

# Agenda Including Addeds

## Budget Committee

3rd Meeting of the Budget Committee

February 27, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Please check the City website for additional meeting detail information. Meetings can be viewed via live-streaming on YouTube and the City Website.

The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run).

We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

Members

Councillors E. Pelozza (Chair), H. McAlister, S. Lewis, P. Cuddy, S. Stevenson, J. Pribil, S. Trosow, C. Rahman, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Franke, D. Ferreira, S. Hillier, Mayor J. Morgan

The City of London is committed to making every effort to provide alternate formats and communication supports for meetings upon request. To make a request specific to this meeting, please contact 519-661-2489 ext. 2425.

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**4. Items for Direction**

**5. Deferred Matters/Additional Business**

**6. Confidential**

**7. Adjournment**

## Report to Budget Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Budget Committee

**From:** Anna Lisa Barbon, CPA, CGA  
Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports

**Subject:** 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Reconciliation to the Public  
Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) Financial Statement Budget

**Date:** February 27, 2024

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports:

- a) The “Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation” (Reconciliation) regarding expenses excluded from the Mayor’s proposed 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget (attached as Schedule A) **BE ADOPTED**, it being noted that the Reconciliation was presented in the draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget released at the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee on December 12, 2023; and
- b) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to update the Reconciliation to reflect the consolidated budget figures once available.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Council’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for the City of London identifies ‘Well-Run City’ as a strategic area of focus. The City of London’s Multi-Year Budget (MYB) process is specifically listed as a strategy under this strategic area of focus: ‘Develop and monitor the Multi-Year Budget to align financial resources with Council’s Strategic Plan.’ The implementation of a MYB signifies that the City is looking beyond a short-term focus when planning its finances. This results in improved accountability and transparency over spending changes and helps the City maintain positive operating results, stable debt levels, and strong liquidity, reflected in the continued affirmation of the City’s Aaa credit rating (47 consecutive years).

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

December 12, 2023, Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – Release of the Draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=105166>

### 2.0 Discussion and Considerations

Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 284/09: Budget Matters – Expenses permits municipalities to exclude certain expenditures from the budget for the municipality. These expenses include:

- 1) Amortization expenses;
- 2) Post-employment benefits expenses; and
- 3) Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses.

These expenditures are presented in year-end financial statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) accounting standards but are instead reflected in the municipal budget in terms of their cash impact (e.g. amortization expenses are instead represented as lifecycle renewal capital expenditures in the budget). This is known as the modified accrual method of budgeting common amongst most municipalities.

However, O. Reg. 284/09 also requires that the municipality, before adopting a budget for the year:

- a) Prepare a report about the excluded expenses; and
- b) Adopt the report by resolution.

The City of London will fulfill this requirement by adopting the Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation regarding expenses excluded from the Mayor's proposed 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget. The Reconciliation was first presented on pages 23 to 26 of the Civic Administration draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget released at the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee on December 12, 2023 (see Schedule A attached). After the ultimate adoption of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, an updated version of this Reconciliation will be included in the consolidated budget, which will reflect any updates resulting from budget amendments made by Council.

Historically, the required resolution was incorporated in the various administrative budget resolutions addressed by Council during budget deliberations. However, with the introduction of the new Strong Mayor powers, the previous budget resolutions are no longer required in the new procedures for adoption of the budget. As a result, to maintain compliance with the requirements of O. Reg. 284/09, Budget Committee and Council are respectfully requested to adopt the Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation.

## **Conclusion**

To ensure compliance with Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 284/09: Budget Matters – Expenses, Budget Committee and Council are requested to adopt the Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation; this report was presented in the draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget released at the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee on December 12, 2023. This report also seeks direction for Civic Administration to update the Reconciliation to reflect the final budget figures once available to be incorporated in the consolidated budget.

**Submitted by:** **Kyle Murray, CPA, CA**  
**Director, Financial Planning & Business Support**

**Recommended by:** **Anna Lisa Barbon, CPA, CGA**  
**Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports**

## SCHEDULE A – Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation

### Public Sector Accounting Board Reconciliation

#### Reconciliation of Draft Budgets (Property Tax, Water, Wastewater and Treatment) to Public Sector Accounting Board Financial Statement Budget

Ontario municipalities must adhere to Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) accounting standards and reporting requirements. As allowed under Ontario Regulation 284/09, when preparing the budget, The City of London, like most municipalities, excludes typical PSAB items such as costs related to amortization expense, post-employment benefit expense and solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expense. However, the regulation does require that the municipality report to Council on the impact of these excluded costs prior to budget approval.

The tables on the following pages show the 2023 Approved Budget and the 2024 to 2027 Draft Budgets plus adjustments to comply with PSAB format, including the following items:

1. Expenses for the amortization of tangible capital assets.
2. Reserve fund contributions and pay as you go contributions for capital asset additions.
3. The current year's post-employment benefit expense for early retirement and accrued sick leave for employees that are eligible for these benefits. The City's consolidated liability as at December 31, 2022 was \$206.5 million. Reserve fund balances of \$188.6 million as of December 31, 2022 are available to offset this obligation. The City makes reserve fund contributions to offset the liabilities created from post-employment expenses depending upon generated surpluses and personnel cost savings.
4. The City has a landfill closure and post-closure liability of \$54.2 million. The Sanitary Landfill Reserve Fund, with a balance of \$33.1 million as of December 31, 2022, is for sanitary landfill activity and funds could be utilized to partially offset this liability.

If the above items were included in the 2024 to 2027 budgets, the projected annual PSAB surplus would increase.

### Reconciliation of Draft Budgets to PSAB Financial Statement Budget (\$ Thousands)

Property Tax, Water and Wastewater and Treatment Budgets –		2023	2024 Draft	2025 Draft	2026 Draft	2027 Draft
Revenues		Approved Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Property Tax		736,458	776,026	812,422	847,328	892,467
Government Grants and Subsidies		248,521	331,396	335,232	337,106	339,174
User Fees		269,928	287,266	298,673	310,589	323,164
Municipal Revenues - Other		85,107	105,060	107,249	96,457	97,815
Municipal Revenues - Transfers from Capital		216	0	0	0	0
Municipal Revenues - Transfers from Reserves and Reserve Funds		9,260	8,090	5,777	11,264	5,626
<b>Total Revenues per Draft Budgets</b>		<b>1,349,490</b>	<b>1,507,838</b>	<b>1,559,353</b>	<b>1,602,744</b>	<b>1,658,246</b>
Add/Less: PSAB related adjustments for full accrual budgeting:						
Reconciliation Type	Description					
Deduct Revenue	Transfers from Capital	-216	0	0	0	0
Deduct Revenue	Transfers from Reserves and Reserve Funds	-9,260	-8,090	-5,777	-11,264	-5,626
PSAB Adjustment	Capital program funding earned in year <sup>1</sup>	109,232	53,063	37,538	41,528	29,401
PSAB Adjustment	Developer contributions of assumed tangible capital assets <sup>4</sup>	53,661	68,416	69,109	70,704	76,136
PSAB Adjustment	Obligatory reserve fund deferred revenue earned in year - DC, Canada Community-Building Fund <sup>6</sup>	39,161	55,563	58,073	58,433	58,908
PSAB Adjustment	Government Business Enterprises adjustments <sup>7</sup>	6,930	12,175	13,804	16,757	17,082
PSAB Adjustment	Other	6,449	17,199	16,557	16,718	17,417
<b>Total PSAB adjustments to Revenue Draft Budgets</b>		<b>205,956</b>	<b>198,327</b>	<b>189,304</b>	<b>192,876</b>	<b>193,318</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Revenues for financial statement purposes</b>		<b>1,555,446</b>	<b>1,706,164</b>	<b>1,748,656</b>	<b>1,795,620</b>	<b>1,851,565</b>

Subject to rounding.



## Reconciliation of Draft Budgets to PSAB Financial Statement Budget (\$ Thousands)

Property Tax, Water and Wastewater and Treatment Budgets – Expenses		2023 Approved Budget	2024 Draft Budget	2025 Draft Budget	2026 Draft Budget	2027 Draft Budget
Personnel Costs		463,257	488,254	509,857	531,497	552,942
Administrative Expenses		16,947	19,129	19,464	19,683	19,992
Financial Expenses - Other		11,408	12,452	12,521	12,586	12,653
Financial Expenses - Interest and Discount on Long-term Debt		4,638	3,568	3,158	8,548	11,637
Financial Expenses - Debt Principal Repayments		31,969	23,293	22,031	20,231	31,655
Financial Expenses - Transfers to Reserves and Reserve Funds		134,311	153,573	161,850	166,744	170,551
Financial Expenses - Transfers to Capital		102,736	103,282	106,885	110,610	114,464
Purchased Services		264,889	352,347	357,359	351,127	356,480
Materials and Supplies		85,223	90,865	94,933	99,075	102,220
Vehicle and Equipment		32,962	38,914	39,908	41,587	42,009
Transfers		220,485	238,620	248,196	258,512	261,758
Other Expenses		11,588	14,733	15,187	15,549	15,728
Recovered Expenses		-30,923	-31,192	-31,996	-33,005	-33,843
<b>Total Expenses per Draft Budgets</b>		<b>1,349,490</b>	<b>1,507,838</b>	<b>1,559,353</b>	<b>1,602,744</b>	<b>1,658,246</b>
Add/Less: PSAB related adjustments for full accrual budgeting:						
Reconciliation Type	Description					
Addback Expense	Transfers to Reserves and Reserve Funds	-134,311	-153,573	-161,850	-166,744	-170,551
Addback Expense	Transfers to Capital	-102,736	-103,282	-106,885	-110,610	-114,464
Addback Expense	Debt principal repayments	-31,969	-23,293	-22,031	-20,231	-31,655
PSAB Adjustment	Capital projects not resulting in tangible capital assets <sup>2</sup>	79,896	85,159	72,245	61,823	51,400
PSAB Adjustment	Amortization <sup>3</sup>	182,034	173,153	177,326	181,855	186,999
PSAB Adjustment	Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets <sup>5</sup>	2,700	4,802	4,820	4,827	4,249

PSAB Adjustment	Asset retirement obligation <sup>8</sup>	479	493	505	518	533
PSAB Adjustment	Employee future benefit liability <sup>9</sup>	4,561	11,527	13,404	12,026	11,533
Total PSAB adjustments to Expense Draft Budgets		654	-5,014	-22,466	-36,536	-61,956
Total Budgeted Expenses for financial statement purposes		1,350,144	1,502,824	1,536,887	1,566,208	1,596,290
Budgeted Annual Surplus for financial statement purposes		205,303	203,340	211,770	229,412	255,274

Subject to rounding.

