



THE HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

February 14, 2024

City Clerks Office
Attn: Acting City Clerk Janet Pilon
City Hall, City of Hamilton
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Hamilton, ON

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SUBJECT: 2024 Hamilton Police Budget

On January 30, 2024, at the City's General Issues Committee (GIC) Budget meeting, a motion was approved to refer the proposed 2024 Hamilton Police Service (HPS) budget back to the Board requesting further review and consideration. Upon review of this request, the Board advises as follows:

The Board approved the proposed 2024 HPS operating and capital budget at its December 14, 2023 meeting (see PSB 23-109). Chief Bergen presented this budget to the City's GIC meeting on January 22, 2024.

The proposed 2024 operating budget is \$206.92M, which represents an increase of 6.88% or \$13.32M over the 2023 operating budget. In addition to the operating budget, the proposed 2024 budget also reflects Ontario *Police Services Act (PSA) Section 4(3)* items, a request of \$6.51M, for which the municipality has the legislative responsibility to fund these mandatory capital costs.

The HPS 2024 Budget process began in the early stages of 2023 with the Chief and Deputy Chiefs working with management to assess organizational priorities, meet the collective agreement obligations and support the Board's Strategic Plan, and satisfy policing standards as mandated under the *PSA* and proposed *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)*.

The Board takes its governance role, including the oversight of the Police budget, very seriously. Section 31(1)(b) of the *PSA* states that a board is responsible for the provision of adequate and effective police services in the municipality and shall generally determine, after consultation with the chief of police, objectives and priorities with respect to police services in the municipality. Notwithstanding this important governance role, section 31 (4) of the Act is clear that the board shall not direct the chief of police with respect to specific operational decisions or with respect to the day-to-day operation of the police service. It is in the context of this statutory framework that the Board and the Chief of Police work collaboratively to establish a fiscally responsible budget estimate.

Members of the Board held a [Special Meeting](#) on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. After a careful examination of the budget, the Board stands behind its recommendation for a 2024 operating budget increase of 6.88% or \$13.32M, for a total operating budget of \$206.92M as presented by Chief Bergen at the City's GIC meeting on January 22, 2024. The budget as it relates to 2024 *PSA* Section 4(3) items also remains unchanged. The Board is confident that the proposed 2024 budget is required to meet the statutory obligations outlined in the *PSA* for delivering adequate and effective policing in the City of Hamilton.

As you know, the budget process is outlined in section 39 of the *PSA*. Upon reviewing the budget estimates, the municipal council shall establish the overall budget and council is not bound to adopt the estimates submitted by the Board [see section 39(3)]. However, if the board is not satisfied that the budget established for it by council is sufficient to maintain an adequate number of police officers or other employees of the police service or to provide the police service with adequate equipment and facilities, the board may request that the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (O.C.P.C) determine the question after a hearing [see section 39(5)].

The Board is committed to the maintenance of public safety through the delivery of the highest quality of policing services while maintaining financial stability and accountability.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Mandy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Pat Mandy
Chair of the Hamilton Police Services Board

Board Members: Chair Pat Mandy, Vice Chair Bennink, Members Geordie Elms, Andrea Horwath, Cameron Kroetsch, Anjali Menezes and Esther Pauls

Administrative Team: Administrative Director Kirsten Stevenson and Board Assistant Lucia Romano

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