

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#); [Ward 1 Office](#)
Subject: Proposed Police Budget Increase
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:36:37 PM

Dear Kirsten & Councillor Wilson,

I am writing to you to express my opinion that the Hamilton Police Service's budget should not be increased in the upcoming municipal budget. I have been a resident of Ward 1 for almost seven years and during that time I have come to appreciate many parts of this city. The parks and trails in the west end are a particular favourite of mine.

That said, I have also seen an increase in encampments and homeless folks as rents and house prices have soared beyond all reasonable levels in a largely working-class and student city like Hamilton. The City should address this crisis not through increased enforcement and surveillance, like the recently created encampment protocol. The money that would be going to the police should instead be invested in new houses or apartments for homeless Hamiltonians. The principle here being that homeless folks should be met with help and resources, not force, which is what the police are there for.

Ideally, the police budget would be reduced so that the armed force of the police is no longer the single largest part of the taxes that I pay to the City. However, if a decrease is not possible, then at the very least the budget increase proposed by the HPS should be rejected by council. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eric MacPherson
[REDACTED]