From: Birdie Gerhl

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:00 AM

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

Subject: Re-examine Increase to HPS 2024 Budget!

Dear Kirsten,

I'm writing to you because I want to urge the Hamilton Police Board to reexamine the proposed \$16 million increase to the HPS budget for 2024. I believe that the Board should reject *all* increases to the HPS budget so that Hamilton can invest in better social supports. By investing in things like housing and healthcare instead, we can better address the root causes of the problems in our communities, and prevent future violence and harm. I strongly believe that reducing the already bloated HPS budget is a vital part of building a different Hamilton together.

Thank you,

Birdie Gerhl