

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** The Future of Policing in Hamilton: A Response from Councillor Nrinder Nann

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 8:22 AM

To: Nann, Nrinder

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re: The Future of Policing in Hamilton: A Response from Councillor Nrinder Nann

Dear Nrinder:

Thank you for your reply. To date, you're the only councillor who's replied to my letter to all councillors. I've carbon-copied the city clerk so my reply can be included in public correspondence in the 24 June 2020 city council meeting.

I was encouraged to read of your and Councillor Wilson's support for police de-funding in this CBC article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/defund-1.5613169>. I would certainly ask other councillors to join them in de-funding the police and would ask both them and all councillors to go further than de-funding police and join other Black Lives Matter activists and those in solidarity with them to abolish the policing services completely.

Regarding your list of questions you will be asking, I would respond to them by asking whether policing has any future in Hamilton at all and not to presume that there is any future to policing. It seems clear that wellness checks are not to be the province of the policing services and a re-design of community-based services, led by and responsive to the people by whom they are needed, is necessary, funded by the \$171 -million policing budget, in large measure. We can better support residents with mental-health needs by supporting the communities in which they and we live, and not policing them through 'community policing', with addiction needs by completely de-criminalizing all drugs, treating their possession as a public-health and not as a criminal issue, and creating safe-injection sites for safe and sustainable use, and with housing issues by expropriating condominiums that are built and sit empty as well as hotels and other available multi-residential units for public, and not affordable, housing.

The most strategic and sustainable investment that can be made to deliver the outcomes -- life and freedom in love and joy -- that people in Hamilton deserve is the complete abolition of the Hamilton Police Services. I would re-iterate my request of you and of city council as a whole to submit an application to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission to abolish the Hamilton Police Services.

Thank you for your time and your attention in these regards. I look forward to your and council's actions on behalf of all people living in Hamilton.

Kindly,

Joshua Weresch,  
Resident, Ward 8

Jun 15, 2020, 15:30 by Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca:

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> Dear Joshua Weresch,

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> Thank you for writing to the Ward 3 office on this important and serious issue.

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> Questions about the future of policing are echoing across cities and the world. We all have an obligation to examine publicly funded services, the outcomes they achieve, and changes needed.

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> I am aware of the demands laid out on June 2> nd> and appreciate the demonstration of leadership by the community organizers here in Hamilton. These are not bandwagon demands, rather carefully crafted after a deep assessment of the pattern of experiences and realities in Hamilton.

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> As we evaluate the best ways to keep our communities safe, I will be asking the following questions:

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> ·> > What does the future of policing look like?

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> ·> > Are police services the appropriate public services for wellness checks?

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> ·> > How can we redesign and resource community-based services for crisis intervention?

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> ·> > How do we better support residents with mental health, addiction and housing needs?

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> ·> > What is the most strategic and sustainable investment to deliver the outcomes that Hamiltonians need and deserve?

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> I will be taking the demands under advisement as we consider actions to make communities-especially those communities made marginalized, safer. I also remain committed to ensuring our communities are able to give voice to priorities and solutions.

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> Please let us know if you have any further questions.

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> A final note: if you would like your correspondence to be received by Council, and to become part of the official public record, please forward your email to > clerk@hamilton.ca>

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> Yours in community,

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> Councillor Nrinder Nann  
> > She/Her>  
> Ward 3 – City of Hamilton> City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5  
> Phone: (905) 546-4550  
> Email: > Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>  
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