
Police budget

From Sean O [REDACTED]
Date Fri 11/29/2024 4:42 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

My opinion on police budget, as a Hamiltonian of 43 years.

I have seen Hamilton change before my eyes over the last two years. Rampant theft, crime, drug use, drug deals, and more. I could spend days talking about all the things I've seen, and all the stories I've heard. My vote is for increased police budget. The safety of Hamiltonians and the safety of police is on the line, and we all deserve a police service that is well equipped, and supported, to do the best of their ability, and have the support for the trauma and stress they have to deal with, and especially due to increasing crime in this city. I feel we are at a point where they are under appreciated, and under funded, while they have peak pressure due to the state of the city. I believe we need an optimal budget for optimal police service, safety, and continued growth and expansion of the existing amazing mobile crisis response teams that are well equipped for dealing with rising mental health issues and addiction in our streets. An adequately supported police service is paramount for the safety, well being, and economy of Hamilton.

Sincerely, Sean OGorman

Police budget

From tom murray [REDACTED]

Date Fri 11/29/2024 6:21 PM

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

As a long time Hamilton resident I fully support our police budget we must restore our service where they can do their jobs properly and don't let the anti police groups diminish our service any more I pay taxes for the essential services that's where our money should go

Police Budget

From Don Sephton [REDACTED]
Date Sat 11/30/2024 2:09 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am hopeful that the city will carefully scrutinize this budget instead of just rubber-stamping it as it seems they so often have done. I'm sure that like many other areas there are some savings to be found and the police may have to give a little like so many others do.

The horses seem to me to be a big waste of resources and as far as I can tell, they are not popular with the rank and file officers.

Don Sephton
[REDACTED]

Support for Increased Budget for Hamilton Police

From M Y-R [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/1/2024 1:09 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Office of the Mayor [REDACTED]

To whom this may concern,

My name is Matthew Ross , and I am writing to express my strong support for increasing the budget for the Hamilton Police Service. As a property owner in [REDACTED] and a long-time resident of the [REDACTED] Hamilton area, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by the Hamilton Police due to limited funding. It is deeply concerning to see their critical work hindered by financial constraints, especially when compared to regions like Halton, which enjoy significantly larger budgets despite facing fewer challenges.

Hamilton is a city on the rise, with significant investments like the \$200 million arena redevelopment project and world-class athletes such as Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, one of the highest-paid athletes globally, earning \$1 million per game. As we attract such investments and talent, we must also address the grassroots challenges in our community, including safety, homelessness, and mental health. These foundational issues affect the city's future prosperity and require urgent attention.

I've spoken to many residents in areas like Waterdown and Flamborough, and 99% of them have not visited Jackson Square in decades. Why? The common sentiment is that they feel unsafe due to the lack of protection and police presence. This is unacceptable for a city with Hamilton's potential. With proper funding for the police, we can clean up the streets, ensure safety, and create a welcoming environment for all residents and visitors.

I want to make it clear that I have no interest in fame or recognition. As a visible minority, I simply want to see Hamilton thrive. In my experience, Hamilton Police officers have consistently treated me with fairness, dignity, and professionalism far more than officers in other regions. While no institution is perfect and there may be isolated bad actors, Chief Bergen and his team have done an outstanding job serving our community, often with limited resources.

The challenges Hamilton Police face are immense:

Language barriers in a multicultural city.

Mental health crises and drug overdoses.

Increasing violent crimes, including shootings.

Despite these challenges, Chief Bergen and his officers have consistently risen to the occasion, dismantling gangs and protecting our community. But imagine what they could accomplish with adequate funding.

This year, I personally witnessed a shooting at Jackson Square, which was a deeply unsettling experience. I also had a break-and-enter incident at my property in [REDACTED] and the responding officers informed me they couldn't take further action due to a lack of resources—there were only two patrolling officers for all of Waterdown. That same night, there was a murder on the same highway. It's clear that increased police presence could prevent such tragedies.

I urge the city to prioritize funding for the Hamilton Police, not just for enforcement but for community involvement programs that address the root causes of crime and mental health issues. Investments in the parks, streets, and community spaces are equally important. Let's set an example for the next generation and show them what a safe, united, and prosperous Hamilton can look like.

Hamilton is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, and our diversity is a strength. However, we must support our police force with the resources needed to address the unique challenges that come with such diversity. I firmly believe that the choices we make now will shape the future of our city.

Lastly, I hope to see the groundbreaking police station on Highway 6 next year. This project represents progress, but progress is only sustainable when the community feels safe and supported. I can confidently say that I, along with dozens of other property owners in my area, fully support increased funding for the Hamilton Police. Please give them the resources they need to do their job effectively.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter. I urge the mayor and city council to recognize the vital role of the Hamilton Police and provide them with the budget they deserve.

Kind regards,
Matthew Ross

[REDACTED]

Hamilton Police Services - Budget Consultation

From Mike Heenan [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/1/2024 8:43 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Chief Bergen [REDACTED]; Barbara Beaudoin [REDACTED]; Elizabeth Buller [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (213 KB)

SJHH Letter_HPS Budget Consultations_December 2 2024_Final PDF.pdf;

Ms. Stevenson,

Please see the attached. Thank you for allowing us to comment on the valued and impactful partnership we have with Hamilton Police Services

-Mike

Mike Heenan, PhD, MBA

President, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Assistant Professor (Part-Time), Department of Medicine, McMaster University

My working hours and your working hours may be different. Please do not feel the need to reply outside of your normal working hours.

December 2, 2024

Ms. Kirsten Stevenson
Administrative Director
Hamilton Police Services Board
155 King William Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1A7

Re: Hamilton Police Service Board Seeking Public Opinions on Proposed 2025 Police Budget

Ms. Stevenson,

On behalf of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH), I am pleased to provide a letter of support for the Hamilton Police Services Board regarding their 2025 budget submission.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is Ontario's 2nd largest mental health and addictions program, and the only tertiary care site in Ontario that is attached to an acute care emergency room. Our ability to deliver high quality care to some of Hamilton's most vulnerable residents is a direct result of the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) being our partner within the City of Hamilton. Programs such as the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) and Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) are a true partnership where nurses, social workers, and police respond collaboratively to those suffering with an acute mental illness presentation. Police allow both a secure environment and a safe response so mental health workers may aid the wellbeing of those calling for help. These programs are critical in also facilitating the resident in need receiving the right type of hospital or community resources necessary.

In 2024, the HPS and SJHH implemented a unique program whereby officers who bring a person in need to SJHH under the mental health act, can transfer custody of the patient to a designated officer within our Emergency Room (ER). This transfer of custody allows the officers to return to the community faster to then focus on other police duties versus staying in our ER for hours on end. To date this pilot project has resulted in over 1,000 hours of officer time saved. It is our hope that this program can be funded long term as it brings great dignity to those in a mental health crisis, while returning officers to the community faster.

While I cannot attest to the complexities of policing and municipality budgets, thank you for allowing us to comment on the vital programs the HPS budget supports. We sincerely hope the resources needed to continue HPS's role in programs such as COAST, MCRRT and the current ER offload program can be supported. I would be pleased to answer any questions the Board may have.

Sincerely,



Michael Heenan, PhD
President

C: Chief Frank Bergen, HPS
Barbara Beaudoin, Board Chair, SJHH
Elizabeth Buller, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Health System

Charlton Campus
50 Charlton Ave, East
Hamilton, ON, Canada L8N 4A6
Tel: 905.522.1155

King Campus
2757 King Street East
Hamilton, ON, Canada L8G 5E4
Tel: 905.522.1155

West 5th Campus
100 West 5th Street
Hamilton, ON, Canada L8N 3K7
Tel: 905.522.1155

Re: Hamilton Police Services - Budget Consultation

From Elizabeth Buller [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/1/2024 11:30 AM
To Mike Heenan [REDACTED] Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Chief Bergen [REDACTED] Barbara Beaudoin [REDACTED]

Excellent letter. Lb

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mike Heenan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 8:43:22 AM
To: kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca <kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Chief Bergen [REDACTED] Barbara Beaudoin [REDACTED] Elizabeth Buller [REDACTED]
Subject: Hamilton Police Services - Budget Consultation

Ms. Stevenson,

Please see the attached. Thank you for allowing us to comment on the valued and impactful partnership we have with Hamilton Police Services

-Mike

Mike Heenan, PhD, MBA

President, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton


Assistant Professor (Part-Time), Department of Medicine, McMaster University

My working hours and your working hours may be different. Please do not feel the need to reply outside of your normal working hours.

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Letter of Support for Increased Budget

From Ammar Balika [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/2/2024 1:01 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>


 1 attachment (92 KB)
HPS Board - Letter of Support.pdf;

Greetings Kirsten,

Per the previous media release from November 28, 2024, please find attached a letter of support for the proposed budget increase for Hamilton Police.




Thank you.




