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**From:** Meredith Park [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 6:33 PM

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

**Subject:** Police budget increase

Hello there,

My name is Meredith Park and I am a 9-year resident of Hamilton. I live in Durand neighbourhood, and have worked at various small businesses and nonprofits in the past. I am vehemently opposed to increasing the HPS' budget, and I want to see this proposal thrown out.

I see so many causes and active programs in our city that would benefit from increased funding, and believe that my tax dollars and our city's money would be much better invested in our own community. Unfortunately, I see no evidence that a bloated and overindulged police budget leads to increased safety or decreased crime and harm. How many people could have been fed or housed with the money that went into cops playing GI Joe with paramilitary tank trucks out of a 5-year-old's imagination, or smashing up the city centre in "training exercises" for nonexistent threats? I think the HPS could benefit from the same deal as the rest of our public institutions, which means getting creative with a tight budget. If that's what the city seems 'good enough' for our housing, food security, shelter systems, education sectors and more, why should the HPS be exempt? Not to mention the surplus that's been reported in recent years. If the cops can't even spend the millions upon millions they already receive, why on earth are they demanding MORE? Our city deserves quality public services, and for people to be paid fairly to provide those services. Money for policing is proven bad for communities. Give that surplus to the rest of the city and see how much we can thrive.

Thank you.

Meredith Park  
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