
From: Moe Bsatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Written delegation: The police budget

Board members,

I write this delegation with great concern for the community. I've been a part of Hamilton for over 6 years now and I've seen the tremendous care surrounding this community; that trauma informed care is notably provided by social service organizations rooted in decolonization and abolition, policing runs counter to those social goals.

Angela Davis has spent decades researching & presenting work that shows the prison industrial complex only produces harm especially for Black folks, Indigenous folks and Arab folks. Policing as an institution is deeply flawed & bloating their budget does nothing to address those issues.

The budget of Hamilton is a zero sum game and if our most dire social crisis' are to receive the necessary attention they demand, it needs to come from somewhere. A recent study has shown, confirming years of abolition research, that increasing the police budget has no bearing on crime rate. A healthy community has never been dependent on policing but rather robust social determinants of health (i.e. housing, education, healthcare). Policing has never been recognized as a social determinant of health.

I implore you to freeze the police budget at its current form & take steps in the coming years to reduce the budget.

If you truly care about community safety, invest in areas **proven** to create **positive** health outcomes.

Respectfully,

Mohamad Bsatt

He/him J.D.

“History lies at the core of every conflict. A true and unbiased understanding of the past offers the possibility of peace. The distortion or manipulation of history, in contrast, will only sow disaster”