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**From:** Alyssa Stryker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:08 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>  
**Subject:** Comment on the proposed police budget

Dear Members of the Hamilton Police Board,

My name is Alyssa Stryker and I am a homeowner and resident of Hamilton, living in Ward 4. I strongly object to any increase to our police budget. Policing is highly reactive: at best, police arrive at the scene of a crime after someone has already been harmed. The police can do little to prevent crime *before* anyone is harmed. To prevent crime (and to prevent harm) before it happens, we need to be making large investments in ensuring that individuals have the things they need to survive and thrive: housing, supportive mental health services, services that allow individuals to leave abusive relationships safely, and adequate financial resources to eliminate the need for theft.

Hamilton is facing significant financial pressures this budget year, and I would like to see our city's limited resources go to pay for such interventions that actually prevent harm from happening in the first place, such as the ones noted above, and not to increasing our police budget.

Thank you,  
Alyssa Stryker