
From: Jo Savoie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:48 PM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Support for the 2024 Police Budget

good afternoon Kirsten

Can you please forward this letter of support for the 2024 police budget to the board. Thank you.

Madame Chair Mandy et al.

First and foremost, thank you to you and the board for your administrative governance over the service. I have been following closely the circus of having a clown sitting on the board who only motions or second items if it is against the service and the extra work required to meet his unrealistic demands. I wonder why the Mayor would allow this appointment in the first place, knowing his defunding leftist views on policing only serve as a disruption to an otherwise functioning board. I appreciate the months that went into the budget preparation and the scrutiny it underwent before the presentation. I am confident that any savings that could have been found were identified before the final submission.

Although there have been some updates from the initial figures presented to the Council, I understand that the newest figures of \$16 million or 8.41% represent an actual increase of approximately \$42 or .9% of the City of Hamilton's proposed tax levy increase of \$381. As a City of Hamilton taxpayer, I fully support the police increase. The \$242 or 5.1% increase for the Provincial Impact and Legislated Services is what should be reviewed along with the \$382 million for Social Services, \$276 million for Transportation, \$239 million for Transit, or the \$216 million to cover the Administration for the City, but I digress.

Historically, or at least for the past six years, the police tax levy has been 18%, with the highest in 2018 at 18.8%. I have lived through the years when Chief Robertson and Chief Mullan's budgets were approved without even a blink, to clashes with Chief DeCaire, Councillor Whitehead and Chair Ferguson and their refusal to accept even a 2-3% increase, sending the budget back only to be eventually approved. At the end of the

day, the Chief is in charge of operations and what is required to provide the services expected from taxpayers. Vice Bennink stated, "People want a secure community and public safety," and I agree.

I have reviewed the budget and appreciate the time and effort spent managing each area and the laser-focused scrutiny any increase request went through. If a cost savings must be found to appease Mr. Kroetsch, he should bring forth where he thinks it should come from. I see no heavy lifting on his behalf, just smug, condescending remarks. As someone who sits on the subcommittee, he, more than anyone, should have the best understanding of this budget. He went through the process last year and had one full year to identify where there was room for improvement. Why bring up this motion other than to score points with the fringe minority?

Although I support the police budget as is, I would be remiss if I did not offer a suggestion. After reviewing the 2024 budget proposal, I suggest revisiting the EDI unit's over a quarter million dollar increase. It is the only unit that does not impact the delivery of service. It is a "nice to have," but with such a lean operating budget, it appears nice to have is frowned upon.

Dr. Jo-Ann Savoie, DBA
Ward 9