Best Regards,









AMMAR BALIKA
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
[he | him]

[REDACTED]









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To: Hamilton Police Service Board

Attention: Kirsten Stevenson

My name is Ammar Balika and I am the Director of Sales and Business Development for Carmens Group; a hospitality company that owns and operates nine different brands in and around the Hamilton region. Our largest venue, the Hamilton Convention Centre, is located right in the heart of downtown Hamilton at 1 Summers Lane with our corporate head office located just around the corner at 1 King St. West.

As part of the work I do with our team at the Hamilton Convention Centre, we are often competing for local, provincial, national, and international events to bring to our wonderful city including conferences, conventions, meetings, seminars, trade shows, consumer shows, and special events like the JUNOs, Grey Cup, Canadian Comedy Hall of Fame, and the Canadian Country Music Awards.

In the past we've been very successful in competing for such events against other world class Canadian cities like Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Windsor, and Niagara Falls. We've had great success in the 11 years we've been operating the Hamilton Convention Centre in helping secure large events that come with a massive economic impact to the City of Hamilton as well as a level of prestige and recognition that is associated with hosting these events. The economic impact can range from hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions of dollars per event, impacting a variety of businesses in Hamilton ranging from hotels and restaurants to shopping centres, entertainment venues, and our city's parks facilities.

Over the past five years in particular we've had significantly more difficulty in securing these types of events. Furthermore, we have received lots of feedback from events that we have hosted indicating that they have opted not to return to Hamilton. Not because they didn't like our prices, our offerings, or services, but rather the main issue often cited is that of safety concerns for their delegates that travel from across the country to attend these events.

The two biggest complaints we often hear from clients have to do with the homeless and opioid epidemic issues. Acknowledging that these are difficult problems for many cities and often require nuanced and tailored solutions, it is universally perceived by groups from outside the city that Hamilton's problem is far worse than any of the aforementioned cities we often compete against.

For these reasons, we have actually lost many large events and pieces of business as clients simply do not feel safe in Hamilton, particularly in the downtown core. Examples include the Private Motor Coach's Association, Asset Management Association of Canada, Canadian Renewable Energy Association, and Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada. All having cited safety and security concerns as the main factor for not returning. This doesn't include all the events that won't even give



Hamilton a chance based on the reputation and experience that other groups and associations have shared with them.

Recognizing that this is a multi-faceted issue and that a solution cannot be implemented overnight without careful consideration and input from all stakeholders, I wanted to provide a letter of support for the proposed 5.7% increase in budget for Hamilton Police as the first step in helping resolve this issue. I, like many in the downtown core, have hopes that this additional budget can be allocated towards downtown safety and security as we believe this would help Hamilton start to break away from the current outside perception others have of the city, allowing Hamilton to restore its image as a great place to work, live, and do business.

We are hopeful that with more of a police presence in the downtown core and tougher enforcement on safety in public spaces that Hamilton not only has the ability to break the current perception, but become a Canadian leader and example to other cities on how this issue can be effectively dealt with.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Ammar Balika

Ammar Balika

*Director of Sales and Business Development,
Carmens Group*

Community members opinion - 2025 HPS Budget

From edawin [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/2/2024 8:23 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Cluckie, Marnie <Marnie.Cluckie@hamilton.ca>

Carmen Orlandis - [REDACTED]

The present pilot Core Patrol program is making a huge difference and it has "brought back a sense of safety and security" to the area that the officers patrol. We want the same for ourselves.

<https://www.chch.com/chch-news/a-sense-of-safety-downtown-business-owners-in-hamilton-praise-increased-police-presence/>

We request that this program be immediately expanded a few blocks, to the East [REDACTED] and to the South, [REDACTED]

Mayor Horwath and Councillor Nann are fully aware of the stressors that the past 4 years of City Hall policies have created in our low income neighborhood. Our taxes are going up brutally at the same time that more stressors are added to the area I live in.

Our HPS community liaison pointed out to me that it will be more effective (results/cost) to bring back the Action Unit (Bicycle officers) and he explained the logistics. I robustly support this proven safety & security remedy.

Proposed increase to police budget

From Jen Garfield [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/2/2024 4:52 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Hi Ms Stevenson,
I am writing to express my disagreement with the proposed 5.7% increase to the Hamilton Police budget this year.
I believe that money would be better spent on other community support services.

Thank you for seeking community input!
Have a great day.

Police Budget 2025

From jodi campovari [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/2/2024 6:20 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc jodi campovari [REDACTED]

I agree with the tax hike of such an essential service such as policing wonder if it's enough!

Policing is vital with the changes in this city and the challenges for the police is trending upward not down.

Wondering why the fire department budget isn't published or scrutinized??

Yours, Jodi

Police Budget

From Julie V [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 10:55 AM

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

Good day Kirsten.

I support cost-shaving initiatives led by board members Cameron Kroetsch and Anjali Menezes, such as removing about \$914,000 for the mounted unit and delaying a \$500,000 parking lot job - that would trim the budget by roughly \$5 million

Kind regards,
Julie

increase in police budget

From Lee Lambert [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 9:22 AM

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

Yes, by all means please give all they ask for. As you know, our communities have gotten a lot worse with violence and will continue to do so [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are going to need them tremendously if you are going to curb the violence. I have needed them in the past and they were here so fast and did their job so diligently and politely. When you have to rely on them as I did, you learn pretty fast to appreciate all they do. I'm tired of my taxes going to things like "better bike lanes" and drug addicts. Please be generous and give them what they need.

Lee Lambert
Hamilton

Re: increase in police budget

From Acissej Dria [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/2/2024 2:01 PM
To Lee Lambert [REDACTED]
Cc Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

I agree with this sentiment Kristen,

New information from a Lakehead study has concluded that violent crime (other than homicide) and crimes such as break and enter and car theft are higher per 100000 in Canada than the US. Given I would love to know what this police increase equates to in property taxes though.

Kind Regards,
Jessica Aird

On Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 9:21 AM Lee Lambert [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes, by all means please give all they ask for. As you know, our communities have gotten a lot worse with violence and will continue to do so [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are going to need them tremendously if you are going to curb the violence. I have needed them in the past and they were here so fast and did their job so diligently and politely. When you have to rely on them as I did, you learn pretty fast to appreciate all they do. I'm tired of my taxes going to things like "better bike lanes" and drug addicts. Please be generous and give them what they need.

Lee Lambert
Hamilton

Just an opinion

From pat proietti [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 7:50 PM

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

As a resident of the downtown core I would like it if you could maybe put some money aside to protect the people who live where the drugs and homeless have taken over and are making peoples lives miserable.

As a lifetime citizen of Hamilton I am appalled at the fact that people are sitting on steps of a building on West Ave or Victoria Street and smoking Meth or shooting up and while this is going on children from St. Patricks school and First Place Seniors Apartments are too scared to walk down the street in the middle of the day. I understand that it is a mental health issue but it is also illegal. If I get caught speeding I get a ticket, or hit someone I get charged with assault. Why are these people not being charged with the crime they are committing?? We want our streets back!!! We want to walk our pets and have our children enjoy the parks that were built for them. Please, Please, Please....help us out!!!

Pat Proietti

Police budget

From PATRICIA MUIR [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 12:32 PM

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

First I should tell you the address in the Spectator for you is wrong. I am retired and my taxes are already too high. With a 5.7% increase to the police budget my taxes will go even higher. I assume that this is just a formality to give the impression that the public actually has a say in this matter. If this is going to happen then I want more bang for my tax payer buck. I want to see more police presence on the streets, in particular regarding traffic and the ongoing problem of motorists running red and yellow lights, not stopping at stop signs, driving well over the posted speed limits on city streets and driving through pedestrian crosswalks while people are crossing regardless if they have activated the lights at a crosswalk. I have also seen police not stopping at stop signs and not coming to a stop before they turn right on a red light. If this is the example the police are setting it is no wonder that the roads have become a free for all for motorists. There is no police presence. I have been passed 7 times on the Old Ancaster Rd between Dundas and Ancaster. It is a narrow, twisty, two lane road with a posted speed limit of 40km. I have been honked at, had lights flashed at me, yelled at with profanities because I have stopped at a stop sign. This has happened to me so many times on the streets of Hamilton that I have lost count. If the police want a 5.7% increase then I want more service to address these issues, otherwise I do not support this request. I am fully aware that this is a done deal and any input is just a formality.

Patricia Muir

Police Budget “ NOT SUSTAINABLE “ !!!! Same in HAMILTON!!!!!!!!!!

From peter morgan [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 8:55 AM

To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca <clerk@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Pigott, Mary Louise <MaryLouise.Pigott@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; johnpauldanko@hamilton.ca <johnpauldanko@hamilton.ca>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/council-rejects-peel-police-budget-update-1.7396241>

Politicians:

NOT SUSTAINABLE- exactly- Chief Bergeron..... Peel Police Budget speaks VOLUMES to Hard Working Hamilton TAX PAYERS!!!!!! Police are the LARGEST piece of OUR \$\$\$\$\$\$ Property Tax Pie- SO NOOOOOO!!!!!!

