
From: Laura So [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:42 PM
To: Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Possible police budget increase opposition

hello,

My name is Laura Sorbara, my phone number [REDACTED] and I am a ward 1 resident. My address [REDACTED] I know my city councillor, Maureen Wilson, opposes the proposed increase to the Hamilton Police, which pleases me greatly. I have lived in Hamilton my whole life and I believe a better, safer Hamilton is possible.

I would like to write to you today to **oppose** the proposed 16 million dollar increase.

It's been proven time and time again that an increase in police spending does not keep our neighbourhoods safe. I think this money would be better spent on social initiatives like affordable housing, subsidized daycare, warming centres, cooling centres, literally anything in the societal goods realm. PLEASE do not give the HPS, who already have a surplus, another 16 million dollars. We don't need police horses or brass bands, we need to help people now. In my ward I believe there are at least 3 community fridges. It's clear people need help, but more policing isn't the answer. A lot of folks I know are afraid to call the police, given the current political climate, and their refusal to wear body cams or have dash cams. It's egregious to consider spending literal millions on more policing when we have an opioid crisis, a housing crisis, and healthcare is in shambles.

Please consider that housing, food security, etc. truly prevent crime, NOT more police. Another Hamilton is possible— let's set a precedent.

Thank you so much for your time.

Laura Sorbara