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**From:** Wendy Newman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:31 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>  
**Cc:** Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>  
**Subject:** Police Service Budget - Submission

Dear Ms Stevenson,

As a longtime resident of the City, living in Ward 1, I am writing in support of greater scrutiny of the Police Service budget.

To begin, I would like to make it clear that I am NOT a supporter of "defund the police" advocates. I believe that the police do a difficult job in a complex environment. However, I am not willing to be told that my fellow residents and I would somehow be considerably less safe if all the funds requested by the police service are not approved. This is both demonstrably erroneous and deeply insulting.

Our police service simply cannot be exempt from the severe pressures on public dollars in our current environment. It is time for the Police Board to be more conspicuously diligent in its consideration of the entire budget, and for our City Council to mirror that diligence. I see no evidence of any serious reconsideration of the necessity of a million-dollar mounted unit, for example, amid the harsh reality of our homelessness crisis. (In ten years, what would \$10,000,000 contribute to this terrible situation?) This, and other public relations expenditures, should be one clear priority within an overall budget review.

Both the Police Board and City Council owe the residents of this city their authentic best efforts. I acknowledge that this is very hard work indeed, but it is indeed the work that lies before you.

I have copied my Councillor for her information.

Wendy Newman