They said NO in PEEL Region to the Police Budget- NO-the Sky IS NOT Falling- NO NO NO MORE GREED for the Hamilton Police Chief!!!!!! Only TEAM the Chief is on is his GREEDY EGO ONE!!!!!! How much did we pay The Hulk for his PR show- few million????????

FULL STOP!!!!!!!!!! NO MORE OF OUR \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Millions for Hamilton Police period!!!!!!

Remember those words..... NOT SUSTAINABLE- NOT SUSTAINABLE for Hard Working Hamiltonians- or build more food banks, and homeless shelters, because more of us are coming there soon, if YOU ALL DO NOT STOP being so GREEDY with our money!!!!!!!!!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Police Budget " NOT SUSTAINABLE " !!!! Same in HAMILTON!!!!!!!!!!

From peter morgan [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/2/2024 8:55 AM

To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca <clerk@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Pigott, Mary Louise <MaryLouise.Pigott@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; johnpauldanko@hamilton.ca <johnpauldanko@hamilton.ca>

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

police budget

From pj [REDACTED]
Date Tue 12/3/2024 3:34 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

to kirsten.stevenson

Do not cut any services increase police budget. We are all facing crime never seen before. Also prod judges and jp's to stop bail like it's candy
phil james and cindy james

RE: Hamilton Police Budget

From Hwang, Tammy [REDACTED]
Date Tue 12/3/2024 4:47 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Hi Kirsten.

Seems a bit hard to make any opinions without seeing the draft budget so this process seems bit backwards to me. But going off previous year's budget, I'd like to make the following comments:

1. Overtime - seems to be a larger item in all divisions and departments. Is there a way to rejig HR to either hire more officers or affect operations to reduce the amount of overtime and that line item?
2. Field Support - also seems to be a large number – I know that there are assets in our fleet that we rarely use but cost a lot of money, is there a way to do a value for money audit on field support / operations to reduce this line item?
3. Mounted Unit – as much as I love the horses and the mounted unit, we may think about retiring the horses and invest in bike or e-bikes as they are cheaper to maintain and faster to deploy
4. Suspension with Pay – Is there an evaluation process for those that are in this category? Maybe there is a cap where the person who has been suspended over a set amount of time that they have a reduced pay when on suspension longer?
5. Question: What are the other costs associated with the body cams? I heard from other municipalities that they had an unidentified additional cost that they had to have IT support to enable that several FTEs needed to be hired so someone could go through body cam footage to scrub, keep, delete (for privacy) and that needed to be turned around in 21 days. Is that a cost to this new budget because of the body cam investment?

Thank you.

Tammy

--

Tammy Hwang (She/Her)
City Councillor - Ward 4

[REDACTED]

 Sign-up for the Ward 4 Newsletter [HERE](#)
 www.ward4hamont.ca

Police Budget

From Jennifer Holmes-Dziuba [REDACTED]
Date Wed 12/4/2024 6:56 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Please ensure that the new budget allows for appropriate growth and development of the community teams to which Hamilton Police Services members belong, especially the team that visits and services the homeless encampments across the city. A significant increase in the number of officers assigned to this specific duty is absolutely necessary.

Jennifer Dziuba
[REDACTED]

Comment on the 2025 Budget

From Andrew Bell 

Date Thu 12/5/2024 4:53 PM

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

 1 attachment (25 KB)

Comments on the 2025 HPS budget.docx;

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

A letter setting out my comments on the 2025 Hamilton Police Service Board and Hamilton Police Service budgets is attached.

I would be grateful if you would include my letter in the agenda for the December 17, 2025 Board meeting and on the Board website.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,
Andrew Bell

December 5, 2024

Hamilton Police Service Board
c/o Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director
155 King William Street
Hamilton, ON
L8R 1A7

Re: Comments relating to the 2025 budgets of the Hamilton Police Service Board and the Hamilton Police Service

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for inviting members of the community to comment on the proposed budgets for the Hamilton Police Service and the Hamilton Police Service Board.

The Need to Increase Funding to the Hamilton Police Service Board

The Board requires an increase in funding to meet its statutory obligation to provide the people of Hamilton with adequate and effective policing. The funding should provide the Board with the means to do the following:

1. Retain an independent expert to determine why racialized groups are disproportionately subject to the use of force by members of the Hamilton Police Service.

This issue has been known to exist for years but the Hamilton Police Service is unable to offer an explanation. The implementation of a body-worn camera programme provides an opportunity to investigate these incidents thoroughly. An independent expert could review body-worn camera recordings and interview the police involved and the citizens affected and suggest solutions to this vexing problem.

2. Retain its own legal counsel

The Honourable John Morden in his *Independent Civilian Review Into Matters relating to the G20 Summit* recommended that *The Board should have its own counsel whose legal services are not available to either the Toronto Police Service [or] the City of Toronto*. The validity of his reasons extends to the Hamilton Police Service Board. The lawyer from whom the Board currently seeks advice is Ms. Lynda A. Bordeleau. She is General Counsel to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of

Police and she acted on behalf of the Hamilton Police Service in the disciplinary hearing relating to Const. Brian Wren. She cannot be legal counsel to the governing body, the Board, while having the governed body, the Hamilton Police Service, as her client.

3. Retain its own financial expert

Paying for policing services is the greatest expense borne by the taxpayers of Hamilton. No Board member has the expertise to assess the budget of an organization as large and as complex as the Hamilton Police Service. The Board needs its own expert to assist the Board in evaluating the requests of the police for funding. It is incapable of making a valid critical examination of funding requests on its own. The Chief and those under his supervision cannot provide an unbiased assessment.

4. Retain an auditor

The Board should not rely on the police to determine the value of particular units or operations to the community. Independent auditing is essential to doing so. An expert capable of investigating and determining the contribution, if any, made to adequate and effective policing through the units, programmes or operations of the Hamilton Police Service should be sought out by the Board and retained. The Mounted Unit is a prime candidate for a value-for-money review.

The Ability of the Public to Comment on the 2025 Budget

In a press release, the Board has requested comments from the public regarding the 2025 budget which will be presented to the Board at its meeting on December 17, 2024. However, there is a deadline for submitting those comments: "Community members may submit their opinions to the attention of Kirsten Stevenson at kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca up until 5 PM on Monday, December 9, 2024." The 2025 budget will be made public on the following day, December 10, 2024, when the agenda for the meeting is posted. In other words, the budget on which the Board is soliciting opinions from the public will be made available to the public only after the time to provide opinions to the Board has passed. It is impossible for the public to make an informed comment about the budget without being able to access it. The bad faith and contempt inherent in this approach could not be more apparent.

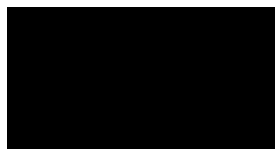
In any case, an informed observer of the Board would conclude that the acceptance by the Board of the 2025 budget is a *fait accompli*. Earlier this year, the opinions of citizens regarding the 2024 Hamilton Police Service budget were ignored as were the efforts of Board Members Menezes and Kroetsch to reduce costs. The statement in the press release, "*The Budget Committee strongly considers this increase is necessary to comply with the Act.*", puts a false legal gloss on its efforts. The requirements of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* can be met in a wide range of ways. Budget Committee member Robertson has said that the decision of the Budget Committee regarding the budget was unanimous and the mayor has thanked the Budget Committee for its efforts. Most importantly, based on his comments to CBC Hamilton, the proposed budget has the full support of the Chief. Opinions from members of the public will change nothing.

If the Board were serious about consultation with the public, it would make available the budget for the current year, set out the actual expenditures, give the public time to absorb, analyse and respond to that information, invite written submissions and delegations and then form a Budget Committee to give full weight to those opinions and create a budget which reflects them.

That will never happen.

Yours truly,

Andrew Bell



Hamilton Police Service Board seeking public opinions on proposed 2025 Police Budget - Councillor John-Paul Danko

From Andrew Waller [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 4:58 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Ward 8 Office [REDACTED] Suad Abukamla [REDACTED]

In my view, the city will not benefit from more policing. Money put into housing and public services will likely have a better, and certainly a more just impact on the so-called sources of crime.

I'm also troubled that it took such an effort to wrestle the budget down to a number that matches overall revenue growth, which I understand is projected to be 5.78 percent. That should be the starting point, and efficiencies found from there to further reduce the spend.

<https://ward8hamilton.ca/hamilton-police-service-board-seeking-public-opinions-on-proposed-2025-police-budget/>

Regards,
Andrew Waller

Policing in Ward 7

From Brian Michalicka [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 1:06 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Hi Kirsten...I am fully supportive of our Hamilton-Wentworth police force yet understand their frustration in not being able to act on behalf of the citizens by removing the homeless people in our city parks. These parks provide a wonderful experience for many families throughout the year and it is a shame that the creative experience of Hamilton cannot find a better solution.

I know that this is a difficult decision since we are dealing with people's rights, addictions and poverty and the limited funding from the city, province and federal government.