## PSAB Reconciliation Notes

1. Represents capital revenue such as provincial and federal grants and other contributions. Does not include debenture financing, transfers from operating or reserve funds. Estimate is based on the approved capital budget for the respective years 2024 to 2027.
2. For PSAB purposes, any expenses not considered to be part of the cost of a tangible capital asset are expensed as operating expenses. Therefore, although funded through capital, these expenses will be included in the operating expenses in the year incurred and will be reflected in the Statement of Operations on the financial statements. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average % of the capital expenditure budget, based on 2018-2022 actuals.
3. Represents the annual write-down of the tangible capital assets over the useful life of the asset. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average.
4. Contributed tangible capital assets are tangible capital assets that become the ownership of the City when a subdivision is assumed by the City. These assets are recognized at estimated fair market value during the year of assumption. These assets are predominantly comprised of roads infrastructure. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average.
5. When an asset is replaced prior to the end of its useful life, an adjustment must be made to expense the remaining book value. Amount fluctuates from year to year. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average.
6. Transactions recorded directly to reserve funds must be accounted for through the operating or capital fund. This includes recognition of development charge levies and Canada Community-Building Fund grants earned in the year.
7. London Hydro Inc., Fair-City Joint Venture and City-YMCA Joint Venture are considered Government Business Enterprises (GBE). At year end, the City must record the City's share of earnings based on our percentage ownership in each GBE. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average.
8. Represents the annual increase in the estimated future cost of post-closure related to landfills. A new accounting standard will be implemented for 2023 and this expense will be renamed Asset Retirement Obligation. Estimate based on 2023 estimate and 5 year rolling average based on amortization.
9. Represents the annual change in the estimated future costs of employee benefits. Estimate based on 5 year rolling average.

**From:** wes  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 9:04 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Initiative 9 of the Business Case #P-42  
**Importance:** High

Good morning,

On behalf of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario London Region Branch, I am writing to express excitement and support for **Initiative 9 of the Business Case #P-42** which recommends the following action:

**Provide a new grant program to incentivise the conservation of heritage properties.**

London is a beautiful City with a rich base of stunning heritage buildings - in both private and public hands. These buildings have often become the foundation for some of our most innovative places (100 Kellogg Lane is a recent, standout example), showcasing the way that historic buildings are not simply museums of nostalgia, but vibrant places, alive and changing with the needs of our growing City.

Our historic neighbourhoods have been nominated for - and won - awards for being the best in Canada in planning competitions and popular voting contests. The reason is that while they are undeniably beautiful and historically important to London, they are also wonderful, exciting places to live.

This grant initiative will assist the citizens of London in their efforts to contribute to the unique sense of place that our heritage homes and businesses create here.

Thank you for adding this initiative to the discussion, and we at the ACO London Region Branch stand in strong support of it.

Wes Kinghorn  
*President*  
*ACO London Region Branch*  
(Princess Avenue, London, ON)

*Wes Kinghorn, PhD*

**From:** L. Tinsley

**Sent:** Sunday, January 28, 2024 11:16 AM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget—Business Case #P-42, Initiative 9

As a member of ACO London Region Branch, I wish to express my support for Initiative 9 of the Business Case #P-42 which recommends the following action: **"Provide a new grant program to incentivise the conservation of heritage properties."**

Such actions recognize the public interest in retaining, preserving, adapting and re-using properties that hold cultural heritage value, while at the same time reducing risk of loss, and adding "triple-whammy" social, environmental *and* economic value to the City of London's asset landscape.

Lorraine Tinsley  
Ridout St N  
London ON Canada

**From:** Penn Kemp  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 2:00 PM  
**To:** [strosowa](mailto:strosowa); Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] [BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)

Hi Sam,

I am too late to add a letter to the budget committee, having just seen that it is taking place this afternoon. But if you would like to add any of my remarks to your own, please do. My consent is given for you to include any of the comments below or for them to be placed on the public agenda.

1. As London's first poet Laureate, I highly recommend the London Arts Council for their wide reach throughout our expanding community. The arts express our hearts, our dreams, our visions for the future. They are essential for the city's emotional and fiscal wellbeing. The arts are a financial driver in London, the music city, the Forest City and the capital of cardinals in Canada. The arts ensoul our citizens. The LAC's ongoing support of young and established artists is essential for them to thrive here, in continuing to celebrate London!

I have benefited from CAIP grants to write and produce 2 plays about Teresa Harris who grew up in historical Eldon House, and several collections of poetry celebrating London and our local heroes. As Poet Laureate, I was able to build community among the arts in the public sphere, with such initiatives as poems on London Transit.

2. The London Public Library is essential to London's identity as well, connecting us to the wider world through culture and the many events they sponsor, as well as an excellent wide-reaching and uptodate catalogue. The Library is pivotal in supporting local artists as well, both through events and through buying our books. An avid reader, I absolutely depend on the Library. Given the difficulties of the last months, and their valiant efforts to return the system to normal, the Library should be especially well supported this year.

I truly hope these comments help in supporting the arts: our breath line and, for artists, our breadline!

Thanks,

Penn

Canterbury Road London ON N6G 2N5

**From:** George DENDIAS  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 3:07 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Hopkins, Anna <[ahopkins@london.ca](mailto:ahopkins@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: 2024-2027 Draft Budget

Hi: I've reviewed most of the draft budget and offer the following comments:

The increase in taxes is greater over the next four years than the anticipated rate of inflation so this will diminish the available personal funds of citizens and in particular for those on fixed income.

In addition to the significant increase in taxes, especially when compounded over the four years, if the value of property is increased, this will add an additional financial tax burden.

Of the many additional business cases, I understand that 67 of them are discretionary. If any of these are approved, this will add an additional tax burden on taxpayers which are already making their own spending restrictions so that they can limit slipping into debt or further debt. Seems appropriate for council to be as financially prudent as taxpayers are expected to be in their own household budgeting process.

I wanted to assess how well we tracked on the previous 4 year budget but found nothing in the draft budget document that allows me to do so. I think knowing whether those who developed and executed the previous budget did or did not so as anticipated would have been helpful. Asking taxpayers to comment on the current draft budget without knowing how we tracked on the previous budget is really asking us to trust people/process without accountability.

Thank you,

George Dendias

**From:** Ruby Ross  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 11:02 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voicing Support for London Public Library!

Hello,

I'm reaching out to voice my support for 5 of the London Public Library's business case proposals:

- **Business case P-58 Library Facilities Capital Assets Management**
- **Business case P-30 Enhancing Digital Divide Support Services**
- **Business case P-10 - Equity Diversity and Inclusion Efforts**
- **Business case P-48: Canadian Mental Health Transitional Case Worker**
- **Business cases P-59 & P-59 Library Security System Upgrade**

I have been a LPL patron for 30 years, and use their services often. I believe they are an integral part of our community and an essential third place. Their recent cyber attacks demonstrate the cost and impact of security breaches.

**Investing in services that support a broad range of Londoners is an excellent way to encourage the community building that makes London a place people want to work and live. I can see direct connections between these business cases and the impact I *already* see the London Public Library doing for our city. Enabling this excellent work to continue is a win for all of us!**

I hope the city chooses to support the London Public Library in all their business case proposals.

Ruby Ross

**From:** Ruby Ross  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:54 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against P-57, P-29, P-28.

To whom it may concern at the budget committee,

my apologies for sending this close to the deadline for consideration this week. I would like to have my intentions shared with council during this week's deliberations.

I am writing to you regarding the proposed City of London 'Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027,' and to state on the record that I am against Business Cases P-28: - Public Safety and Infrastructure Modernization, P-29: Police Vehicle and Equipment Requirements, and especially P-57: LPS Facilities Masterplan and Protective Services Training Campus. Further, I urge you, as my representative at City Council, to vote against the above stated Business Cases.

To be clear, I am not asking to "defund the police," I am asking that the City of London does not vote to increase tax payer dollars to fund the militarization of this city instead of the resources that our communities desperately need. I support Business Case P-L8: Next Generation 911 Centre. I also question the democratic integrity of the London Police Association and its sitting members with regards to its slanderous judgment of taxpayers asking questions about the proposed \$672M budget.

In the newspaper, Police Chief Truong explains that the London Police Services (LPS) did a "comprehensive" study of Londoners which found that no one feels safe in this city. He also hears that mental health, addiction and homelessness are the biggest challenges we believe our city faces - then, why are we not spending most of our tax dollars on those services? Why is the LPS demanding for the biggest line item in the proposed City budget at 17.4%? Which is more than eight times the proposed spend on London & Middlesex Community Housing (at 2.1%), for example. For the safety of the whole community - Indigenous, First Nations and Metis Peoples, elders, the disabled, youth, our children, and those of us who are blessed to be housed, as well as those who have been unhoused - we need housing, not guns, surveillance, or armoured vehicles.

Online, I have read research results which concluded that an increase in police budget does not correlate to a decrease in crime; as well as research that shows how it is cheaper for us to care for people, rather than to criminalize and hospitalize them (over and over again). All of this data concludes that it costs taxpayers less to provide people with healthcare, food and safe, accessible and affordable housing than to police our communities. The data concludes that if the basic needs of everyone in our communities are met - if we improve people's material conditions - that is when crime decreases. We need public resources, not armed police.

I also understand that LPS proposes to build a new police training centre with this Multi-Year Budget, and I want to specifically implore you to vote against this Business Case (P-57). I am aware of the ongoing, mass protests against the building of a police training facility in Atlanta, GA and I do not want that in the London area. As a citizen, as a taxpayer, as your constituent, and as a human being, please know that building a new compound for practicing militarization tactics against protestors and unhoused people does NOT make me feel safer.

To make London safe, we need community care not militarization.

Sincerely,

Ruby Ross

Queens Ave London Ontario



**From:** Carol Beynon  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:16 PM  
**To:** Peloza, Elizabeth <[epeloza@london.ca](mailto:epeloza@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] A letter of support for LAC P8 and P38

Dear Councillor Peloza.

