

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Defunding / Reallocate Police funds

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Date: 2020-06-12 6:28 PM (GMT-05:00)

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Subject: Defunding / Reallocate Police funds

Dear Hamilton Councillors,

Defunding police services means the public wants THEIR tax dollars reallocated to social service agencies that are better equipped to handle non criminal acts.

The decades of defunding of education, mental health services, public health services, affordable housing has had a direct and indirect impact on the increase in crime.

Society is begging governments to change their practices with regards to what police services should respond to.

Hamiltonians want that change too. We are not unique. We need more investment in strengthening our communities, our neighbourhoods.

Please look to Camden New Jersey a city that had one of the highest crime rates in the U.S. They implemented defunding and introduced a more community based policing model. Crime rates dropped.

Look to CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Out On The Streets), Eugene, Oregon) for what they are doing in creating community/police partnerships.

<https://whitebirdclinic.org/services/cahoots/>

This is a 4minute audio on the CAHOOTS program

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/10/874339977/cahoots-how-social-workers-and-police-share-responsibilities-in-eugene-oregon>

Talk to them on pointers on how it was implemented.

Asking our HPS how a 20% funding reduction would impact them is like asking a child is it okay if I take away some of your candy or toys. You know the answer. Please don't insult the taxpayers.

Work with our social service agencies and ask them what an influx of \$34 M would mean to helping our community. How would they be able to respond to calls that police don't need to attend. Free up the HPS to deal with violent crimes.

As Bob Dylan wrote in 1964 . 1964!!

"The Times They Are A Changin'...

"...come Senators , Congressmen please heed the call. Don't stand in the doorway don't block up the hall...
...the battle outside is ragin. Will soon shake your windows and rattle your walls...your old road is rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one if you can't lend a hand. For the times they are changin."

Folks if you haven't noticed those walls have been rattling and the battle outside IS ragin.

PLEASE heed the call...

The time is now to make a better safer community for ALL!

Doreen Stermann

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