

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Reject budget increase for 2024
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:17:26 PM

Adeola Egbeyemi

[REDACTED]

Good evening,

I was heartened to hear that the HPS' 2024 budget was sent back to the board for further review.

As the city faces an 8% tax increase, a significantly steep increase when compared to other municipalities such as Ottawa's 3.5% increase, I agree with sentiments from members of the police Board and City Council that constituents are owed speculation into excessive and misallocated funds by their representatives.

As such, I'd like to ask the Hamilton Police Board to re-examine the proposed increase to the HPS budget for 2024. In fact, it would be my desire, based on years of community experience and research, to see the police board reject this and all further increases to the HPS budget.

I live a short distance from Whitehern. If one knows where I'm going just by mere mention of this location, then I hope one would also consider how much less policing the area would need if those people were housed. Before I continue: statements that use unhoused people's social and physical needs as suggestion that housing would not be enough to keep them secure should do well to look into the [federal government's Housing First](#) policy. It posits, based off extensive community and social research, that stable housing provides a platform to deliver services to address issues frequently faced among the chronically and episodically homeless.

HPS budgets are allocated mostly to paying salaries. I digress into housing as one example of an issue in Hamilton that staffing more police will not fix, thus maintain that their the budget need not an increase.

I hope that in the future we see municipal budgets that aim to fix problems well under the jurisdiction of the municipality, like building housing, which in turn - as we all know - diminish the need for policing further and further. I also hope that the City understands that any lens of getting feedback from a "vocal minority" is incorrect. Rather, the City is privileged to hear time and time again from concerned constituents with both academic aptitude on the outcomes on policing, lived experiences and hope for a safer Hamilton - challenging dated notions of the concept of "safety."

I thank the City of Hamilton for this opportunity and efforts put into garnering feedback from the public. Again, I wish for the budget increase of the HPS to be rejected and - a chance for everyone to rest post-budget time!

Sincerely,
Adeola