Thank you for your service as a Councillor for the City of London and for Chairing the Public Input meeting on Monday. There were many critical issues raised and you handled each with grace and sincerity.

I am sending this letter to all of our Councillors on behalf of the Amabile Choirs of London, Canada in support of the London Arts Council Business Case for articles P8 and P38 to increase funding to our vital and vibrant arts' community in our City.

Thank you for your consideration and wishing you well in your budget deliberations.

Sincerely

Carol Beynon

Dr Carol Beynon, Sr Artistic Director  
Amabile Boys & Men's Choirs  
Professor emerita  
The University of Western Ontario

**From:** Courtney McIntosh

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 6:59 AM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mortified by the cop increase while allowing our city to fall into total disarray!! If this goes through we will not vote for you ever again Josh Morgan!!!

Shame on the city for prioritizing police services over the on-going housing crisis and lack of resources and opportunities for our city.

Anyone involved in supporting this measure will NEVER get our family's vote again, we are NOT represented in this decision. \$676 million could REVITALIZE the city if directed to better causes than the cops.

The police do not assist our city in any capacity of the word, their violent and heavily weaponized presence all over our city demonstrates the sheer dystopian level the London I once knew is delving into. It is horrendous. The housing crisis leaves the city's most vulnerable in great need, predisposed to harm and abuse, more likely to turn to crime and the police do not meaningfully make any difference.

Please familiarize yourselves with what a unit take over is ---- it is becoming much more common in our city. It is caused by the housing crisis in large part and numerous agencies being at their total limit. When people predisposed to crime due to housing and lifestyle insecurity are taking advantage of disabled people the police can do nothing.

If anyone involved in this decision ACTUALLY has the well being of our city in mind they will fight this move.

I would like some kind of response or confirmation this will be included in the budget deliberations.

Thank you,  
Courtney McIntosh  
London Ontario  
N6E2K4

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:59 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote NO to LPS budget increase

Hello,

My name is Siobhan Watters. I'm a citizen of London, Ontario and a resident of Ward 4. I'm writing to encourage City Council to vote NO on the recent budget ask from the London Police Service.

I demand that City Council:

1. Conduct further research on call times—both mental health and homelessness calls.
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult ALL community members before making a decision.
3. Fund more grassroots and non-profit organizations that do essential work in the London community, including SafeSpace, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares.
4. Send back the proposed budget to LPS and tell them to find ways to reduce it.

I ask that you respond to the above demands and consider the voices of ALL of your constituents. At a minimum, we deserve a response and a detailed explanation of how the decision benefits our city and community.

Thank you for your time,  
Siobhan Watters  
Sent from my iPhone

From: Mira Saito  
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:56 AM  
To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police Budget

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mira and I am a resident of London. I am asking for the LPS budget to be reconsidered. London Police Services received more money than anything else on the city's budget. Meanwhile there are countless people who remain unhoused and living on the streets. I am asking that the Police budget be reduced and that money invested into community supports, such as a trained mental health counsellor at the library. As well, the money should be used to address the housing crisis and invested into things like the homeless hubs. There is evidence that reinvesting into the community can actually decrease crime. Please seriously consider these suggestions. LPS should be funded but this budget would be overfunding them. Please take care of this community by investing in it directly.

Sincerely  
Mira Saito

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cedric Richards  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:56 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; McAlister, Hadleigh <[hmcaster@london.ca](mailto:hmcaster@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget Committee Deliberations for this week

Good morning all,

I would like this placed on the agenda for budget talks this week.

I am a resident of Ward 1 and indicating my displeasure about how the police budget request received 100% of what they were seeking, not scrutinized, and the things like transit, libraries, and the arts are receiving far less than what they were seeking. The London Police Association refers to concerned citizens as “radical zealots” and meanwhile, advocates for other community services (things that keep the heart of a city beating) are told to accept what’s in the Mayor’s budget. I am further writing to request that you fund transit, libraries, and the arts, like you’re ready to fund an armoured vehicle for the cops.

Thank you,

Cedric Richards  
Ailsa Place  
London, ON  
N5Z 4Z6

Dearest Budget Committee,

My name is Bernice Couto, I live and work in Ward 4, and I am writing to you all today regarding the proposed City of London 'Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027,' and to state on the record that I am against Business Cases P-28: - Public Safety and Infrastructure Modernization, P-29: Police Vehicle and Equipment Requirements, and especially P-57: LPS Facilities Masterplan and Protective Services Training Campus. Further, I urge you, as my representative at City Council, to vote against the above stated Business Cases.

To be clear, I am not asking to "defund the police," I am asking that the City of London does not vote to increase tax payer dollars by 5% to fund the militarization of this city instead of the resources that our communities desperately need. I support Business Case P-L8: Next Generation 911 Centre. I further urge this Committee to explore and engage with London community members - not just the CEOs of large, "public" corporations, who have a vested, financial interest in policing - building non-Police response teams to respond to Code 2 and Code 3 calls to 911.

I also question the democratic integrity of the London Police Association and its sitting members with regards to its libellous statements against taxpayers who are asking questions about the proposed \$672M budget. Where is democracy when I never do not receive even a response from my Mayor or from my City Councillor. I also question the appropriateness of my City Councillor who remains sitting on the London Police Services Board while she is undergoing multiple investigations by the Integrity Commissioner. As a constituent and a taxpayer, I have zero faith in the accountability of the LPS Board.

In an interview with the London Free Press, Police Chief Truong offers that mental health, addiction and homelessness are the biggest challenges we believe our city faces - then, why are we not spending most of our tax dollars on those services? Why is the LPS demanding for the biggest line item in the proposed City budget at 17.4%? Which is more than eight times the proposed spend on London & Middlesex Community Housing (at 2.1%), for example. For the safety of the whole community - Indigenous, First Nations and Metis Peoples, elders, the disabled, youth, our children, and those of us who are blessed to be housed, as well as those who have been unhoused - we need housing, not guns, surveillance, or armoured vehicles.

Online, I have read research results which concluded that an increase in police budget does not correlate to a decrease in crime; as well as research that shows how it is cheaper for us to care for people, rather than to criminalize and hospitalize them (over and over again). All of this data concludes that it costs taxpayers less to provide people with healthcare, food and safe, accessible and affordable housing than to police our communities. The data concludes that if the basic needs of everyone in our communities are met - if we improve people's material conditions - that is when crime decreases. We need public resources, not armed police.

In yesterday's press conference regarding the Hockey Canada sexual assault case and resulting charges, I was disgusted at Chief Truong's suggestion that sexual assault of women and girls is the responsibility of community at-large and the suggestion that the sexualization of women and girls leads to them being sexually assaulted. To be clear, the only cause of sexual assault is the assaulter. How can I have any trust in a Police Chief who wants to share the blame of alleged rapists with the community? The LPS are not safe for women and girls in the City of London

Lastly, I understand that LPS proposes to build a new police training centre with this Multi-Year Budget, and I want to specifically implore you to vote against this Business Case (P-57). I am aware of the

ongoing, mass protests against the building of a police training facility in Atlanta, GA and I do not want that in the London area. As a citizen, as a taxpayer, as your constituent, and as a human being, please know that building a new compound for practicing militarization tactics against protestors and unhoused people does NOT make me feel safer.

To make London safe, we need community care not militarization.

Sincerely,  
Bernice Couto  
N5Y3T7

**From:** James Hannay  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 10:02 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027 Concerns

To the administration of the London Ontario Budget Committee,

My name is James Hannay, I am a resident of London Ontario.

I have a few concerns about the drafted Multi-Year Budget for 2024-2027 for the City of London.

- No funding is given to expansion of transit routes outside of the miniscule expansion of bus rapid transit. This does not make the city more accessible or more sustainable. There is zero growth in conventional transit for the city.
- Funding is being cut from the London Public Library, which operates as rare public spaces where people can access knowledge and crucial resources. The London Public Library is also facing numerous infrastructure issues in their buildings that must be addressed.
- I would also like to see a deferred vote on the London Police Services budget. In a budget "squeeze", I am sad to see that the LPS is getting away with increasing its asks. This includes the outrageous line item of an "armoured vehicle"
- These line items for the LPS could be reduced, theoretically. I would like to see funding go to the "Hubs" and community organizations. There was no mention of "harm reduction" or "harm prevention" in the LPS's argument for a budget increase, which is worrisome in the midst of a crisis of homelessness and mental health issues.
- I am also sad to see less money going towards the UTRCA. They do crucial work, and cutting their funding is, arguably, not very "green".

I would like to see these concerns addressed in the upcoming vote and deliberations on the budget.

Best,

James Hannay



**From:** Kate Sepi  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 7:02 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 Budget and Excessive Police Funding

To Whom it May Concern,

I am frustrated and dismayed to hear of the 2024 budget breakdown and specifically the massive amount slated for the London Police Service. The spending is excessive for a city of our size especially considering the many needs that are being put on the back burner in favour of police funding.

I agree that our city is growing and we need to address those needs. Increased police presence should not be the main focus of any growing city. Public transit, infrastructure, public services, social services, and affordable housing are also important for a growing city, yet all of those initiatives are being put by the wayside so that we can grow our police force.

The budget cannot be allowed to stay as it is. I ask for further research on call times including those that involve the unhoused population and mental health. I ask the council to defer the vote on the LPS budget and open hearings with the community before a final decision is made.

Regards,

Kate Sepi

Resident of Ward 7

**From:** Lisa McLean

**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 9:11 PM

**To:** City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Ferreira, David <[dferreira@london.ca](mailto:dferreira@london.ca)>; Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed LPS Budget Increase

Dear Mayor Josh Morgan, Councillor David Ferreira, and Members of the Budget Committee,

My name is Lisa McLean, I am an Assistant Professor at King's University College and a resident of Ward 13. I was extremely disheartened to learn of the requested budget increase of 30% by the London Police Service. The police budget has been steadily increasing over the years and the recent budget ask includes funding for technological expenses, SUVs, a training centre, tasers, and an armoured vehicle.

London, like many communities across Canada, is struggling with significant social concerns and social suffering. As the Mayor and many others on Council have rightly stated, London is in the midst of a crisis of housing and homelessness. These issues, of course, also imply serious concerns surrounding the health, wellbeing, and the safety of the population - especially for those living in vulnerable circumstances and those who face multiple forms of marginalization.