However, may I respectfully suggest that you consider the following?

Have you considered the safety issues?

- Toileting outside tents. Potential for disease for them and us.
- Pets that are not leashed, not vaccinated and are aggressive.
- Addiction issues- doing drugs in public areas-leaving spent needles, pills, etc. that a child may pick up.

Would it be possible for the police force to remove the homeless based on public drug taking? A person's rights are forfeited when these laws are broken.

How does the current solution ensure the rights and safety of the law-abiding and tax paying citizens?

I have been told we spend \$100 million a year cleaning up these camps. Why can't this funding be used to upgrade vacant city buildings and allow a warmer and hopefully safer environment?

It is known that Toronto puts their homeless in taxis and even buses with a one-way ticket and sends them to Hamilton. In Toronto the homeless are sent to designated hotels which are now primarily used as homeless residences. I wonder if it would be possible to secure funding from the Federal government since they created this problem and their disastrous immigration and housing policies.

Thank you for your consideration. Please make the right decision for everyone concerned.

Concerned citizen.

Police Budget

From Chris Abbott [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 2:13 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Chris Abbott
[REDACTED]

November 29, 2024

Police Board Chair Geordie Elms
Hamilton Police Services Board
Hamilton, Ontario

Attn: Kirsten Stevenson

Dear Chair Elms

I am writing to express strong support for the budget of the Hamilton Police Service. As a concerned citizen and taxpayer, I believe that investing in our police service is essential for maintaining public safety, preventing crime and ensuring the well-being of our community.

The investments in policing and all that the personnel of the Hamilton Police Service contribute to our community align with my values and priorities as a citizen.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to advocate for a larger budget for the Hamilton Police Service. As our community continues to grow and evolve, our police service must be equipped to address emerging challenges and complexities. A larger police budget would enable to police service to:

- Enhance community policing initiatives such as enhanced foot patrol in our core thereby enhancing stronger relationships between officers and the public, as well as improving safety in the core.
- Invest in cutting-edge technology, improving response time and investigative capabilities
- Provide additional training and resources for officers ensuring they are equipped to handle complex situations and prioritize de-escalation techniques
- Expand support services for victims of crime, vulnerable populations, and individuals struggling with mental health issues
- Additional front line officers and command staff will ensure police presence in areas of concern

A review of the budgets for comparable police services in Ontario reveal that they are generally significantly larger than the Hamilton Police Service's budget. Furthermore, any of these services are proposing substantial increases for 2025 outpacing those proposed for the Hamilton Police Service's budget. Notably, these services are not facing the level of complex and challenging issues that the Hamilton Police Service's budget is addressing, including homeless person encampments, rising gun violence, drug crisis and mental health concerns. Given these factors, it is reasonable to consider a more substantial investment in the Hamilton Police Service to ensure they have the necessary resources to effectively address the unique challenges facing our community.

I believe that a larger budget would have a direct impact on public safety, community trust, and overall quality of life in our city. I urge the board to consider allocating additional resources to support the Hamilton Police Service and their mandate.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and your commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Chris Abbott

Police Budget

From Gord Baker [REDACTED]

Date Thu 12/5/2024 7:13 PM

To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; letters@thespec.com <letters@thespec.com>

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

ALL

After last year's Outrageous 20 Million\$ increase there should be NO INCREASE this year and actually a Reduction is in order re the Police Budget.

The Mounted Unit should have been ridden off into the Sunset years ago as I and others have requested previously.

These budgets are Compounded yearly. UNSUSTAINABLE.

There should also be NO funds given to Halton Conservation after the Wasteland Mess made at what Was Flamborough Centre Memorial Park. Unfit for anything now but Mosquitoes and Invasive Phragmites.


No known need to tear down the existing Carlisle Water Tower. It is invaluable Backup in case of Drought etc.

Does no one consider these items???

Regards
G. Baker

Proposed 2025 Police Budget

From Joseph S. Mancinelli [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 2:19 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

 1 attachment (555 KB)
Scan_12052024111105.pdf;

Hello Kirsten,

Attached please find correspondence on my personal behalf with respect to the Proposed 2025 Police Budget.

Thanks and best,
Joseph Mancinelli
[REDACTED]

Joseph S. Mancinelli

December 5, 2024

Ms. Kirsten Stevenson
Administrative Director
Hamilton Police Services
155 King William Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1A7
E: Kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

I write as a life-long Hamiltonian. I am proud of our great city and have been working my entire career to advance its profile, its infrastructure and the quality of life for its citizens.

Moreover, I have been a resident of Hamilton Mountain for over 55 years, living at two separate locations on [REDACTED]. Until recently I found Hamilton to be a safe, affordable and diverse city in which to live and raise a family. In fact, four of my five children continue to reside on Hamilton Mountain and have also chosen to raise their families here. Unfortunately, the last few years have truly impacted life in Hamilton. Crime has escalated, mental health is on the rise and homelessness is out of control, not only in the downtown core, but now also on the Mountain. These are factors that need to be addressed promptly and properly and Hamilton Police Services must lead the way, together with mental health agencies and our politicians.

It is imperative that Hamilton Police Services be granted the 5.7% increase that they are seeking in their 2025 budget. While the funds may appear to be significant, they are being well spent and are needed to keep the city safe. If this increase is not granted, I fear that we will continue to spiral out of control to the point that tax paying citizens leave the GHA for safer parts.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views. Our Police Services, under Chief Frank Bergen, have to be applauded for the work they are doing in unprecedented times, and we must continue to assist them as they move forward in policing Greater Hamilton.

Sincerely,




Joseph S. Mancinelli

[REDACTED]



Correspondence pertaining to the Proposed 2025 PSB Budget

From Lucy Faiella [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 2:07 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

 1 attachment (1,017 KB)
Scan_12052024111114.pdf;

Sent on behalf of Joseph S. Mancinelli

Attached please find correspondence pertaining to the Hamilton Police Services Proposed 2025 Budget.

Thank you,

--

Lucy Faiella | [REDACTED]



LiUNA!

CENTRAL & EASTERN CANADA REGIONAL OFFICE
170 Jackson Street East • Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 1L4
Phone: (905) 522-7177 • Fax: (905) 522-9310 • www.liuna.ca

BRENT BOOKER
General President

December 4, 2024

MICHAEL F. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

Ms. Kirsten Stevenson
Administrative Director
Hamilton Police Services
155 King William Street
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7
E: Kirsten.stevenson@hamilton.ca

Vice Presidents:

TERRENCE M. HEALY
*Special Assistant to the
General President*

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

I am writing on behalf of LiUNA, the Labourers' International Union of North America and our close to 6,000 members in the Greater Hamilton Area. We are supportive of the Hamilton Police Services and are both proud and appreciative of the great work that Chief Frank Bergen and his team do day-in and day-out to ensure the safety of Hamilton's citizens.

JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI
Canadian Director

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

The last few years have brought an increase of homelessness, gangs and crimes to our city, especially to the downtown core. Hamilton Police Services continues to provide effective policing to keep our community safe; however, their resources are finite, and the need for an increased budget is essential to assist with the escalating number of issues being faced in the downtown core and throughout the city.

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

OSCAR DE LA TORRE

SERGIO RASCON

ROBERT F. ABBOTT

SAMUEL STATEN, JR.

MICHAEL E. HELLSTROM

DAVID A. FRYE

It is truly unfortunate the 'defund the police' position was ever given flight. Well-funded, effective, police departments are the only way to ensure safe communities, prevent crime, help victims and their families, maintain order, enforce laws, respond to emergencies and work closely with the community to ensure that those in need are helped.

ERNESTO J. ORDONEZ

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.

STEPHEN E. FARNER

We have seen Hamilton Police Services champion many causes and over the years become increasingly more sensitive to the diverse, multiracial and multicultural character of our community, including respect for the First Nations communities.

PAUL V. HOGROGIAN

To think that the City of Hamilton would be able to effectively deal with all the matters that Police Services addresses 24 hours a day, without the Police Services is just incomprehensible.

HEADQUARTERS:

905 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC
20006-1765
202-737-8320
Fax: 202-737-2754
www.liuna.org

.../2

Feel the Power

Ms. Kirsten Stevenson
Administrative Director
Hamilton Police Services
December 4, 2024
...2

In addition, we firmly support the Hamilton Police Services request for an increase of 5.7% in their operating budget because we realize that there are many areas in Hamilton's policing system that are lacking and other areas that need to be bolstered in order to continue to ensure safe communities.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to voice our opinion. Communities cannot function without Police Services that are operating at full staff and with all necessary needed equipment and technologies.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Mancinelli
International Vice President,
Canadian Director,
Central & Eastern Canada
Regional Manager and
President, LIUNA Local 837

cc: Riccardo Persi, Business Manager, LiUNA Local 837

Police budget increase

From Meredith Park [REDACTED]

Date Thu 12/5/2024 11:26 AM

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

Hello,

I'm a Hamiltonian and resident of [REDACTED] writing to vociferously demand that the city shut down Hamilton Police Service's completely inappropriate demand for more money. Each year we see more clearly how a lack of investment in housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and transportation options cause greater inequity in our city and leave many people marginalized or fragilely housed and fed. I am so fed up with the HPS demanding higher budgets when it's already the highest funded service in the city, and in recent years can't even spend all the money it's hoarded already.

