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From: Scott Balinson [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:33 PM

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

Subject: Hamilton Police Service 2024 Budget

Kristen Stevenson: I have resided in Hamilton for sixty years. (My entire life) I have lived rurally, in the inner city, and in two different houses I have lived at in the urban suburbs.

I attended post secondary school and then worked in the city for 37 years and still work part time in the inner city.

The Hamilton Police Service has been under-resourced for my entire adult tax paying life. They are so understaffed that it is not an understatement to say that staffing is a crisis. There has been a chronic lack of strategic planning for facilities management and equipment acquisitions.

I am fully aware of Hamilton's economic challenges and social services needs. The reality is that our city has chosen to fund so many unnecessary infrastructure changes - the conversion of one way streets to two way streets being one of the most flagrant examples while under-supporting community safety and security. Crime and quality of life issues are managed by a properly resourced police service in partnership with the community and a range of other essential services and agencies the city flourishes economically and the tax base increases.

My expectation is not only they the police services board support this budget increase but that the board strategically plan to grow the staffing in the Hamilton police service. The number of officers per 100,000 citizens has declined steadily in Ontario and Hamilton. With a projected continued growth in the population of the city to 750,000 by 2050 the hiring increases needed to start years ago but now must start immediately and be much larger. Hiring for attrition is not acceptable. Respectfully. Scott Balinson.