

**Subject:** Hamilton Police Services Budget

Hello Kirsten,

As a concerned citizen living in ward 2, I am writing to urge the Hamilton Police Board to reconsider the proposed police budget and to, specifically, deny the requested funding increase. The Hamilton Police Service budget has increased beyond the rate of inflation every year for many years without any recognizable increase in the quality of service provided. In some cases, we've even seen instances where members of the HPS have acted unprofessionally or criminally while carrying out their work. Meanwhile, our city is facing a homelessness crisis, with many people going unhoused simply because of a lack of adequate housing and shelter infrastructure, as well as a lack of community supports for those living in tough situations. Addressing these issues is not only the moral thing to do, it will also address some of the root causes of crime in a way that increased policing simply cannot.

I know a better Hamilton for all is possible. I've lived here for nearly 13 years and I am proud to call Hamilton my home. In order to make our city the best it can be, we need to make these tough decisions. I urge the board to deny HPS the budget increase and to put this money towards community supports, shelter infrastructure, and housing.

Thank you,

Michael Ranieri