Substantially increasing the police budget, especially for asks that imply an increased militarization of the police force, will do little to address these concerns, rather, they will likely exacerbate issues of vulnerability among those most at-risk, particularly among unhoused and racialized members of the community.

Rather than investing in a militarized police force, I call on you to make good on your promises to address the housing, homelessness, and mental health crises that are gripping our city. To address this, we must invest in public infrastructure, including the homeless hubs, housing, shelter services, transit, community supports, and other non-police responses. Our tax dollars should not be supporting the further criminalization of unhoused community members.

Let us take this moment seriously and invest in addressing the root causes of human suffering in our city.

Please reject the LPS budget increase.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Lisa McLean

**From:** Rebecca Todd  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:40 AM  
**To:** [hadleighmcallister@london.ca](mailto:hadleighmcallister@london.ca); City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed budget LPS

2024

Date Feb 6,

Dear Mayor Morgan and Mr McAllister,

My name is Rebecca Todd. I work at Parkwood Hospital in rehab services for folks with various disabilities. I myself had a brain injury, and know that a large percentage of folks who end up in jail also have mental disabilities. And I know that no amount of policing will cure mental illness and disability.

I am writing to you today regarding the latest budget proposal by the London Police Service (LPS). This budget requests a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a thirty percent increase in the city's police budget over the next four years. The police budget is already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%, a full 8% higher than the second-highest category of the city's overall budget. Consistently, the LPS has grounded the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Furthermore, the LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city and a considerable amount of modernized technology for those officers, creating a more efficient police service.

These claims are lacking important context. For example, according to Statistics Canada (2023), since 2022 London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%). In fact, our decreases in crime are outperforming the national average in all categories apart from violent crime, of which we are just shy of the national average. The LPS also roots its claims in rising crime rates on the relative increase in response times to code three, non-emergency calls. However, without context on the nature of these calls we are missing important information about how often these calls do not require a police presence, meaning funding would be better allocated to non-police responses. We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous, Black, racialized communities, women, girls, and non-binary folx and Queer communities, unhoused and street-involved folx, lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods, disabled folx and the many intersections of these communities. Thus, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are further considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending.

It's also important to note that non-police-based community responses to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), such as the Hubs through the newly implemented *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* in London are only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. Lastly, the LPS' proposed purchases—like a second armored vehicle, state-of-the-art training facility

with London Fire, and the incorporation of body cameras—are high ticket items and have demonstrated no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates. This article lists some of these items and their associated costs <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drones-tasers-body-worn-cameras-what-s-in-the-london-police-budget-ask-1.7100175>, some of which are additional year-over-year additions to an ever-increasing police budget in a time where community-based supports and resources are being cut and/or are continuously underfunded. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that requires the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

## **FAQs:**

**Q1:** Doesn't hiring more officers result in lower crime rates?

**A1:** As stated by retired police chief Murray Faulkner, increasing police budgets and hiring more police officers does not correlate with lowering crime rates. Police forces react to the presence of crime, but do not necessarily prevent crime. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is “no consistent correlation” between police spending and crime rates in Canada (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>). The police budget is an endless cycle of reactionary response – you can look to Toronto for a stark example. Their police budget is over 1.2 billion dollars a year and yet, this year they are making similar justifications as the LPS for more funding. It is also worth noting that they have also “modernized” with body cameras etc. Policing is not prevention.

**Q2:** Where should the funding for the LPS be reallocated to, if given the option?

**A2:** At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging.

**Q3:** Are there recent examples of communities who have been looking to a more community-based approach?

**A3:** Yes! For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing promising results. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. The London Hubs are a structurally similar initiative facing the same underlying causes; unlike Toronto, these initiatives lack the sufficient time to better understand their impact on reducing police response.

## List of Demands for City Council:

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context on much of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. This following list of demands is not exhaustive:

### 1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET

Have LPS take another look to identify areas they can reduce their budget. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at 16% <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review-1.7099166> . Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. Mayor Josh Morgan has indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.8% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility (the cost for just the first year), totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city.

### 2. CONDUCT further research on the following:

#### a. Call Times

- i. Code 3 calls – what are they specifically? Do they necessarily require police attention?
- ii. What percentage of total calls do the LPS respond to in which other community services are also responding to?

#### b. Mental health related calls

- i. How many calls were mental health related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

#### c. Housing/homelessness related calls

- i. How many calls were housing/homelessness related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

**3. DEFER** the vote on the LPS budget-ask for council to proactively assess a community perspective that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

a. Demand more details from the police. For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?

b. Waiting to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding.

**4. FUND** more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced appropriately.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. At a minimum, we deserve a response to the questions posed and a thorough explanation of how the proposed decisions offer greater benefit to our city. Now is not the time to provide extra funding to the police, particularly funding for things like new technologies and armored vehicles when a significant amount of community members are unable to access even basic necessities.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Todd

Cc budget committee [budgetcommittee@london.ca](mailto:budgetcommittee@london.ca)

**From:** Barbara Newell

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:26 PM

**To:** Franke, Skylar <[sfranke@london.ca](mailto:sfranke@london.ca)>; Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; Morgan, Josh <[joshmorgan@london.ca](mailto:joshmorgan@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

**TO:** Mayor Josh Morgan, (insert your councillor name here)

**RE: London Police Service Budget**

Dear Mayor Morgan and Councillor Franke:

My name is Barb Newell, life long London resident, am a person of lived experience, who worked in mental health, child welfare and with the elderly.

I am writing to you today regarding the latest budget proposal by the London Police Service (LPS). This budget requests a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a thirty percent increase in the city's police budget over the next four years. The police budget is already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%, a full 8% higher than the second-highest category of the city's overall budget. Consistently, the LPS has grounded the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Furthermore, the LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city and a considerable amount of modernized technology for those officers, creating a more efficient police service.

These claims are lacking important context. For example, according to Statistics Canada (2023), since 2022 London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%). In fact, our decreases in crime are outperforming the national average in all categories apart from violent crime, of which we are just shy of the national average. The LPS also roots its claims in rising crime rates on the relative increase in response times to code three, non-emergency calls. However, without context on the nature of these calls we are missing important information about how often these calls do not require a police presence, meaning funding would be better allocated to non-police responses. We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous, Black, racialized communities, women, girls, and non-binary folx and Queer communities, unhoused and street-involved folx, lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods, disabled folx and the many intersections of these communities. Thus, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are further considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending.

It's also important to note that non-police-based community responses to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), such as the Hubs through the newly implemented *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* in London are only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. Lastly, the LPS' proposed purchases—like a second armored vehicle, state-of-the-art training facility with London Fire, and the incorporation of body cameras—are high ticket items and have demonstrated no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates. This article lists some of these items and their associated costs <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drones-tasers-body-worn-cameras-what-s-in-the-london-police-budget-ask-1.7100175>, some of

which are additional year-over-year additions to an ever-increasing police budget in a time where community-based supports and resources are being cut and/or are continuously underfunded. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that requires the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

### **FAQs:**

**Q1:** Doesn't hiring more officers result in lower crime rates?

**A1:** As stated by retired police chief Murray Faulkner, increasing police budgets and hiring more police officers does not correlate with lowering crime rates. Police forces react to the presence of crime, but do not necessarily prevent crime. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is "no consistent correlation" between police spending and crime rates in Canada (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>). The police budget is an endless cycle of reactionary response – you can look to Toronto for a stark example. Their police budget is over 1.2 billion dollars a year and yet, this year they are making similar justifications as the LPS for more funding. It is also worth noting that they have also "modernized" with body cameras etc. Policing is not prevention.

**Q2:** Where should the funding for the LPS be reallocated to, if given the option?

**A2:** At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging.

**Q3:** Are there recent examples of communities who have been looking to a more community-based approach?

**A3:** Yes! For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing promising results. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. The London Hubs are a structurally similar initiative facing the same underlying causes; unlike Toronto, these initiatives lack the sufficient time to better understand their impact on reducing police response.

### **List of Demands for City Council:**

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context on much of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. This following list of demands is not exhaustive:



## 1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET

Have LPS take another look to identify areas they can reduce their budget. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at

16% <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review-1.7099166> .

Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. Mayor Josh Morgan has indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.8% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility (the cost for just the first year), totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city.

## 2. CONDUCT further research on the following:

### a. Call Times

- i. Code 3 calls – what are they specifically? Do they necessarily require police attention?
- ii. What percentage of total calls do the LPS respond to in which other community services are also responding to?

### b. Mental health related calls

- i. How many calls were mental health related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

### c. Housing/homelessness related calls

- i. How many calls were housing/homelessness related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

**3. DEFER** the vote on the LPS budget-ask for council to proactively assess a community perspective that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

a. Demand more details from the police. For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?

b. Waiting to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding.

**4. FUND** more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced appropriately.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. At a minimum, we deserve a response to the questions posed and a thorough explanation of how the proposed decisions offer greater benefit to our city. Now is not the time to provide extra funding to the police, particularly funding for things like new technologies and armored vehicles when a significant amount of community members are unable to access even basic necessities.

Sincerely,

Barbara Newell  
London  
N6J

Cc budget committee [budgetcomittee@london.ca](mailto:budgetcomittee@london.ca)

**From:** Melanie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:33 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: proposed closure of Carson library branch

I am writing this petition to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed closure of the Carson Library branch.

This decision threatens to diminish a vital community space that serves those in the Old East Village. As an area resident, I have personally experienced and benefited from the numerous advantages that our library offers.

It is not just a place for borrowing books. Many residents rely on this facility to access internet and printing services. By closing down this library, we are depriving a vulnerable and underserved population of digital resources.

It is a safe, free space for parents to take young children and provide them with early learning resources.

Moreover, the Carson Library is a central hub for individuals in the community from all walks of life. Losing this space would be detrimental not only to individuals but also to the overall well-being of our community.

It is disheartening that the council is faced with cutting services that benefit those within the Old East Village neighbourhood. We cannot disregard the importance of accessible spaces like this which contribute significantly towards education, social interaction, and community development.

I urge all council members to petition this proposed closure and ensure that Carson Library remains open and thriving for generations to come.

