
From: Rob Mann [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:08 PM

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

Subject: Thoughts on policy budget

Hey there,

I saw in the Spec that the police are looking for input on the budget increase from city residents, so I thought I'd send a message.

For context, I live in downtown Hamilton, in Ward 2/Beasley. There is a police station near my house, and I'm shocked at how infrequently I ever see police in the area. The only exception to that is how frequently I see police idling in parking lots, or outside of a bakery near my home.

Crime in the city is obviously bad, and the city genuinely feels like it's falling apart at the seams. I can't see how a higher police budget would actual improve things; reading through the reports and statements from Pat Mandy, it doesn't seem clear what the 10% increase is actually for.

I don't argue with the fact that people need to be compensated fairly for their work, or that they need to proper tools to do their job effectively. But a 10% increase is wild given the state of the city's finances, and is very difficult to accept give the total lack of efficacy I've seen living downtown here. Drug use is rampant, the streets are filthy, petty crime is constant, drivers almost strictly break speeding and traffic laws, but nothing seems to be happening to improve any of that.

If the policy board wants to get more money, they need to first show they're capable of doing the basics of what's expected of them in the first place.

Robert Mann