

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stevenson, Kirsten" <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Date: February 27, 2023 at 4:15:06 PM EST
To: "Danko, John-Paul" <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>
Cc: "Kroetsch, Cameron" <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>, "Pauls, Esther" <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>, "Horwath, Andrea" <Andrea.Horwath@hamilton.ca>, Pat Mandy
Subject: RE: Police Services & City Partnerships

Good afternoon Councillor Danko.

Please find below a response from Chief Bergen with regards to your concerns around police services and city partnerships.

Regards,
Kirsten Stevenson
Administrator, Hamilton Police Services Board

Councillor Danko,

I received your correspondence sent to the Hamilton Police Services Board through Chair Pat Mandy with your questions related to what agreements are in place with City of Hamilton and how officers are currently deployed within Hamilton Police Service.

As you are aware, Hamilton Police Service has a close working relationship with our City of Hamilton partners. While there are no formal agreements, arrangements have evolved over time with Hamilton Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) and other City departments to address enforcement concerns across Hamilton. This was recently demonstrated with the creation of the Encampment Coordination Team, which includes city funding for

two police officers to ensure safety during site visits.

This also includes leaving by-law-related enforcement such as noise complaints within the purview of our municipal law enforcement partners. This was a mutual decision between MLE and Hamilton Police since there were challenges fulfilling the policing role with regularity due to staffing issues. Hamilton Police continue to respond to noise calls involving an emergency situation.

Like policing organizations across the country, Hamilton Police have been experiencing pressures and challenges with staffing. In order to maintain adequate service delivery, meet increasing workload demands, address the growing complexity of policing and mitigate an increasing violent crime severity index, we have realigned our resources to allow us to focus on core policing duties and primary response.

To put this into perspective, we have seen a 12 per cent increase in people time missed from work with occupational health injuries, which equates to the loss of 92 members. Last fall, we also experienced 60.7 per cent of patrol shifts running below minimums. Operating below strength compromises both public and officer safety, as well as having a significant impact on our budget relating to overtime costs. Given these pressures, we redeployed officers from all areas of the Service back to the frontline in September 2022.

Please be assured that our Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) works closely with the City to support Vision Zero. TSU is strategically deployed to high-risk areas to provide traffic enforcement based on collision data. Locally, the Crime Manager will manage the initial traffic concern within the division as well as work in collaboration with TSU. Hamilton Police and City Traffic meet regularly to coordinate responses to emerging issues and maximize the use of technology.

We recognize police have become the default service provider within our community. We also know our call volume is increasing, with a 12 per cent jump over the past five years. This is not an anomaly – this is our new normal. Despite an increasing workload, our cost of delivering community safety remains consistent at approximately 18.5 per cent of the City levy. By way of comparison, Sudbury is at 22 per cent, Toronto is at 22.9 per cent, York is at 30 per cent, and Waterloo is 32 per cent, and has just ratified an operating budget of 9.35 per cent. We are also 84 officers below the median in relation to our position on the Violent Crime Severity Index with the number of officers per 100,000 serving the City of Hamilton.

This model is not sustainable. We can no longer do more with less and we must look at ways to return to core function policing so we can deliver adequate service to our community. We are developing strategies that will deliver public safety by finding alternative ways for police and our partners to respond to the many needs within our community. For example, the RIST team is one such model created to divert non-crisis mental health, addiction and homelessness calls by allocating \$1.6 million in community safety grant monies to seven community agencies. Our goal is to move from a relied upon reactive model of policing to a collaborative preventative model so we are where the community needs us to be.

While we deal with increasing demands for calls for service, we continue to look for opportunities to address the current staffing challenges by examining our workload to understand trends, pressures and opportunities.

Be safe. Be well.

Frank Bergen

Chief of Police
Hamilton Police Service
T: 905-546-4700
fbergen@hamiltonpolice.ca

Together. Stronger. Safer.

From: "Danko, John-Paul" <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>
Date: February 23, 2023 at 5:03:09 PM EST
To: "Horwath, Andrea" <Andrea.Horwath@hamilton.ca>, "Kroetsch, Cameron" <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>, "Pauls, Esther" <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>
Cc: "Wojewoda, Nikola" <Nikola.Wojewoda@hamilton.ca>, "Ciriello, Monica" <Monica.Ciriello@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Police Services & City Partnerships

Mayor, Cllr Pauls & Kroetsch,

As we conclude the operating budget I have been noticing a few things with police services that are starting to raise concerns.

The City/MLE has a number of agreements with police – late night noise enforcement (as outlined below), joint parking/moving violation enforcement programs, coordinated roadway safety etc.

There have been several instances recently where I am hearing that Police have formally withdrawn from these agreements or informally seem to be intentionally reducing or withdrawing adequate service levels with a common excuse: “We don’t have enough officers so resources are being re-deployed to frontline operations only.”

I have heard this personally with regards to the Mountain Crime Manager position (officers are needed for front-line work and it is difficult to staff).

Residents have been told this by individual officers – speed enforcement on Mohawk isn’t a priority because officers are needed for front line work.

I think this is also reflected in HPS’ response to encampment support – paid duty officers are not available and if we wanted police support we had to fund two dedicated new positions.

Police are requesting a very significant budget increase, yet there seems to be an intentional reduction in services.

Through the Police Services Board, I think it would be helpful to get a better idea of what agreements are in place (or had been in place) and how officers are currently being deployed.

In particular, I would like to be able to better understand how the dedicated traffic safety officers are deployed and how that is coordinated with City staff to prioritize roadways or intersections with the highest need.

Thank-you,

John-Paul Danko, P. Eng.

Councillor Ward 8

West Central Mountain

Hamilton, Ontario

john-paul.danko@hamilton.ca

905.521.3958

From: Wojewoda, Nikola

<Nikola.Wojewoda@hamilton.ca>

Sent: February 16, 2023 2:45 PM

To: Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>

Subject: CLLR UPDATE re POLICE NOT
ENFORCING LATE NIGHT NOISE COMPLAINTS
unless an emergency

Hi JP – as discussed, information from
Bylaw, on change to Police service.
N

From: CCMLE <ccmle@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 1:11 PM

To: Wojewoda, Nikola
<Nikola.Wojewoda@hamilton.ca>; CCMLE
<ccmle@hamilton.ca>

Subject: RE: Bylaw information re Noise
Complaint from

Hi Nikola,

Our management team have very recently been in contact with HPS in terms of messaging as it relates to the CCC and the non-emergency HPS line for after hours noise calls. Following that meeting, **staff confirmed that HPS do not respond to noise calls.**

HPS only respond to noise calls in the event that they involve a 911 emergency

situation.

Currently, our staff respond to daytime noise complaints and noise complaints on Friday/Saturday evenings (6PM-1AM only).

The COH website and phone queues are being updated to ensure consistent messaging.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Gillian Barkovich

Licensing & By-Law Administrator

Licensing & By-Law Services

(905) 546-2424 Ext. 2348



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