Melanie Caldwell

From: Ashley Miller  
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:49 PM  
To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Budget

I am writing to you to voice my opinion on the budget discussions for the City of London. I am extremely disappointed in the direction that Mayor Morgan has take in the budget for the next 4 years. I want to see a progressive London in the next four years; one where all Londoner's have the economic and social opportunities that make communities great. We obviously need a police force, most well informed people wouldn't argue with that but time and time again it has been proven that larger police units and budgets do not reduce crime. The city needs to invest in poverty reduction measures. Public transit. The library. Housing first and public housing. These are common sense investments that reduce poverty, and increase economic and social capital of those at the bottom of our society.

The police are a reactionary force, they do not get at the root cause of the problem. They will move a tent city but to where? Down the street. It's a perfect analogy for why we need to invest in people not police. They are reacting to a horrible situation that is caused by poverty and can only be stopped by poverty reduction measures. Otherwise we just move the tent city down the road, the same problem over and over again. Please, I beg you to reconsider giving the police everything they are asking for and invest in the people of this city that truly need our help.

Ashley Miller

**From:** Julian O'Connor

**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:21 AM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Stevenson, Susan <[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Important note from a three year old on the potential closure of local library

Hi mayor,

Please don't close my library. I would be very sad.

Love, Jonah

Good morning,

I am deeply saddened to become aware that the Carson library branch in Old East Village could close its doors to the public.

Our family visits this library one to two times a week and we so enjoy our walks and visits to the library. There is something so special about being able to walk one block to the local library.

Our kids have their own library cards and look forward to their weekly visits where they get to choose different books every week and fill their library bag. This is an opportunity for our young children to work on their literacy skills. We read our library books every night in our household. I also see our retired neighbours walking down the street weekly with books in their hands from the library.

I am a teacher who sees first hand the struggle that some students have when it comes to literacy skills. It is concerning to me to think that our own mayor who has children of his own is not putting our public library system as a priority when it comes to the city budget. Our children would literally be so sad if our local Carson library were to shut down. I can't even imagine other families who are less fortunate who would not have access to a library if Carson were to shut down.

Please reconsider and think about how important our public library system is keeping in mind all children. As I teacher I work on a daily basis to create an inclusive and fair classroom where all students have access to the resources they need in order to thrive. I am asking the same of our mayor and city councillors to continue to create inclusive and fair neighborhoods for all families to thrive including access to our local public library. Please show my three year old (and his baby sister) who wrote the note above that you listen and do care.

Thank you,

Jules O'Connor (Old East Village resident)

**From:** Miranda Thiessen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:20 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget Commuttee Deliberations for February 13th

Dear whoever this reaches,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed City of London 'Mulit-Year Budget 2024-2027,' and to state on the record that I am against Business Cases P-28: - Public Safety and Infrastructure Modernization, P-29: Police Vehicle and Equipment Requirements, and especially P-57: LPS Facilities Masterplan and Protective Services Training Campus. Further, I urge you, as my representative at City Council, to vote against the above stated Business Cases.

To be clear, I am not asking to "defund the police," I am asking that the City of London does not vote to increase tax payer dollars to fund the militarization of this city instead of the resources that our communities desperately need. I support Business Case P-L8: Next Generation 911 Centre. I also question the democratic integrity of the London Police Association and its sitting members with regards to its slanderous judgment of taxpayers asking questions about the proposed \$672M budget.

In the newspaper, Police Chief Truong explains that the London Police Services (LPS) did a "comprehensive" study of Londoners which found that no one feels safe in this city. He also hears that mental health, addiction and homelessness are the biggest challenges we believe our city faces - then, why are we not spending most of our tax dollars on those services? Why is the LPS demanding for the biggest line item in the proposed City budget at 17.4%? Which is more than eight times the proposed spend on London & Middlesex Community Housing (at 2.1%), for example. For the safety of the whole community - Indigenous, First Nations and Metis Peoples, elders, the disabled, youth, our children, and those of us who are blessed to be housed, as well as those who have been unhoused - we need housing, not guns, surveillance, or armoured vehicles.

Online, I have read research results which concluded that an increase in police budget does not correlate to a decrease in crime; as well as research that shows how it is cheaper for us to care for people, rather than to criminalize and hospitalize them (over and over again). All of this data concludes that it costs taxpayers less to provide people with healthcare, food and safe, accessible and affordable housing than to police our communities. The data concludes that if the basic needs of everyone in our communities are met - if we improve people's material conditions - that is when crime decreases. We need public resources, not armed police.

I also understand that LPS proposes to build a new police training centre with this Multi-Year Budget, and I want to specifically implore you to vote against this Business Case (P-57). I am aware of the ongoing, mass protests against the building of a police training facility in Atlanta, GA and I do not want that in the London area. As a citizen, as a taxpayer, as your constituent, and as a human being, please know that building a new compound for practicing militarization tactics against protestors and unhoused people does NOT make me feel safer.

To make London safe, we need community care not militarization.

Sincerely,

Miranda Thiessen

London ON

**From:** Karima Cassidy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:54 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City of London proposed budget

Dear City budget committee,

My name is Karima Cassidy, and I am a Londoner living in Ward 4. I'm writing to implore the City Council to vote "No" on the proposed LPS budget increase.

I implore city council to do further research & consult with experts in the harms (further criminalization of people in crisis especially racialized people (mental health and social, which are currently driving our high call & wait times) and lost opportunities (for prevention and upstream community supports that prevent crisis) caused by bolstering police budgets. Dr. Lesley Bikos has been very vocal about this and has a lot of substantial evidence to back her claims for diverting funds to more effective and beneficial causes. She stated on CBC yesterday morning that "ballooning police funding does not actually reduce crime or make communities safer." I encourage you to have a listen: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-158-london-morning/clip/16040110-will-police-budget-increase-equate-safer-city>

I ask that you defer the vote on the LPS budget until you have a better understanding of the nature of social calls (mental health and related to people experiencing homelessness) and invest in prevention instead. Imagine how many people you could house over the next 4 years with >670 million dollars.

Please fund more community organizations that are striving and working tirelessly to address these upstream needs in our community - like Safer Space, AtLohsa, MySisters Place, London Cares, the Libraries, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the HOME bus, etc.

Thank you for your time. I hope to see a more thorough consideration of the lost opportunities (harms from not putting that funding into community supports & services) from the budget committee on the LPS requested budget and thorough explanation for Londoners to weigh in on, before making this huge decision for our city.

Thank you,

Karima Cassidy

**From:** Joshua Klar  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:58 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Susan <[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; Cuddy, Peter <[pcuddy@london.ca](mailto:pcuddy@london.ca)>; Trosow, Sam <[strosow@london.ca](mailto:strosow@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Library Budget

Good evening Councillor Stevenson,

I am very concerned about the proposed budget shortfalls for the London Public Library and in particular the possibility that this would mean the closure of the Carson branch.

The Carson Library is the heart of the Old East Village community. I go there weekly with my kids and it means so much to us. As a father with young children, I can speak on behalf of the families and young developing minds in this community, this library is important.

The library is walking distance for many patrons in this community, making it accessible to all in OEV and East Carling. It also provides a refuge for the more vulnerable in the community.

Please do everything you can to stop the full closure of this branch during budget deliberations. Give the London Public Library the funding they need to provide their vital services to our community.

Thank you.

Joshua Klar

Ward 4/OEV resident



**From:** Julia Beltrano

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:08 PM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for the London Public Library Funding Request - Municipal Budget

Dear members of the budget committee,

I'm writing today to express my support for the London Public Libraries funding request as part of the current budget cycle. I was deeply concerned to read the possibility of branches closing, notably the Carson Branch which serves a community which includes many families with young children in the heart of Old East Village. Libraries are a critical touch point in the lives of our community, and the Carson branch in particular is a lifeline for me and my family after the birth of our first child. Our weekly visits have brought joy to our daughter and fostered an early love of books, and connected her to other children and families in the community.

I would urge you and the city councilors to please give further consideration to investing in these important spaces that enrich our communities.

Sincerely,

Julia Beltrano

Ward 4 Resident

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On Thursday, February 8, 2024, Jerry O'Connor wrote:  
Dear Mayor, Budget Committee and Councillors-

As retired educators, grandparents, London citizen/taxpayers, we are shocked and appalled that you are wanting to give 100% of what the police requested and willing to close three libraries and refuse an increase for libraries and the arts. Maslow identified safety as the lowest psychological need. It's necessary but not needed in our city to the extent the police want at the expense of neighbourhood libraries and the arts, both contributing to the vibrancy and creativity in our city.

Our libraries are hubs that provide places for families and neighbours to gather, to read, to participate in programs, connect with neighbours and deal positively with loneliness, search the internet for jobs and complete applications, and so much more. Libraries and the Arts also offer a 'good bang for the taxpayer buck.'

So, yes, fund the police less, keep libraries open and increase funding for Libraries and the Arts to keep our city interesting, creative and vibrant in the service of ALL neighbourhoods, including those libraries in more rural areas forced into London by amalgamation, and as a way to attract new businesses to our community.

Sincerely,  
Jerry & Margie O'Connor

# **Submission to the City of London**

## **2024 Budget Process**

**February 12, 2024**

### **Deferral of Property Taxes for Lower-Income Seniors**

**Overview** – The City of London should undertake a study to determine the feasibility of introducing a property tax deferral program for seniors and persons with disabilities. Programs have been introduced in British Columbia and Ottawa and have proven to be successful in assisting seniors to avoid poverty and fulfill their desire to age in place.

#### **Submitted by Navigating Retirement**

Navigating Retirement is a London not-for-profit group that helps seniors navigate their retirement years. We believe the elimination of poverty, strategies to reduce elder abuse, access to proper health and ensuring seniors have the necessary support structure should be priorities for all levels of government. This will help ensure we maintain an age-friendly community.

Navigating Retirement  
Don Pollock  
President  
CA/CPA/HBA  
2024 Mayor's Honours List Age-Friendly

## **Property Tax Deferral Plan for Seniors**

Many seniors are struggling to pay their bills. Lower-income seniors who own their homes find property taxes are one of their major expenses. The issue is not the increase in property taxes in any given year, although increases that exceed the consumer price index can be troubling. Seniors who own their homes but live on government pensions and modest investment income find that property taxes are one of their largest expenditures and present a major challenge to continue living in their homes.

