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From: Bonnie McInnes [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 6:07 PM

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

Subject: Hamilton Police budget

I am writing to express my thoughts regarding the proposed Hamilton Police Services budget for 2024.

I believe the budget should be held at a zero percent increase. I recognize that this represents a cut in funding. However, the police budget already represents the largest component of Hamiltonian's tax bill. Furthermore, police services have until now enjoyed year over year increases, despite the diminishing capacity of Hamilton's citizens to absorb these costs. Meanwhile, many, many other service providers have had to absorb actual cuts in funding. It's time that Hamilton Police services bore their fair share of fiscal restraint. It's been obvious for some time now that police are often not the right service provider to respond citizen's needs. I personally would both be safer, and feel safer, if the funds currently directed to police services were re-directed to needs such as housing and mental health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Bonnie McInnes

Hamilton, ON