You want me and my tax dollars to fund more play-pretend for Hamilton Police to drive their useless tanks through the wreckage of the old City Centre and empty King George School when so many of my neighbours have lost their housing in this year, with no end in sight to predatory landlords and ballooning rent and food prices?

This increased budget demand is an insult to Hamiltonians everywhere, but frankly I don't expect anything else from a police force so useless, incompetent and cruel as to murder its own residents and attempt to cover things up haphazardly. Erixon Kabera might still be with us, and his young sons still have their father, were it not for the overarming and overconfidence of the Hamilton Police. I'd like to see if the HPS could come up with a fraction of the ingenuity and creativity in problem solving that, say, the Hamilton Public Library regularly displays and with a similar budget. Let's see that.

I appreciate your opening for comment on this subject. I love my city and want to see every resident in it thrive. Greater surveillance and arming of the police are a direct threat and opposition to human flourishing.

Thank you,

Meredith Park

Hamilton Police Budget

From Sam Mercanti [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 9:59 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Myself and my team are in support of the police budget and especially the budget for downtown Hamilton.


Thank you!

Sam Mercanti
President
MMI
[REDACTED]

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2025 HPS Budget - International Village BIA

From Susie Braithwaite [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 12:46 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Fbergen [REDACTED]; RAbbott [REDACTED] Herb Wodehouse

 1 attachment (63 KB)
2025 HPS Budget Letter.docx;

Please see attached.

Thank you,

Susie Braithwaite (she/her)
Executive Director
International Village BIA
[REDACTED]



hamiltoninternationalvillage.ca

To: Chief Bergen and the Hamilton Police Services Board
Cc: Kirsten Stevenson
Re: Proposed 2025 Police Budget

Chief Bergen and the Hamilton Police Services Board;

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that an increase to more policing in downtown Hamilton be a main focus in the 2025 HPS budget. We would also like to see permanent funding for the core patrol and that the number of officers be increased to 8 (as a minimum). We ask that HPS be sufficiently funded to enable stronger police presence at all times (weekends and after hours cannot be omitted) and faster response times in the downtown core.

We'd also like to see more concentrated policing in the area from Bay St to West Ave on King St, King William St and Main St. and that at least one beat officer (more are needed to provide coverage over longer hours) be dedicated to King St. from Bay to West Ave so that the businesses have a direct police contact on a full time basis similar to what we had in previous years with our beat officer Kevin. He was dedicated to getting to know the businesses by name and worked with them to ensure safety for their staff and owners on a daily basis. This was an effective program that our businesses still ask for today, years later.

Community policing has never been more important in downtown for the business community. As I have been quite vocal about this past year, our businesses are struggling to manage the safety and cleanliness issues that have been placed right on their doorsteps.

The BIA has been overwhelmed by the daily challenges our members are dealing with and our resources drained. BIA staff are struggling to keep up with the pressures of this new reality and need support from HPS to cope with the ongoing daily safety issues in our area. Our BIA has hired paid duties for events and important shopping days over Christmas so to ensure safety for visitors to our area given the current social challenges downtown, but the BIA does not have the resources to hire enough paid duty officers to compensate for lack of police presence. We need more supports on a daily basis and for special events and an increase to the 2025 budget would help with our requests.

I urge the Hamilton Police Services and city council to expand and increase financial resources for policing in downtown Hamilton for the 2025 budget. The business community needs all the support we can get during these difficult times from HPS, and to work more collaboratively and effectively together in future years for the sake of our downtown business community.

Sincerely,

195 Main St, East, Suite 100 Hamilton, ON L8N 1H2

info@hamiltoninternationalvillage.ca • (905) 522-1778

f @internationalvillage.bia t @HamIntVillage i @internationalvillagebia



hamiltoninternationalvillage.ca

Susie Braithwaite - Executive Director, International Village BIA

195 Main St, East, Suite 100 Hamilton, ON L8N 1H2

info@hamiltoninternationalvillage.ca • (905) 522-1778

[f @internationalvillage.bia](https://www.facebook.com/internationalvillage.bia) [t @HamIntVillage](https://twitter.com/HamIntVillage) [i @internationalvillagebia](https://www.instagram.com/internationalvillagebia)

Police feedback

From Wilma [REDACTED]
Date Thu 12/5/2024 8:43 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

The police services are always asking for a bigger budget at the expense of taxpayers. Perhaps a non police service persons should do an internal review during the coming year

Wilma vdw
Sent from my iPhone

Budget

From Barry Smith [REDACTED]


Date Fri 12/6/2024 11:53 AM

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

As a senior with no company pension, we have problems keeping up with tax increases. The Hamilton Police Budget must be scrutinized for savings. One of the very large costs is the Million Dollar price to have a horse patrol. Get rid of the horses. I have seen the officers riding around our neighbourhood waving and smiling to people. What a wonderful job being paid around \$100,000 a year to play cowboy! Could someone explain to me how many arrests or crimes prevented by an officer on horseback. None worth a million of taxpayer money. Sorry, but horses must be removed from the extravagant Police Budget! Barry Smith

Police Budget Support 2025.docx

From Dennis Concordia [REDACTED]
Date Fri 12/6/2024 1:13 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

 1 attachment (71 KB)
Police Budget Support 2025.docx;

Good afternoon, I did send an email earlier today but thought I would make my thoughts a little more formal in a letter format.

Regards

Dennis Concordia
Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Concordia", is written to the right of the redacted area.

Dec. 6, 2024

To: Hamilton Police Service Board
Attention: Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director
Dear Ms. Stevenson:

I am a life long Hamilton resident living on the Hamilton Mountain.
While I am semi retired, I do have business interests and social occasions to go downtown.
I am writing in support of the 2025 Police Budget Request.

Enveloped in the quality of life we hope to have in our community, safety and security is at the top of my families concern just after good health!

I know the leadership team led by the Chief have given the necessary due diligence on what they think they need to provide our community with the required resources.

Policing is needed everywhere but in particular as we battle the circumstances downtown, I understand why additional resources are necessary.

A safe and secure downtown not only helps downtown living, it helps the whole city as the heart of our community.

No doubt it is a difficult process keeping municipal financial restraints in mind.

Please let me know if you need further opinion or input to show support.

Regards


Dennis Concordia
Founder



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Concordia".

Hamilton Police Service Board - Letter of Support

From Burns, Jennifer [REDACTED]
on behalf of [REDACTED]
Frapporti, Louis [REDACTED]
Date Fri 12/6/2024 9:55 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Burns, Jennifer [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (85 KB)
2024-12-06 Frapporti letter of support - Hamilton Police(65487521.1).pdf;

Attached please find correspondence from Lou Frapporti in connection with the above-noted matter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jennifer Burns
Assistant to Louis Frapporti and Kevin Kolumbus



Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP
One Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Z5
Canada

gowlingwlg.com

Gowling WLG | 1,400+ legal professionals | 19 offices worldwide

Louis A. Frapporti



To: Hamilton Police Service Board
Attention: Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

I am a lawyer at GowlingWLG who has acted for a broad range of businesses and organizations, including the City of Hamilton, in a variety of capacities over many years. I have also invested in the City of Hamilton in my personal capacity. I began my career in downtown Hamilton almost 30 years ago, having been hired as a young lawyer to assist in opening the Gowling WLG office in the city in 1995. More recently, I managed the office from our current location at One Main Street West expanding it considerably. As a passionate champion of our city, I have worked with city leaders and our two post secondary institutions for many years to promote our community across Ontario and to solicit foreign direct investment from Europe, Asia and other markets, evangelizing Hamilton as a great place to live, work and play. However, this has become increasingly difficult owing to the state of the City.

During my leadership tenure (2016 – 2020), as a consequence of the deterioration in the core, and the declining safety of my people, I worked to move our office to McMaster Innovation Park. COVID intervened and prevented that from happening and we continue to find ourselves working in an environment at One Main that often precludes my clients from attending our office and makes our people feel unsafe. This is a refrain and concern I hear from many business leaders in the core.

Professionally, I now help lead the Commons initiative for the Hamilton Urban Precinct Entertainment Group, working in collaboration with the Oak View Group and a broad range of community leaders, including Hamilton Police Services, promoting the regeneration of our downtown. Our efforts seek to promote greater prosperity and well being in a variety of ways; much of it aligned with and supportive of our not-for-profit sector in their community work. However, our efforts to retain those currently doing business in the core and to recruit new retail, service and hospitality investments, has been enormously hampered by the state of the downtown.

