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**From:** Simon Peng [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:05 PM

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

**Subject:** Written delegation on 2024 Police Budget

Hi!

My name is Simon Peng, I'm a resident of Ward 3 in Hamilton.

I'm writing to submit a brief delegation with thoughts on the police budget for 2024.

To be concise, I think the fact that the Hamilton police costs 16 percent of the average property tax bill is ludicrous. The idea that the police is the largest single item in the city's budget is preposterous. This needs to change. An increase in the budget is movement in the wrong direction.

The city of Hamilton has a lot of clear problems that are closely tied to lack of funding. This increase to an already gargantuan budget item is a negligent use of our tax dollars - that's clear without even going into the questionable efficacy of having police deal with everything that is mandated of them.

We're living through a housing crisis and the city has declared a climate emergency. There is an epidemic of substance abuse and our infrastructure is crumbling. I cannot think of a less appropriate use of \$20 million, let alone the entire bloated budget the police already had in 2023.

As a citizen of Hamilton I'd much rather see funding diverted from the police and into social services that supports our community rather than victimizing people. Spend that'd entire increase hiring social workers to actually help people in crisis, or maybe just literally use it to buy homes for people. That amount of money could save people's lives - do you really believe this is the best use for it? That can't be true.

I really hope that these delegations don't fall on deaf ears. Our messed up system needs reform. These decisions make an immense impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and the impacts are felt most by the most vulnerable.

Please don't approve the increased budget. Let's work on improving how we work as a city rather than doubling down on a system that has clearly not made things any better.

Thank you for your time! Have a lovely day! ❤️

All the best,  
Simon Peng

