking as I have high anxiety. I was on the floor in a room in my apartment lobby with two male police officers with the door closed. The two officers were young and just stood there the entire time. They had no idea how to handle my anxiety and stood there above me. I felt so intimidated and voiced multiple times that I was confused and scared. I was arrested, brought to the station, booked and then let go. While I was in police custody, the two officers' broke protocol and was told this by their commanding officer in front of me. This goes to show how uneducated they were. This put my career in jeopardy. This has caused me have extreme stress, anxiety, panic attacks when driving and seeing police and financial strain due to a lawyer. Those police officers were under trained and uneducated. This is unjust and is just the tip of the iceberg, but this is NOTHING compared to what people of colour go through. I couldn't imagine if this is how I was treated, how people of colour and minority groups are treated by police. I see it. You see it. It is time to stand up and use your position to make permanent changes in the law system. Hamilton police are out of control and need to be held accountable. Our system is outdated and broken. We need our human rights back and communities need help. It shouldn't be police VS the people like a warzone. We need drastic change for the better. Any police who do not agree with the new system and laws can leave, and they won't because then they will be seen as negative racists; forcing them to change as well. Now is the time to hold them accountable and to make a change. We need police officers to admit they are wrong and then take more training, not paid leave. I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF POLICE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL LIKE I CAN'T CALL THEM. PLEASE HEAR ME AND HELP. YOU CAN BE PART OF THE CHANGE IN HISTORY.

If there is anything I can do to help. Please let me know.

Thank you for reading,
Laura Biondo



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