### **Proposal**

This recommendation is based on the program that is currently in effect in the City of Ottawa. The Property Tax Deferral Plan would work as follows:

- lower-income individuals apply for a deferral of their property tax on an annual basis.
- applicants are charged interest on the property taxes that have been deferred and the interest is added to their property tax account.
- the taxes, plus applicable interest, are paid to the City when the house is eventually sold.

**Note** – There is a similarity in concept to a reverse mortgage.

**Eligibility** – The cost to the City will be dependent upon the number of residents that qualify for the plan. We believe the eligibility criteria used by the City of Ottawa would be appropriate for consideration by London.

To be eligible for the program, the following conditions are applicable

- Property taxes must be current.
- If the property is owned by more than one person, then all owners must apply and qualify.
- It must be the principal residence of the applicant(s).
- Property is assessed at \$500,000 or less and is in the residential/farm property tax class.
- The applicant's total gross household income from all sources must be less than a pre-determined amount set annually by the City.

## **Who Qualifies**

- Individuals aged 65 or over.
- A person 55 or older and receives pension or disability income.

## **Repayment**

The deferred taxes shall become due at the earliest of the following dates:

- When the applicant(s) no longer meet eligibility criteria such as income.
- When the property is sold.
- Upon the death of the applicant, unless the applicant is survived by a spouse who continues to qualify for deferral.

## **Cost to the City of London**

The City of London has multiple options for controlling the cost of this program. Variables would include:

- Adjusting the income level of qualifying homeowners.
- Adjusting the interest rate charged.
- Adjusting the value of the property that qualifies.

In the long term, this program could run as a break-even, as the City will eventually be reimbursed for deferred taxes plus applicable interest when the homes are eventually sold. There may be an initial cash flow issue as the program is implemented as there will be a period between the deferral of the property tax and the eventual sale of the home.

However, if the City can borrow funds equal to the amount deferred by seniors, the cost will be significantly reduced. The City may consider charging a rate of interest on the tax-deferred property tax account that is equivalent to their cost of borrowing.

## **Costs to the Homeowner**

Although seniors will have more cash available on an annual basis, the equity in their homes will be reduced. This may impact the family, or the beneficiaries when the property is eventually sold.

## **Other Jurisdictions**

**Ottawa** – The proposal in this submission is based on the program currently in effect in Ottawa.

**British Columbia** – They have a property tax deferral program, but it involves the provincial government which loans the money to pay the property taxes.

**Conclusion** - We believe the Ottawa model is the most appropriate for London as it can be independent of other levels of government.

Representatives from Navigating Retirement would be pleased to meet with any City official to discuss the submission.

6 February 2024

**TO:** London City Council Budget Committee

**RE: London Police Service Budget**

Dear Budget Committee Members,

My name is Jess Notwell. I am an Indigenous faculty member at King's University College. In light of the ongoing genocide against Indigenous Nations here on Turtle Island, in light of the over-incarceration of Indigenous people and the criminalization of indigeneity, in light of the fact that 50% of federally incarcerated women are Indigenous while only 4.5% of the population is Indigenous, in light of the epidemic of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, in light of the starlight tours that are happening right here in London, and in light of the lack of implementation of the TRC Calls to Action and MMIWG National Inquiry Calls for Justice related to policing/justice, I am writing to you today regarding the latest budget proposal by the London Police Service (LPS). This budget requests a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a thirty percent increase in the city's police budget over the next four years. The police budget is already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%, a full 8% higher than the second-highest category of the city's overall budget. Consistently, the LPS has grounded the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Furthermore, the LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city and a considerable amount of modernized technology for those officers, creating a more efficient police service.

These claims are lacking important context. For example, according to Statistics Canada (2023), since 2022 London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%). In fact, our decreases in crime are outperforming the national average in all categories apart from violent crime, of which we are just shy of the national average. The LPS also roots its claims in rising crime rates on the relative increase in response times to code three, non-emergency calls. However, without context on the nature of these calls we are missing important information about how often these calls do not require a police presence, meaning funding would be better allocated to non-police responses. We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous, Black, racialized communities, women, girls, and non-binary folx and Queer communities, unhoused and street-involved folx, lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods, disabled folx and the many intersections of these communities. Thus, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are further considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending.

It's also important to note that the Hubs through the newly implemented *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* in London, a non-police-based community response to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), is only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. While in Indigenous communities, traditional governance and legal systems have been in place for centuries to care for our people and our Territories. These systems worked effectively for millennia until they were (and still are) attacked, eroded, disrespected and devalued by colonial policing mechanisms designed to suppress and eliminate Indigenous Nations. Lastly, the LPS' proposed purchases—like a second armored vehicle, state-of-the-art training facility with London Fire, and the incorporation of body cameras—are high ticket items and have demonstrated no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates. This article lists some of these items and their associated costs <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drones-tasers-body-worn-cameras-what-s-in-the-london-police-budget-ask-1.7100175>, some of which are additional year-over-year additions to an ever-increasing police budget in a time where community-based supports and resources are being cut

and/or are continuously underfunded. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that will exacerbate the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

## **FAQs:**

**Q1:** Doesn't hiring more officers result in lower crime rates?

**A1:** As stated by retired police chief Murray Faulkner, increasing police budgets and hiring more police officers does not correlate with lowering crime rates. Police forces react to the presence of crime, but do not necessarily prevent crime. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is "no consistent correlation" between police spending and crime rates in Canada (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>). The police budget is an endless cycle of reactionary response – you can look to Toronto for a stark example. Their police budget is over 1.2 billion dollars a year and yet, this year they are making similar justifications as the LPS for more funding. It is also worth noting that they have also "modernized" with body cameras etc. Policing is not prevention.

**Q2:** Where should the funding for the LPS be reallocated to, if given the option?

**A2:** At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging.

**Q3:** Are there recent examples of communities who have been looking to a more community-based approach?

**A3:** Yes! For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing promising results. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. The London Hubs are a structurally similar initiative facing the same underlying causes; unlike Toronto, these initiatives lack the sufficient time to better understand their impact on reducing police response.

## **List of Demands for City Council:**

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context for many of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. This following list of demands is not exhaustive:

### **1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET**

Have LPS take another look to identify areas they can reduce their budget. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at 16% <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review->



1.7099166 . Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. Mayor Josh Morgan has indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.8% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility (the cost for just the first year), totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city.

**2. CONDUCT** further research on the following:

a. Call Times

- i. Code 3 calls – what are they specifically? Do they necessarily require police attention?
- ii. What percentage of total calls do the LPS respond to in which other community services are also responding to?

b. Mental health related calls

- i. How many calls were mental health related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

c. Housing/homelessness related calls

- i. How many calls were housing/homelessness related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

**3. DEFER** the vote on the LPS budget-ask for council to proactively assess a community perspective that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

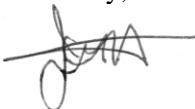
a. Demand more details from the police. For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?

b. Waiting to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding.

**4. FUND** more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced robustly.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. At a minimum, we deserve a response to the questions posed and a thorough explanation of how the proposed decisions offer greater benefit to our city. Now is not the time to provide extra funding to the police, particularly funding for things like new technologies and armored vehicles, when a significant amount of community members are unable to access even basic necessities.

Sincerely,



Cc budget committee [budgetcommittee@london.ca](mailto:budgetcommittee@london.ca)

**From:** Kevin Kaiser  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 10:08 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Multi-Year Budget Feedback

Hello City of London Budget Committee,

I'm writing to provide my input on the tabled multi-year budget and share my thoughts as a long-time resident of this city. I am writing this email for the public participation meeting, and give consent for this letter to be part of the public agenda.

I'm sorry to say that I find it supremely frustrating that the only one organization (i.e. London Police) accounts for around 5%, more than half of the 8.6% increase in property taxes over our next budget period. When we have community members who are struggling to access even basic necessities, and many others who are significantly impacted by the current economy and inflation, attempting to approve a 30% increase to any budget without proper examination and questioning is harmful and irresponsible, no matter what department the money is going to.

Speaking about the budget itself, the proposed LPS budget promises to address high call times, workload, and increased crime rates, etc. These are the exact SAME things they promised to address with the last budget increase they received an increase in 2023 - and now they are asking for more? Who is questioning what LPS did with last time's increase, and why aren't we requiring proof that the money was actually used to deliver on their promises before giving them more money than we ever have before?

That aside, while it is possible that throwing money at the police department MIGHT allow for faster response times and alleviate the **symptoms** (the keyword here is might, as noted above we have no proof or track record that this will actually work), so how about we address the **problem** instead of slapping a band-aid onto it? It is a known fact that police react to crimes after they occur. They do not prevent crime from occurring in the first place. There are so many studies out there which show that increased spending on police does NOT correlate with lower crime rates. Instead, funding social and community programs is what helps address these issues, because guess what? The average person isn't committing crimes when their basic needs are met.

We've seen this in action too - Toronto, Ottawa, and Edmonton all have non-police response programs for mental-health, housing, and/or substance-use related called AND these response programs are working! Police calls are down, people aren't being killed due to excessive force, or criminalized. Instead people are getting the support they need. The system can and should be reimagined and the fact that most of Council does not even seem to be considering the non-policing option is frankly disappointing and shameful.

The London I want to live in is one where we fund transit growth and improvement so that those who can't afford a car can still get to and from work and around the city easily. The London I want to live in is one where we have Library funding so low-income community members and new immigrants can have free access to books, education, the internet, and more. The London I want to live in is one where people having a mental health crisis and need help can actually receive it, instead of being arrested and charged with a crime, or worse, seriously injured or killed due to police violence.

As a 10-year resident of this city, I cannot stand to see our other public services underfunded in favour of a Police Service budget that is being pushed through without being properly questioned and examined. Raising people's taxes by over 8%, with 5% of that accounting towards the LPS is incredibly short-sighted, harmful, and irresponsible - especially during a time when so many people in our communities don't have basic necessities. It's also a sure-fire way to marginalize these communities even more.

The library, transit, community programs and services are being significantly underfunded to pay for this police budget. Reallocating money from the police budget to community supports/

services to address root causes through prevention is vital. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope to see productive budget meeting discussions in the upcoming weeks with some progressive amendments being made for our budget increases to be allocated more evenly across public services.

Fund community. Fund care.

