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Date: Feb.6, 2024

To: Hamilton Police Services Board  
C/O: kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca  
Re: 2024 Proposed Budget  
From: Maja [REDACTED]

Dear Members of the Hamilton Police Services Board,

As a long time small business owner located in the downtown area and current board member of the Internal Village BIA, I would like to express my thoughts regarding the proposed Hamilton Police Services 2024 budget.

The current state of our area is both disturbing and disheartening. As a board member, I regularly hear about the issues my neighbours are facing that cause them great fear, frustration and expense. As a business, I worry about the future of the area if something is not done soon to improve the level of safety and cleanliness. My customers often have unpleasant experiences on the way to my store; whether they see something unsavoury/disturbing (any number of things that have become regular sights at this point) or they get approached by individuals who frighten them, they are regularly expressing feelings of uneasiness and discomfort by having to visit the area to come to my location. As an individual, I completely understand these feelings because I feel the same way and have the same fears and concerns.

One does not need statistics to see that there has been a significant change for the worse in our area. As a BIA board member, a local business owner, and a regular citizen, I implore you to increase police presence in this area in order to address these issues. We are desperate for more beat officers and more frequent police patrols (especially on foot). Please be sure to take this into consideration when allocating funds.

Regards,

*Maja* [REDACTED]

