

hamiltoninternationalvillage.ca

February 6th, 2024

To: Hamilton Police Services Board C/O: kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca

Re: 2024 Proposed Budget

From: International Village BIA

Dear Members of the Hamilton Police Services Board,

As Executive Director and on behalf of the International Village BIA board of management, located in Division 1/Ward 2 we want to express our feedback regarding the proposed Hamilton Police Services 2024 budget.

It is imperative that more resources be allocated to community policing efforts in Downtown Hamilton and specifically within the boundaries of International Village BIA that include Main St E., King St. E., and King William St. from West Ave. to Mary St. Over the last year especially, the BIA has been challenged with trying to manage the increasing day to day issues that our members are facing.

We have seen a vast incline in instances in our area and our members are struggling to cope with the safety and vandalism problems we are dealing with. The BIA's resources are being stretched to the max. We are continuously hearing from our membership that more beat officers/core patrol are needed.

Several of the businesses have stopped reporting smaller instances into the police as they are not convinced that they will receive the support they need and are not getting the appropriate responses as needed. This is leading to a misguided account of stats for our area and we quite concerned to see this trend happening.

We are very appreciative of the Core Patrol that was introduced in 2023 but we are desperate to see more policing foot patrol in our area on a daily basis to help combat these growing trends. Please consider this when finalizing the 2024 budget.

Sincerely,

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Susie Braithwaite Executive Director, International Village BIA