**Kevin Kaiser**

Ward 3 Resident and Londoner since 2013

**From:** Keonah Chartrand  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:03 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 2024 Budget

Hello I would like that communication placed on the agenda as well as the following:

As a person of colour living in London and just a community member that sees what poverty is doing to the people of the city I think it is very important to

Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with ALL community members before making a decision.

Instead of increasing the LPS budget by that much you should conduct further research on call times - both mental health calls and homelessness calls; Fund more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community, including SafeSpace London, Atlohsa (at-LOW-sa), Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares; And lastly, as I know it is important to still fund the LPS you should send back the police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it and look into sensitivity training for the protection of minority communities and people at risk in the London area.

Thanks for your response,

Keonah

**From:** Keonah Chartrand  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 1:41 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Cuddy, Peter <[pcuddy@london.ca](mailto:pcuddy@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 Budget

To whom it may concern,

First I would like to say it is extremely disheartening to not hear back from my ward representative, Councillor Cuddy. You are meant to be the voice for people in my area and cannot even take the time to respond to an email. Your actions affect the everyday lives of hundreds of people and the disregard for active communication is sleezy.

My name is Keonah Chartrand and I am a full time student at Western and a part time worker in the city of London.

I rely heavily on the use of the transit system and believe it is of great importance to invest in this system. It is integral to the lives of all Londoners. Workers and students need a reliable and sustainable transit system, so you must invest in transit growth.

In relation to investing you CANNOT let the \$672 million of the budget be allocated to the London Police Service. This money will not stop crime. Investing in social services that will alleviate poverty will stop crime. This large amount can be distributed to much better services to actually help Londoners.

The city of London continues to fail in important aspects that impact Londoner's on the daily. We are a University city, the transit system is not something we can afford to ignore. With hundreds of People of Colour, born in Canada and abroad, we cannot be investing in systemically racist institutions with no intention of changing these ways.

You must reconsider the 2024 budget.

I hope you'll make the best decision for the city.

Thanks,

Keonah

**From:** Andi Ausrotas  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 10:17 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement for PPM regarding LPS budget proposal

I have read the proposal for an approx. \$672 million budget increase for London Police Services over the next four years. I would like to submit my opinion in saying that I think this is a misuse of our city's money and as a citizen of London, I do not support this proposal. I hereby consent for the following letter to be included in the public agenda.

Living in downtown London, I see first-hand the devastating effects of our city's lack of community resources. Our citizens are living on the streets. They have nowhere to go. They cannot afford homes to live in. They cannot afford food to eat. They are suffering from severe mental illness, lack of healthcare, and addiction. The solution is not to fund aggressive policing and weapons. The solution is valuable and sustainable community resources and services: affordable housing, mental health services, increased healthcare budgets, access to affordable food, and addiction counselling.

Those of us fortunate enough to have access to some of these limited resources are still not immune to the lack of monetary resources this community needs. Our public transit system is inefficient and unreliable, our roads are in disrepair, our buildings are boarded up, and our hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed. City of London is desperate for so many things, but more police is not one of them.

Please invest in our city and its citizens. Please listen to our needs. Do not respond with violence. Respond with care. Everyone deserves shelter, security, and dignity.

In earnest,  
Andi Ausrotas

**From:** Ana Moyer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:03 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] London 2024 Budget

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ana Moyer. I am a citizen of London, Ontario, residing in Ward 13. I am emailing to encourage City Council to vote NO on the recent budget ask by London Police Services (LPS).

This letter is for the public participation meeting (ppm) and I consent for this letter to be part of the public agenda.

Jamelie Hassan, the co-founder of local Forest City Gallery, says it best: "The proposed budget is a crushing blow as it does not recognize, respect or value the excellent cultural work being done in this city. Cultural workers in all disciplines are economically desperate." Regardless, half of our 2024 city budget should not be going to any one service or section - including the LPS.

I demand that City Council:

1. Conduct further research on call times, both mental health calls and homelessness calls
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with all community members before making a decision.
3. Fund more grassroots organizations and nonprofits that do essential work in our London community, including: SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares
4. Send back the proposed police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of all your constituents. At a minimum, we deserve a response and a detailed explanation of how the decision benefits our city.

Kind regards,  
Ana Moyer

**From:** Roberts Natasha  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Roberts Natasha  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request to review LPS budget

Oh and also,  
PLEASE don't close Carson Library! It is an integral place for my family and many of my neighbours. You have already closed our neighbourhood public school (Lorne Ave) please don't close our library.

I urge city council to consider reallocating funds to keep our libraries open and to increase their budgets to provide more mental health support, community building events and opportunities. We need our libraries!!!!!!!!!!!!

**From:** Roberts Natasha  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:45 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request to review LPS budget

My name is Natasha Roberts and I am a citizen of London and resident in Ward 4. I give consent to provide the following email dated Feb 13th, 2024, for public record for the London committee budget review.

I am writing this letter to ask the city council to vote "**NO**" on the London Police Services (LPS) budget ask.

I ask you to respond to the below demands and consider creating a community that is safe for ALL.

I demand that city council:

1. Complete and provide, a thorough data analysis on the types of calls LPS has received over the last 5 years and the response times, to calls such as, traffic violations, accidents, organized crime, and **especially** in regards to mental health and homelessness **including specifics regarding the "crimes" committed by those without a consistent, safe place to sleep.**
2. Provide detailed outcomes of the above mentioned.
3. Provide a detailed explanation of how LPS are trained and expected to respond to each type of call.
4. Provide a detailed account for ALL allegations against ALL members of the LPS organization over the last 5 years and their outcomes.
5. Provide a detailed account for how LPS currently nurtures their relationships with community organizations such as SafeSpace, YOU, Atlohsa and London Cares.
6. Provide a detailed breakdown of what the requested budget will be for, and HOW it will benefit ALL people within the London community.
7. Request that the London community and city council review the above findings BEFORE they determine the bearings for an increased LPS budget.

As someone who lives in the core, and witnesses the "problem areas" of our city, I can say with complete certainty, that more police presence does not make me and my family feel safer. More police does not equal less people on the streets. More police does not mean less mental health concerns. More police does not decrease the addictions rates.

When will our city council recognize the need to address the roots of all these issues? When will the city recognize that police are not the best trained people for many of the issues our city faces? When will city council prioritize building UP our community?

Bandaid solutions, like increasing the LPS budget are not the answer.

Please consider creating a community that provides dignity, safety, and connection for all.

Thank you,  
Natasha Roberts

-----Original Message-----

From: Roberts Natasha

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:18 AM

To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to review LPS budget

Hello,

I am so confused and upset by the recent announcement to increase the LPS funding by 30%, while our social services, such a housing, community outreach, libraries, mental health etc, get nothing even close to that!!!

Have we not learned that the “need” for more police is due to these other issues. That the use of more police is NOT HELPFUL!

As someone who lives in the core of the city, I see and live amongst the “problem areas”. And all I know, is that seeing more police does not make me feel safer. What would make me feel safer would be more housing and resources to help the unhoused.

We don't need more police arresting people for trying to live. We need more money and resources to help these people live in dignity without needing to sleep on the streets or committing “crimes” to survive.

PLEASE consider reallocating a big chunk of this budget to community resources. The library, health care, mental health, housing. More police are not the answer. More armoured vehicles are NOT the answer.

I'm teaching my children who we need to take care of our neighbours. Can you say you are doing the same?

Do better. Our community deserves better.

Thanks,

Natasha Roberts



Hello, my name is Trinity. I am a citizen of London, Ontario and a resident of Ward 4. I'm calling to encourage our council to vote NO on the recent budget ask from the London Police Service (LPS).

I demand that City Council:

1. Conduct further research on call times - both mental hi calls and homelessness calls
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with ALL community members before making a decision.
3. Fund more grassroots organizations and non-profits th do essential work in our London community, including SafeSpace London, Atlohsa (at-LOW-sa), Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares
4. Cut back the police budget and tell LPS to find ways reduce it (no one needs 600+ million dollars if they couldn't even handle the Hockey Canada Sexual Assault case)

It's been proven countless times over that funding social services reduces crime and homelessness. That giving affordable housing is actually more cost effective for cities. And yet there is a proposal for a \$672 million police budget increase? This is a waste of taxpayers money. A literal waste. We could be funding actual support groups to aid our most vulnerable populations (abuse victims, homeless, the mentally ill, etc). Rather than beating them up, slapping the cuffs on them, and tossing them in the slammer.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of ALL of your constituents. At a minimum, we deserve response and detailed explanation of how the decision benefit our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very serious matter.

**From:** Andrew Weiss  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ward 13 resident deeply concerned about police budget

Hello to the London Budget Committee staff,

My name is Andrew Weiss. I have been living in Ward 13 for over 10 years and I am happy and proud to call London my home. I have benefitted from the excellent education I received here in graduate school at Western University. I have also made important use of mental health services available at Victoria Hospital and CMHA's walk-in 24/7 mental health crisis walk-in centre, so I am grateful of those programs having funding, and I am well aware of how important it is for London to fund services that actually help people in need. I also found arts and culture funding, including the collection and programming at the London Public Library, The Arts Project, the Museum London, and The Grand to be a lifeline for me during the most difficult times in my life. It's essential to me that the import of these programs is respected. They are not a luxury, they are a necessity.

Unfortunately, I am deeply disturbed by the recent budget proposal for the city of London's multi-year spending plan. In particular, I do not support the dramatic increase of funding to London Police Services, particular for the unsubstantiated claims being made to justify equipment and personnel increases that have no truthful justification. I am deeply upset that this unjustified increase in funding also comes at the cost of cutting and neglecting funding for arts, culture, housing services, mental health services, and addiction services, all of which would actually help the people in need of help in our good city rather than incarcerating them when it's too late. I am a white, able-bodied person and benefit from many privileges, but I am deeply concerned about the disproportionately negative effects this budget proposal will have on less privileged and more marginalized people living in London.

I want to be clear. I am writing to you today primarily regarding the latest budget proposal by the London Police Service (LPS). This budget requests a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a thirty percent increase in the city's police budget over the next four years. The police budget is already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%, a full 8% higher than the second-highest category of the city's overall budget. Consistently, the LPS has claimed the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Furthermore, the LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city and a considerable amount of modernized technology for those officers, creating a more efficient police service.

