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From: Ron Vine [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:29 PM

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

Cc: Ronald Vine [REDACTED]

Subject: Police survey

February 7, 2024

My name is Ron Vine.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I'd like to see lower taxes overall, and I believe we need to reevaluate how much we are spending on bike paths, some of the bandaid expenditures to deal with the unhoused (ie, the way we are spending huge amounts on hotels when we could have worked towards better use of the money refitting closed schools for temporary housing) and other areas that are presently having huge increases in Ms. Horwath's budget.

If my eyes were wide shut I'd suggest cutting the increase to the Police budget. But they are not wide shut.

(1). An era of 1 percent tax increases has made both salaries and budgets subject to surges at times like this. Going forward we should set a sustainable 2% increase annually in both salaries and operating costs for all civic services, so that long term budgets can keep us from shocks like the present one.

(2). Having chosen to live in Ward 3 and watch the growth and changes these past 25 years, I'm disheartened by proposals to ghettoize the inner city. Allowing 3 and 4 Plex housing, allowing housing in garages and alleyways, intensifying this area with cheaper housing rather quality multi unit buildings were further divide this city into rich and poor areas, making the job of policing more difficult, and scarier. I'm saying this is all related. We are on the path of becoming Cleveland of the 1970's, and that is scary. I'm now retired. I'm worried that with housing intensification in my area, we will become more unsafe and require more policing. To me, this is all related, and it should be considered altogether.

(3). Many jobs have more stresses built in today than there were twenty, or even ten years ago. Policing is stressful. There has been a trend to time clocking jobs and trying to justify staffing levels based on this scenario. I suggest Police need downtime during their shifts. In the highest periods of need, they need to be in optimal readiness. Cutting costs one, or two or more jobs just to lower the budget is unfair to the health of our officers, and the health of our cities.

(4). We knew that technology, gangs and gun violence was going to become a bigger problem, but we never took the serious moves to counter this. We set up policing groups for all of these issues. But we tried to do it at the lowest cost available. So I'd like to state clearly

IN HINDSIGHT WE KNEW...BUT I'M SUGGESTING, EVEN DEMANDING THAT IN FORESIGHT WE FULLY FUND THE POLICE IN 2024. THEIR BUDGET WAS NOT BROUGHT FORWARD WITHOUT A LOT OF THOUGHT, KNOWING THAT PEOPLE WANTED THEM TO BE AS COST CONSCIENCE AS THEY COULD.

I ASK CITY COUNCIL TO CUT IN OTHER AREAS, BUT TO APPROVE THIS

POLICE REQUEST. LET'S NOT ASK 10, OR EVEN 5 YEARS FROM NOW,
HOW DID WE EVER LET IT GET THIS WAY!

I'm retired. I'm Gay. I'm Jewish. I'm part of so many subgroups where I
need to protect myself from both opportunism and hate that I need a
strong Police presence to feel safe. I am not alone.

Thank you for allowing me to take part in this Policing Survey.

Once again, I'm wanting foresight, not hindsight.

Ron Vine

Hamilton