

Subject: Defund the Police

From: Emma Battiston

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:48 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Office of the City Clerk,

I am writing to advocate for the issue of Defunding the HPS to be added to the upcoming Council/Committee Agenda

I look to support Chad Collins of the police services board and Ward 5 motion to reduce HPS budget by 20%.

The police have been taking on more and more roles in our community in areas they are not experts in and do not have the appropriate training or education to respond (i.e. welfare checks).

The expense of the HPS dwarfs all other areas of city funding. Areas of mental health, food security, anti-racism, housing, addictions services and other community supports are underfunded and the community is suffering. These are the services which make meaningful and lasting positive changes to the community.

The HPS is currently looking at how to spend it's surplus of roughly \$1.4 millions dollars. This should be reinvested back into community resources and the people. Not to buy more guns, like the \$61,040 suggested for buying Carbine Colt C-8 for frontline use in the community.

When looking at reallocating these finds, it is necessary to speak and consult with the communities most effected by the police present - Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+.

Additionally, I do not support the purchasing of body cameras for the police. This is yet another way for the police to obtain further tax dollars which should be dedicated to community supports mentioned above. Body cameras do not work. We do not need more monitoring or more policing. We need less.

Emma Battiston