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**From:** Sarah Van Berkel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:17 AM  
**To:** Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>  
**Cc:** Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Reject increase to HPS Budget

Dear Kirsten Stevenson & Members of the Police Board,

I am contacting you today to express my hope that the board will **reject all increases to the HPS Budget**. The current budget is already too big of a percentage of our tax dollars that should be spent on housing and social programs. Many people are struggling in our city and paying more taxes in order to criminalize these struggles is not it.

You cannot ignore the voices of the millions of marginalized and oppressed people across this country who are screaming out, and have been for decades, that the current system of policing is FAILING. Black People, Indigenous People, members of the 2SLGTBQIA+ community, Survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence, members of the disabled community, people who struggle with mental illness, people who suffer with addiction. We will not let their voices go unheard and we will continue to demand better.

Regards,  
Sarah Van Berkel