The first and most fundamental commitment government makes to its citizens is their safety and security. This is the foundation of civil society and a pre-requisite to any other activity, including the support of the marginalized. It is particularly critical to the securing of investment and the promotion of development and commercial activity in the core which in turn directly impacts our commercial tax base and the ability of our business sector, through heightened tax revenue and corporate philanthropy, to support those requiring assistance. It is also the case that our most marginalized are often the most victimized by crime and violence. In sum, ensuring the safety and security of everyone in our community is fundamental to our future. And while this entails resources and supports that extent beyond policing, it is our police officers who are our 'first responders' and our last line of defence.

I am very appreciative of the work of the men and women of Hamilton Police Services; work that is routinely difficult and hazardous. Were it up to me I would wish to see a greater budget increase than that presented, but in the circumstances feel the request to be prudent and appropriate in light of the significant and diverse demands made of our city's taxpayers.

I strongly encourage you to pass this budget thereby assisting our business community in making the investments necessary to regenerate our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis A. Frapporti'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louis A. Frapporti

Policing in Our Community

From Paul Parente [REDACTED]

Date Fri 12/6/2024 11:44 AM

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

Kirsten

I agree that the police budget should be supported, and in fact increased if more funds are required. A safe community is a priority, a necessity. We truly have no community if we are not safe. But a safe community should be incentivized by City Council, and at this time, this is not the case.

A safe community starts with common sense that is lacking by the City Council. Some Councillors feel it is fine to use our parks and city streets to house drug addicts and the mentally ill. This is idiotic! It makes no sense as many of these people need help and/or should be institutionalized yet our Council feels that enabling more drug use and free space near children and families is more humane than getting them help. This is a wrong-headed approach by the Council and results in more crime which leads to an emergency of ultimately needing increased policing. The public does not want this on our streets yet are forced to pay for it through increased taxes, and of course this increase to the police budget to correct the problems Council helped create. The City Council needs to understand that while they pursue a policy of forcing all population growth into a concentrated area, more crime is on the horizon as those neighbourhoods get ghettoized.

As such, with there being no end to the increase in crime on our streets as Council feeds the problem, more policing will be required. But let us not tax the people for the problem, rather let the city begin to prioritize tax money they already received, and begin to cut expenses in other areas to pay for the increased police services. The City needs to start operating like a household, and live within its means, and cease endless spending on needless projects thus tapping out the public through excessive taxation. Sooner or later, you run out of other people's money.

The Climate/Environment department is a perfect example of where the City should start to cut: First of all, it is debatable if the climate is changing in a manner that is a

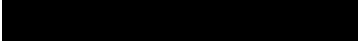
clear and imminent danger to humanity. The fact is, crime is a clear and imminent danger to humanity. Yet the City hired a city council candidate that lost in the last municipal election, as the head of this Climate department at a salary approximately double that of a City Council. Additionally, I understand that the department has a \$2M budget and is continuously hiring when the fact is, there are already Federal and Provincial environmental controls in place. This is truly unfair to the taxpayers that did not elect this person, and unaffordable as working families struggle to make ends meet. And adopting City policies where all city activity must be viewed through a climate lense is unintelligent, a waste of tax dollars, and is ultimately fraudulent. It is simply a manner in which the City has the right to impose an Emergency where they can then dictate laws against citizens by using taxpayers money, thus making everything more expensive with no measurable results to show for it. And with no measurable results, this is simply an effort to fund departments with no accountability and for no reason but to impose controls over the people, causing an elitist bureaucracy that the politicians cannot control as they defer to so-called experts. It's wrong and should be dismantled and funds diverted to policing. The City cannot fix potholes, yet we are to believe they are going to fix the weather - ludicrous.

Let's support the police and while doing so, look inward to fund the future!

Regards

Paul A. Parente

Media release

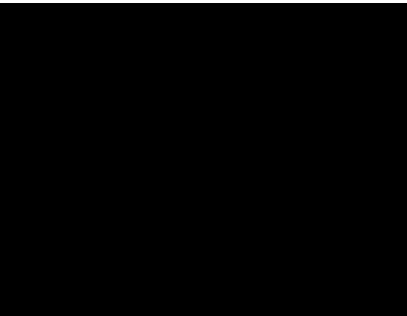
From Paul Vaccarello 
Date Fri 12/6/2024 12:18 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

 1 attachment (481 KB)

HPSB Media Release - Board looking for public opinions on proposed 2025 Police Budget (Nov 28 2024).pdf;

I am in full support of the request from the Police Board budget request. We need more extensive police services in the downtown area. Public safety is a major concern of our city citizens which prevents them from going downtown. Such an eye sore with the encampments , homeless and drug users freely feeding their habit without consequences.

Paul Vaccarello B.A., B.Ed.
CEO




~A strong business is built upon a foundation of solid insurance~



Submission of YMCA Support Letter for Hamilton Police Services Board

From Shawn McKillop [REDACTED]
Date Fri 12/6/2024 3:02 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Manny Figueiredo [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (138 KB)
Letter HPS Board_2025 Budget Endorsement Dec. 6.pdf;

Hi Kirsten,

Hope you're well. Please find attached a letter from Manny Figueiredo, President & CEO of YMCA Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford, in support of the proposed Hamilton Police Services budget. This letter outlines the critical role of Hamilton Police Services in our collaborative programs and highlights the importance of sustained funding to ensure community safety, youth engagement, and support for vulnerable residents.

We kindly ask that you share this letter with the members of the Hamilton Police Services Board for their consideration. Should you require any additional information or further input, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

All the best,

Shawn McKillop (He/Him), APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & Digital Transformation

YMCA Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford

[REDACTED]





December 6, 2024

Hamilton Police Services Board
c/o Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director
155 King William Street
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7

Dear Members of the Hamilton Police Services Board,

On behalf of the YMCA Hamilton|Burlington|Brantford, I am pleased to express our support for the proposed Hamilton Police Services budget. Our longstanding partnership with Hamilton Police Services (HPS) has been vital in promoting community safety, youth engagement, and support for vulnerable residents.

Programs such as the Anti-Sex Trafficking Program, Social Navigator Program that supports the Men's Residence, Rapid Intervention Support Team (RIST), Youth Engagement Series, and SWAMPY wilderness mentoring initiative exemplify the collaborative efforts between our organizations. These programs address urgent needs in our community by providing essential support to at-risk individuals, fostering trust between police and youth, and helping survivors of human trafficking navigate safety and justice.

For example, through the Anti-Sex Trafficking Program, HPS collaborates closely with our team to provide life-saving support to youth escaping exploitation. In 2024, 72% of our clients were under 18, with some as young as 12 years old. Police involvement is critical to holding perpetrators accountable and helping victims reclaim their lives.

Additionally, the Social Navigator Program at the YMCA Men's Residence enhances safety and stability for residents, reducing reliance on judicial and healthcare systems. For the past nine years, shared clients of this program, often facing complex challenges such as mental health issues and addictions, have been supported in transitioning from homelessness to stable, permanent housing.

The Rapid Intervention Support Team (RIST) exemplifies interdisciplinary cooperation, addressing homelessness, mental health challenges, and addiction. As part of this outreach team, the YMCA collaborates with HPS to deliver a program that provides immediate, impactful support to vulnerable youth, helping them transition to healthier paths and reducing negative interactions with law enforcement.


Safety in the downtown core remains a significant concern for the YMCA and the community members we serve. Our key downtown locations at 79 James Street South and 23 and 25 Main Street are hubs for individuals accessing employment services, child care, health and fitness programs, immigration services, and youth intervention programs. However, safety concerns expressed by many individuals highlight the critical need for visible, proactive policing. HPS core patrol officers provide an essential presence that fosters a sense of security for residents, staff, and visitors while supporting our ability to continue helping people access opportunities to thrive.

We firmly believe that a well-funded, proactive police service is essential for creating a safer, inclusive Hamilton. Investments in policing directly enable partnerships like ours to address systemic challenges, create lasting change, and build a community where everyone feels safe and supported.

We urge the Hamilton Police Services Board to approve the proposed budget to ensure the continuation and expansion of these vital programs and partnerships. Together, we can create a safer, healthier Hamilton for all.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to community safety.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Figueiredo', written in a cursive style.

Manny Figueiredo
President & CEO
YMCA Hamilton|Burlington|Brantford

Hamilton Police Service Board submission of the HLA

From Andrew Keesmaat [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 10:30 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Melissa Craig [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (105 KB)
2024-12-08 HLA Letter to PSB.pdf;

Ms. Stevenson,

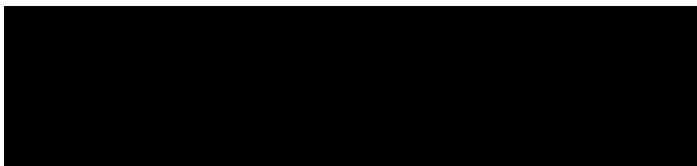
Please see attached my letter sent as president of the Hamilton Law Association.

