

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Black Lives Matter

**From:** Nasreen Khan

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:29 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Black Lives Matter

Dear **Chair and Members of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee,**

RE: Black Lives Matter

My name is Nasreen Khan and I am a constituent of Ward 13. I have written to the Mayor Eisenberger as well as my city councillor, Arlene VanderBeek but I additionally wanted to connect with you, the Audit, Finance, and Administration Committee.

Every day each of us make decisions. These decisions we make on how we behave and react, on funding one program over another, on how budget will be allocated, have long-lasting impacts on communities. I am contacting you to know, what decisions will the committee be making administratively and financially to protect Black lives and prevent instances of police brutality on individuals from marginalized communities?

I am asking you to recognize that the City of Hamilton, its policies, its practices in hiring, its administration is flawed. The City of Hamilton allows for and propagates racism with its lack of training for its workers, its lack of racial representation in its workforce, in its funding decision-making. Your administration funds police services at a rate of 1.4% higher than education as noted in Hamilton's Guide to Your 2020 Final Property Tax Bill attached. This indicates to me that this administration prioritizes policing of our communities over educating our communities. This needs to change.

I am calling on you to:

- 1) Redirect funding from police to education, to social services, to Black organizations and to programs like the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team.
- 2) Re-focus funding for police training to de-escalation practices.
- 3) Bolster training for city employees on anti-oppressive practices and eradicating anti-black racism.
- 4) Remove police from our schools.

We all need to recognize that our current systems hold racist practices, perspectives and policies. This includes the police. It includes you and me.

Without action, our words mean nothing. We will continue to see unnecessary deaths in Hamilton's marginalized communities like Yosi Al-Hasnawi, Phonesay Chanthachak, and Quinn MacDougall. We will continue to see people of marginalized communities face barriers in their everyday lives whether it is suffering from depression at higher rates, being overlooked for a job, being bullied at school, etc.

I'm asking you to take action to improve the lives and wellbeing of Black Hamiltonians. I'm asking you to see the value of keeping Black Hamiltonians and other marginalized peoples safe.

Yours sincerely,

Nasreen Khan