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Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:29 AM

To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Subject: comments to the board regarding the police budget

Both of my parents are retired police from HPS 30 year careers.

I strongly believe this funding should be for our schools and community centers as it would reduce the need for more police.

Addressing Root Causes of Crime:

Instead of focusing solely on the reactive measures that law enforcement provides, it is more effective to address the root causes of crime. Many crimes are linked to socio-economic factors, and by investing in social programs that target poverty, education, and community development, we can create an environment where crime is less likely to occur.

Community Engagement and Trust:

Increasing the police budget may not necessarily improve community relations. By investing in social programs, before and after school activities, and extracurriculars, communities can be actively engaged in creating a positive environment. This helps build trust between law enforcement and the community, fostering a collaborative approach to crime prevention.

Youth Development and Education:

Allocating funds to before and after school programs, as well as extracurricular activities, provides young people with constructive outlets for their energy and talents. By investing in education and positive youth development, we contribute to the long-term reduction of crime rates as educated and engaged individuals are less likely to turn to criminal activities.

Cost-Effectiveness:

Social programs, education, and community engagement initiatives are often more cost-effective in the long run compared to increasing the police budget. By preventing crime through addressing its underlying causes, we reduce the need

for law enforcement to respond to incidents, ultimately saving resources and taxpayer money.

Holistic Approach to Public Safety:

Public safety is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. A holistic approach involves addressing social inequalities and providing opportunities for individuals to thrive. By diversifying investments in various community-building initiatives, we create a more comprehensive strategy for enhancing public safety beyond the capabilities of law enforcement alone.

Positive Impact on Health and Well-being:

Social programs and community engagement contribute to the overall health and well-being of a community. By investing in mental health services, addiction prevention, and community support, we can address issues at their source and reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior.

Community Empowerment:

Investing in social programs empowers communities to take charge of their own well-being. This not only reduces dependence on law enforcement but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community. Empowered communities are more likely to work together to prevent crime and address social issues collaboratively.

In summary, advocating for the reallocation of funds from the police budget to social programs, education, and community engagement initiatives presents a proactive and holistic approach to addressing the root causes of crime, fostering community trust, and creating a safer and more resilient society in Hamilton, Ontario.

We need a more streamlined and efficient police force, not a larger bloated police force.