With warm regards,

Andrew



Andrew L. Keesmaat
(he/him)
B.A. (Hons), LL.B.



THE HAMILTON LAW ASSOCIATION

The Hamilton Law Association exists to enable its members to become successful, respected and fulfilled in their profession.

45 Main Street East, Suite 500

Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2B7



To: Hamilton Police Service Board
Attention: Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

I am the president of the Hamilton Law Association (the "HLA"). The HLA has had its roots in downtown Hamilton since 1879. We are an association of lawyers with ties to Hamilton, many of whom live and work in this great City. Our members include lawyers practicing in every area of law, from tax, immigration, family and criminal through to corporate, real estate and commercial. We are litigators and solicitors. Some of us are solo practitioners. Some are in-house counsel to public entities or private corporations. Others are crown attorneys. Still others are partners and associates of larger firms some of which have been established in Hamilton for over a century. I, for one, am a partner at Agro Zaffiro LLP

Our members and their firms employ countless other individuals including paralegals, law clerks, legal assistants, bookkeepers, accountants, office managers and many more. Our members engage bike couriers, runners and other services offered by Hamiltonians on a daily basis. Our members own or lease business premises all over the City, most concentrated however in the downtown core. Our members and their staff are frequenters of various courthouses, including the Unified Family Court at 55 Main Street West, the Provincial Courts located at 50 Main Street East, John Sopinka Courthouse at 45 Main Street East, and, until very recently, the Tax Court of Canada at 50 Jackson Street West.

On July 19, 2024, the Tax Court of Canada issued a Notice to the Public and the Profession that "[a]s a result of ongoing security concerns for the public, employees, Members of the Court, the Tax Court of Canada has made the decision to cease its operations at its current Hamilton location permanently and effective immediately". This Notice was issued by the Honourable Chief Justice Gabrielle St-Hilaire and the Honourable Associate Chief Justice Anick Pelletier of the Tax Court of Canada.

Hamilton needs a wellness check.

President *Andrew Keesmaat* • **Vice-President** *Laura Dickson*
Secretary-Treasurer *Eric Nanayakkara* • **Executive Director** *Melissa Craig*

THE HAMILTON LAW ASSOCIATION

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Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2B7



Not only is the departure of the Tax Court from Hamilton deeply concerning from an access to justice perspective, that its departure was because of “ongoing security concerns” cannot be overlooked. The announcement followed a brazen mid-day shooting that occurred on June 28, 2024 on King Street West near MacNab Street downtown, in the centre of where many of our members and their employees work, and steps from the other courthouses that still operate.

Importantly and unfortunately, the HLA has heard about other incidents directly affecting its members and their employees, including one in which a local lawyer was followed, then chased by a man, and another when a man exposed himself to a young employee near King Street East and James Street. Sadly, there are likely many more examples of such incidents. Details of such incidents spread rapidly in our community, for good reason, but others go unreported. Juxtaposed against the increased frequency of gun crimes in our City, people are afraid and feel unsafe.

As a consequence of a feeling of lack of security and safety on an individual level, businesses and firms who employ these individuals are increasingly more reluctant to situate and remain downtown or in Hamilton at all. Some are seeking to leave, just like the Tax Court.

Safety and security of citizens and their environment is a government’s main priority. Without it, commerce slows, crime flourishes. Conversely, real safety and security, but also the feeling of safety and security, results in increased prosperity and of course productivity. It is fundamental to a thriving community and the vitality of a City.

The HLA supports any and all measures with a view to addressing safety and security for its members, their employees, their clients and families. While the problems presenting in Hamilton are complex and manifold, the Hamilton Police Service and the hard and complicated work of its officers are of central importance and critical for this City’s well-being.

I’d urge you and the Police Services Board to take this into consideration and prioritize safety and security when reviewing the proposed budget.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew L. Keesmaat', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew L. Keesmaat, President, Hamilton Law Association

Police budget - public input

From Cara Hernould [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 11:40 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Good day,

In response to the solicitation for public input into the proposed 5.7% increase to the Hamilton Police Services (HPS) budget, I write today to voice my opposition to any increase to the HPS budget.

The HPS budget is the single largest line item in the City of Hamilton's annual budget. There are both examples of frivolous spending by the HPS and ample evidence that the social problems the city sees are better addressed via social supports (i.e. reallocation of funding from HPS to social services and housing).

In regard to frivolous spending, I can point to the unnecessary drones for public surveillance, horses for crowd control used once a year for McMaster homecoming - yet funded 365 days a year, officers who are facing professional and criminal discipline on long term paid leave, and the inability and unwillingness to sharpen pencils internally when every single other city department has had to.

In regard to the city's social issues, we know that lack of mental health, substance abuse disorder, and housing supports result in situations the HPS finds itself dealing with (petty theft, loitering, overdoses, etc.) I think everyone in the city would appreciate proper supports that result in prevention and rehabilitation, rather than expensive delayed reactions from the HPS.

We all know this, but the city has allowed itself to be bullied by HPS into a place where no other department is allowed to thrive. Why should parks, paramedics, housing, roads, etc. all suffer for the police to play with ponies and sleep in their cruisers while not even providing basic traffic enforcement?

My suggestion is to use logic and reason, cut the existing police budget by 25% and reallocate to services that support the community.

With deep frustration,

Cara Hernould
[REDACTED]

2025 HPS budget

From Krista Warnke [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 5:07 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Hello Police Services Board,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the budget, but it is an empty gesture given that I have no information about what is contained therein.

Generally speaking, I have been very frustrated as a citizen and a taxpayer that the Service is seemingly unaccountable for the dollars received. Police budgets seem to be sacrosanct, secret and completely untouchable. In fact, the Service has demonstrated insult when questions are asked.

Do not forget, these are MY dollars you are spending and I ask you to seriously consider all citizen questions, concerns and suggestions.

Regardless of the specifics of the Budget, I ask you to:

1. submit a Budget that stays within the City's overall goal for increases. Your department is not special and as the largest component of the City's budget, you have the highest level of responsibility to respect Council's goals. Show leadership.
2. return any surpluses to the City. In recent years, your Service has ended the year with significant surpluses. When many of our social service organizations are running deficits or have had to shutter their doors due to lack of funding, it is unconscionable for you to keep the extra.

Many of those same organizations address issues that have a significant impact on policing: mental health, poverty, homelessness, addictions, violence against women, to name a few. Strengthening them helps you fulfill your vision to be a trusted partner in delivering public safety.

I request that moving forward, any surpluses from the HPS budget be returned to the City to be distributed among those social service organizations.

Respectfully,
Krista Warnke

Public Input - Opposition to Proposed 2025 Hamilton Police Services Budget Increase

From Rachel Chaplow [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 4:30 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

 1 attachment (37 KB)

Individual Input Regarding the 2025 Police Budget Increase - Rachel Chaplow.pdf;

Good afternoon,

My name is Rachel Chaplow and I have been a resident of Hamilton since 2018. I am writing to provide my formal input regarding the proposed 5.7% budget increase for the 2025 fiscal year.

I am submitting this email with an attached PDF document that outlines my comprehensive perspective on the proposed budget increase. As a long-standing member of the Hamilton community, I am deeply invested in our city's ability to address critical social challenges effectively and equitably.

The attached document articulates my concerns about allocating additional funds to police services at a time when our community is experiencing significant emergencies related to homelessness, mental health, and substance use. I argue that redirecting these potential funds towards proactive social infrastructure would provide a more sustainable approach to community safety and well-being.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important municipal decision-making process and hope the Police Services Board will carefully consider alternative approaches to resource allocation.

Sincerely,
Rachel Chaplow

Hamilton Police Services Board

c/o Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director
155 King Street East
Hamilton, ON L8N 1B9

December 8, 2024

Dear Members of the Police Services Board,

I am writing to express profound concerns regarding the proposed 5.7 percent budget increase for Hamilton Police Services in the 2025 fiscal year. This letter seeks to explore a more comprehensive approach to community safety that moves beyond traditional policing models and addresses the root causes of social challenges.

Hamilton currently finds itself at a critical juncture, having officially declared a state of emergency concerning homelessness, opioid addiction, and mental health. These interconnected challenges demand a sophisticated, multi-dimensional response that goes far beyond conventional law enforcement strategies.

The proposed \$12.25 million budget increase represents more than just a financial decision—it reflects our city's fundamental approach to community well-being. Each allocated dollar carries significant implications for our collective social infrastructure.

Modern research in criminology and social policy consistently demonstrates that investing in upstream solutions provides substantially higher returns on investment compared to downstream enforcement strategies. Traditional policing follows a reactive model that responds to incidents after they occur, resulting in higher long-term social and economic costs with limited capacity to address systemic issues. In contrast, a preventative model focuses on comprehensive community support, investing in mental health resources, supporting affordable housing initiatives, providing addiction treatment and rehabilitation programs, and creating economic opportunities for marginalized populations.

