



## **Environment Hamilton Statement in Solidarity with Defund the Police/ Invest In Housing November 26, 2020**

Two of the greatest challenges facing Hamilton are housing inequality and the climate emergency. These two challenges are connected. Climate change threatens our most vulnerable populations and exacerbates inequalities.

We believe the way forward on climate action centers on decarbonizing the economy, creating good green jobs, and increasing racial, social, and economic justice. These are the fundamental components of building an equitable housing strategy that is part of a larger vision for a truly sustainable, climate resilient and inclusive Hamilton.

We believe that, in a city where spending on its police force exceeds other municipal expenditures that are required to meet basic community needs, diverting funding from Hamilton Police Services and reinvesting in services that will build community resiliency is an act of justice.

Hamilton Police just reported a surplus on its \$171.5 million budget this year, which was a 3.87% increase over its 2019 budget. In a city struggling with housing and public health emergencies, a police budget 3 times greater than the combined housing and public health budgets is not only excessive, it is unjust. Yet, despite this surplus, HPS is asking for an additional \$4 million in 2021.

At Environment Hamilton, we are committed to expanding our environmental justice work in the community and amplifying the voices of those calling for justice on all fronts.

We support the calls of Hamilton's Defund the Police/Invest in Housing coalition for all levels of government to fund free housing that is supportive, safe, dignified and permanent. Their demands are stated here:

<https://www.defundhps.com/demands>

We echo their call to action for allies to get involved and support the campaign, including calling on our political leaders to engage respectfully and meaningfully with the demonstrators:

<https://www.defundhps.com/getinvolved>

We believe that it is not just environmental degradation that is a matter for environmental justice, but also the distribution of equitable environmental benefits.

We believe that a robust climate policy ensures the right to housing that provides the same protection from environmental and health hazards for everyone.

In solidarity,  
Environment Hamilton board and staff