

February 6, 2024

To: Hamilton Police Board
Re: Proposed 2024 Budget

To Whom it May Concern:

We own a small [REDACTED] business in downtown Hamilton, at [REDACTED]. We've been here for 33 years, and there's been a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] down here since 1961. While we've seen our fair share of ups and downs on King Street, this is by far the worst it's been for our business.

In the past year, we have seen (and definitely not limited to):

- Many people screaming in the streets, and in so many of these cases, we walk customers back to their cars
- Homeless individuals getting high behind our building, and sometimes us calling 911 after they've passed out
- Newly released inmates (self-professed) high on drugs coming into our store and harassing our customers and staff
- All manners of high individuals coming into our business ranting about nothing and everything
- Tent cities (among the many issues above) causing our customers to re-think even coming downtown (which we hear daily)

While I realize a lot of these issues are of a more social nature, and not so much a policing issue, I still believe that having more police in the streets would make them less frequent and make for a safer environment for our customers.

While there was supposed to have been more of a police presence in 2023, we never actually saw more police downtown, nor did I meet any personally in my shop.

These issues are actively hurting our profits; they are slowly killing our business. We're doing everything in our power to re-vamp business and try for other avenues of profit, but it's taking its toll. Soon there will be no business left in the downtown core. We need help. We need support. And we need it sooner than later.

Please consider our urgent request.

Sincerely,

Kristi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]