The proposed budget increase raises critical questions about municipal resource allocation. In a context of limited funding, every financial decision becomes a statement of prioritization. By consistently increasing police budgets without a corresponding investment in social infrastructure, we risk perpetuating a cycle of reactive intervention that fails to address underlying societal challenges. If redirected, the proposed \$12.25 million could make transformative differences towards expanded mental health and addiction treatment programs, supportive housing initiatives, targeted poverty reduction strategies, community-based social support networks, and preventative youth engagement programs.

By reimagining our investment strategies, Hamilton can become a model for progressive, compassionate urban governance—a city that addresses challenges at their source rather than managing their symptoms.

I respectfully urge the Police Services Board to critically examine the proposed budget increase. This examination should involve comprehensive consultations with social service providers, community leaders, and residents to develop a more nuanced, multifaceted approach to community safety that prioritizes evidence-based interventions addressing systemic challenges.

Investing in prevention and community support is not only more cost-effective but also more humane. Our city's resources are clearly limited, and we must prioritize strategies that address the fundamental challenges facing our community.

Warm regards,

Rachel Chaplow



Proposed 2025 Police Budget

From Robin St Jean [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 11:34 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Dear Kirsten ,

I'm writing you In response to the request for the public's opinions on the proposed budget increase of 5.7% .

I would like to offer my full support of this budget increase .

We need to support our Police Services . The national wave of "defunding the police" mentally as we've all seen take place over the last number of years has to stop .

It's obvious from the anarchy thats been hitting our communities that crime is on the rise .

Our Police Services need to level up to combat the crime and keep our citizens safe .

With government polices that have eased up on criminals like the "catch and release program" our men and women in blue are climbing an uphill battle.

Just this week one of my tenants in Ancaster , [REDACTED] was broken into , assaulted with a gun and robbed .

Thankfully our police "bear" unit was there in a few short minutes and managed to capture the criminals.

Their quick response very well saved lives .

Five people were arrested . One is still at large and considered armed and dangerous .

When we need our Police, they are there for us .

There are so many benefits to the community having a strong police department .

I personally believe that a 5.7% increase isn't enough .

We need to to offer all of our support as a community .

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts .

Best regards ,

Robin St jean
President
Michael St Jean Realty Inc.

Hamilton Police Budget

From Tracy Roketta [REDACTED]
Date Sun 12/8/2024 3:18 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

I am writing in reference to the upcoming police budget. They need to be reigned in. They should not be given the freedom to set their own budget; their numbers are out of control and the property tax payer should not be called upon, year after year, to indulge their requests. Everyone else has to make adjustments and this should equally apply to the Hamilton Police Force.

Tracy Roketta

Police budget

From JANE SIANCHUK [REDACTED]

Date Mon 12/9/2024 10:10 AM

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

This e-mail is in response to the article in The Hamilton Spectator Dec. 2 2024. It stated that the police board is asking for public input ahead of a proposed increase to the services budget. How can we taxpayers comment on looking for cuts to the budget when even our municipal council cannot do a line by line review of the budget? Cameron Kroetsch and Anjali Menezes put forth what I thought were very viable proposals and it seems they were reprimanded for even suggesting cuts. Everyone today are facing increasing financial hardships and the huge yearly increases in taxes must be reigned in. We learn to live within our means. It is time our police chief accepts that he must do the same. Rubber stamping budgets are no longer acceptable.

Sianchuk

Jane

Tapped out taxpayer

Police Budget

From janet hoy [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/9/2024 7:54 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

Hello Kirsten,

I am writing to you today to express my discomfort and displeasure with the 5.7% increase to the budget to the Hamilton Police Service Board.

A little information about myself first, I worked in social services for 25 years before opening a bookstore in 2019 in Hamilton. During my 25 years in social services, I worked in housing, managed an employment program, was a mental health court worker, managed shelters, and ran a food program at a shelter.

During this time, what I noticed was the more secure marginalized people felt, once they got housing, proper supports in place, schooling or training to get a new job, and get back involved in being part of the community the more the risk dropped for them to actually commit a crime. There are also numerous reports that state this fact to be true. I have also seen it with my own eyes. While working in the courts, I have assisted people that were once homeless, get into a shelter, move on to housing, eat properly, go back to school or work and end up back on their feet.

The police are there to mop up the problem once it happens. Isn't it time to start being proactive and use that \$214.5 million increase to start assisting people who are struggling and therefore reduce the chance of crime? It is a backwards system only helps the police and their buddies and leaves people and communities at risk.

It is also more cost effective to take this proactive approach. Putting supports in place at the beginning cuts the weighty cost of police/court/jail involvement plus add on the cost of health care that marginalized people need.

What I have written is mainly common sense and well known, but I think it gets forgotten in all the fearmongering and misinformation of today's world. So I just wanted to send you a little reminder. I am hoping that Hamilton does the right thing and takes that 5.7% increase and puts it toward the people who need it most and not to more armored vehicles or whatever else they use it on as they won't let us know what their budget goes to.

Thank you for taking to time to read this email.

Janet Hoy

Police Budget


From Karin A Walker [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/9/2024 12:11 PM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>

5.7% seems high. Are my CPP and OAS increasing this much to pay for it and our city tax increases?

Karin Walker

Denninger's - HPS Budget Feedback

From Morgan Mackenzie [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/9/2024 9:55 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc Abbott_Robin [REDACTED]; Bergen_Frank [REDACTED]; Patrick Denninger

 1 attachment (153 KB)
Denninger's_Police Budget 2024 (2).pdf;

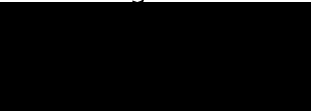
Good Morning Kirsten,

Please see attached for Denninger's feedback on the Hamilton Police Services budget.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Regards,

Morgan MacKenzie, CHRP, CHRL
HR Manager



DENNINGER'S

EXPERIENCE GREAT FOOD
SINCE 1954

December 9, 2024

Attention: Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director

RE: Hamilton Police Budget

Dear Hamilton Police Services Board,

Denninger's has been a part of the Hamilton downtown core since 1954. We currently employ approximately 300 people, most of whom live and work in Hamilton. As a business, we would like to express our support for the passing of the Hamilton Police Service's proposed budget.

After 70 years of business in the downtown core, we are currently facing our most challenging years yet due to the continued concerns of personal safety and security of our staff and customers. Last week alone we called 911 on 4 occasions, this does not include the additional calls made to the Core Patrol or non-emergency line.

In that one week period we experienced the following:

- An individual threatening to harm our staff and then defecating on our patio;
- An individual throwing produce at one of our staff members and making threatening comments;
- An individual overdosing in our washroom;
- An intoxicated individual yelling at our staff and refusing to leave the property when asked;
- 2 individuals smoking drugs in our washroom;

This does not include the amount of theft and general disruption we face on a daily basis. After being forced to manage all of the above, one of our staff members stated to a member of senior management that she is "waiting for the day that someone walks through the doors and takes us all out." Our staff have the right to be safe in the workplace. Despite implementing all recommended measures, we continue to face increasing safety and security issues.

As a business, we have had to take on an increasing financial and administrative burden due to the deterioration of the downtown core. We must invest into the safety and security of our community to ensure the sustainability and continued success of not only the businesses but the general community. Public safety must be of the highest priority. The Hamilton Police Service is a vital partner in ensuring the revitalization of the downtown core. Again, please accept this as our support for the police budget.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.


Yours very truly,



Patrick Denninger
President & CEO

HPS Budget support - Dec 9 2024

From tthompson [REDACTED]
Date Mon 12/9/2024 7:59 AM
To Stevenson, Kirsten <Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>
Cc [REDACTED]

 1 attachment (424 KB)
HPS Budget support - Dec 9 2024.pdf;

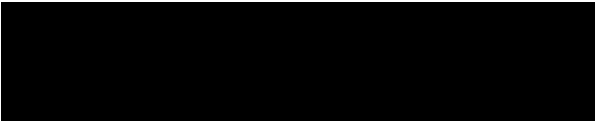
Good morning Kristen,

Please find attached my support letter for the proposed 2025 Police budget.

Sincerely,

Troy A. G. Thompson

G.W. Thompson Jeweller & Pawnbroker Inc.
190 King Street East
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 1B4



December 9, 2024

To: Hamilton Police Service Board

Attention: Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Director

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

I am the president of G.W. Thompson Jeweller & Pawnbroker Inc. in downtown Hamilton. My company has proudly served our community since 1971. However, the last 3-4 years have been extremely difficult downtown Hamilton.

One of my greatest concerns that I have everyday at work is the health and safety of both staff and customers that come to my store location. I hear the growing concern that customers are afraid to come downtown. This needs to change. We have already had great companies leave the core because of these concerns.

I fully support the need for an increase in Hamilton Police Services budget. The presence of the HPS uniform on the street is vital to bring some order back to the core.

I ask you to support and pass this budget that will help HPS provide the services needed in the City of Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Troy A.G. Thompson

G.W. Thompson Jeweller & Pawnbroker Inc.
190 King Street East
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 1B4