These claims made by LPS are lacking important context. For example, according to Statistics Canada (2023), since 2022 London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%). In fact, our decreases in crime are outperforming the national average in all categories apart from violent crime, of which we are just shy of the national average. The LPS also roots its claims in rising crime rates on the relative increase in response times to code three, non-emergency calls. However, without context on the nature of these calls we are missing important information about how often these calls do not require a police presence, meaning funding would be better allocated to non-police responses. We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous, Black, racialized communities, women, girls, and non-binary folks and Queer communities, unhoused and street-involved folks, lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods, disabled folks, and the many intersections of these communities. Thus, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are further considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending.

It's also important to note that non-police-based community responses to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), such as the Hubs through the newly implemented Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness in London are only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. Lastly, the LPS' proposed purchases – like a second armored vehicle, state-of-the-art training facility with London Fire, and the incorporation of body cameras– are high ticket items and have demonstrated no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates. This article from the CBC lists some of these items and their associated costs – <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drones-tasers-body-worn-cameras-what-s-in-the-london-police-budget-ask-1.7100175> – some of which are additional year-over-year additions to an ever-increasing police budget in a time where community-based supports and resources are being cut and/or

are continuously underfunded. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that requires the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

I am here including answers to frequently asked questions for your benefit to clarify the claims I've made above.

## FAQ

Q1: Doesn't hiring more officers result in lower crime rates?

A1: As stated by retired police chief Murray Faulkner, increasing police budgets and hiring more police officers does not correlate with lowering crime rates. Police forces react to the presence of crime, but do not necessarily prevent crime. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is "no consistent correlation" between police spending and crime rates in Canada (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>). The police budget is an endless cycle of reactionary response – you can look to Toronto for a stark example. Their police budget is over 1.2 billion dollars a year and yet, this year they are making similar justifications as the LPS for more funding. It is also worth noting that they have also "modernized" with body cameras etc. Policing is not prevention.

Q2: Where should the funding for the LPS be reallocated to, if given the option?

A2: At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging.

Q3: Are there recent examples of communities who have been looking to a more community-based approach?

A3: Yes! For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing promising results. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. The London Hubs are a structurally similar initiative facing the same underlying causes; unlike Toronto, these initiatives lack the sufficient time to better understand their impact on reducing police response.

To be as clear as possible, here are a list of demands I have for city council:

### List of Demands for City Council

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context on much of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. This following list of demands is not exhaustive:

#### 1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET

Have LPS take another look to identify areas they can reduce their budget. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at 16%: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review-1.7099166>

Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. That means we in London can reduce LPS funding as well. Mayor Josh Morgan, you have indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.8% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility (the cost for

just the first year), totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city.

2. CONDUCT further research on the following:

a. Call Times

- i. Code 3 calls – what are they specifically? Do they necessarily require police attention?
- ii. What percentage of total calls do the LPS respond to in which other community services are also responding to?

b. Mental health related calls

- i. How many calls were mental health related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

c. Housing/homelessness related calls

- i. How many calls were housing/homelessness related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

**3. DEFER the vote on the LPS budget-ask for council to proactively assess a community**

**perspective** that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

**a. Demand more details from the police.** For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?

**b. Wait to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding for LPS.**

**4. FUND more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced appropriately.**

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. At a minimum, we deserve a response to the questions posed and a thorough explanation of how the proposed decisions offer greater benefit to our city. Now is not the time to provide extra funding to the police, particularly funding for things like new technologies and armored vehicles when a significant number of community members are unable to access even basic necessities.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Weiss  
Ward 13 Resident  
N6A 3R9

Budget Committee, Mayor Josh Morgan, and London City Council  
[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)  
300 Dufferin Avenue, London, ON N6A 4L9

To the Budget Committee, Mayor Josh Morgan, and London City Council,

Please note this letter is for the Public Participation Meeting regarding the City of London's Multi-Year Budget for 2024-2027. I consent to the inclusion of this letter in the public agenda. This letter indicates my request for the Mayor's Multi-Year Budget to reallocate funding from the inflated police budget to further fund public transit, libraries, the arts, public washrooms, and affordable housing to develop a strong and vibrant community.

Firstly, as a constituent of London, ON who is unable to drive, I primarily use public transit as a means of mobility in the city, however the lack of frequency of buses on route result in long wait times, upwards of an hour for a bus to arrive at a stop. This results in me arriving late to destinations, missing transfer buses, or entirely opting out of transit. As London expands in density, in order for it to be a destination of choice, we need well-running transit.

Secondly, as a working individual, creative, and community member, I request the council and mayor to consider allocating more funding to the London Public Library. The library exists as an essential third space, providing access to equipment and programs which I cannot utilize elsewhere, including but not limited to printers, Adobe programs, button makers, and research materials. As a working visual artist in this city, funding the London Public Library would result in myself being able to work with them more often, as they would be equipped to pay CARFAC recommended artist fees. Councillor Shawn Lewis included in his previous email response to me that *"In fact, the library increases in the Mayor's budget are the largest increases they've ever received in the past 15 years"*. To include this fact is incredibly disappointing when two library branches (Carson and Glanworth) are at risk of permanent closure, and multiple locations experiencing leaks due to poor infrastructure translates that **the libraries budget is not enough, and has actively not been enough for years.**

To further speak to visual arts funding, I would find it beneficial to see more funding allocated to the London Arts Council's Community Investment Arts Program (CAIP). As a past recipient of CAIP, receiving this funding means I am able to thoughtfully develop and deliver creative artwork / visual art experiences in the city, and be paid a living wage as an artist. Properly funding this programming would communicate to me that the city sees value in the arts, and artists being in London, which currently I do not feel is true; I believe this is a common reason why many creatives move onto other cities where more funding opportunities are available.

I additionally speak to the request to fund public washrooms in order to have longer operational hours at the current public washroom facilities and/or reopen and maintain existing public washrooms around the city. I personally have experienced unhoused people utilizing my home's doorway and studio's doorway as public washrooms on numerous occasions, and I do not feel disdain towards them as there are so few open public washroom facilities to use in the city. It is painfully clear the city only includes unhoused community members as an afterthought in city planning. In addition to public washrooms, I encourage

the city to allocate more funding to low-income housing in order to provide support and safety for our most marginalized residents.

Lastly, I advocate for and request that city council votes NO on the current police budget increase. I firmly believe that redirecting even a fraction of the increase to other essential services would benefit our community significantly more than policing the public. I do not support the city including an increase to fund the London Police Services training campus. I feel doubtful of how that money is appropriately allocated, seeing as the London Police Services recently participated in a five-day SWAT competition in Dubai. It is incredibly unfortunate that the city prioritizes the militarization of our police force, when it is statistically proven that police cause more harm to communities than safety. Additionally, to speak specifically to what Shawn Lewis also included in his email to me: *"We have code 3 911 calls that are taking up to 4 days to respond to. Imagine for a moment you were sexually assaulted, but the person who assaulted you is no longer around. You call the police, and the response is "we will send an officer when we can" and that officer shows up 4 days later...that's a reality in London currently"*; Unfortunately most female-presenting people, including myself do not need to "imagine" being sexually assaulted, according to the Government of Canada *"1 in 3 women experienced unwanted sexual behavior in public which can include unwanted sexual attention or unwanted physical contact"*. Additionally, sexual assault is more often committed by someone the victim already knows, rather than a stranger. And people who have experienced sexual assault commonly do not report it to the police because ***They do not trust the police or the criminal justice system: the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*** notes that *"families and survivors talked frankly about their reasons for not reporting violence to the police or not reaching out to the criminal justice system – even in cases where there had been severe acts of violence perpetrated against them"* (*National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019*). I do not think Shawn's point is appropriate in advocating for increasing funding to the police, if anything it communicates that **police are incredibly substandard first responders**. I would much rather see funding allocated to mental & physical health support organizations.

I sincerely hope that the Budget Committee, Mayor Josh Morgan, and London City Council will see how funding various community services including public transit, libraries, the arts, public washrooms, and affordable housing can lead to supporting the wellbeing and safety of Londoners, and in turn a well-run city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,

Monica Peeff

**From:** The Parkers

**To:** LFP Letters <[lfp.letters@sunmedia.ca](mailto:lfp.letters@sunmedia.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:10:45 a.m. EST

**Subject:** Police Budget

The police budget if approved will increase property taxes 30% over the next four years. This is inflation on steroids. The budget contains gadgets, hardware and personnel that sound more like a list prepared to send to help Ukraine. London, Ont. is not a war zone. The Police Board chair has said (on local news) we are all living in fear and this increase in Police resources will make us safer. Where is the research to support this? Exploiting fear has always been a successful tool in Police budget negotiations by trying to justify egregious increases to our property tax base at the expense of other necessary programs. Not all home owners can assume such increases, as well, renters will see such increases passed on to them making housing more expensive and less accessible. The mayor supports this budget "unequivocally" as he has regrettably drunk the cool aid. The mayor's new extra powers is concerning in this regard. The Police Board offers us no protection for unreasonable increases in Police budget requests. This is not 'de funding' police rather 'right' funding. This position should be seen as common sense not portrayed by police as "zealotry." Police complain many of their calls are for mental health issues; where is the allocation of resources for mental health professionals in this budget to respond to this need? Having two cops dressed in black with body armour and guns showing up at the door is neither an appropriate nor therapeutic response to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. We have seen examples of this in Toronto when a young woman suffering a psychotic episode jumped over her balcony to her death after seeing two police officers at her door; or the young man shot to death by police while (isolated, alone and unarmed) on a street car. We can do better than this. City Councillors are our last hope to insist on a reality check in spending: our pockets are only so deep. We need to support programs, services, and organizations who are in the business of making our community better and safer for all. Police Services is only one component in this equation. However, this budget skews this relationship.

I am sending my concerns not only as a resident of this city but offering a perspective as a retired Social Worker (BSW, MSW) of over three decades having worked in the community and hospital settings with Canadian War Veterans, Geriatrics, and in Forensic Mental Health care.

H. Parker

Ward 7 resident

**From:** Caitlyn Priya Ramdharry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Stevenson, Susan <[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] London Police Service Budget

Dear Mayor Morgan and Councillor Susan Stevenson,

My name is Caitlyn Ramdharry, I reside in ward 4 and am a King's University student in year 4 of my honors double major in Sociology and Criminology. Additionally, I am racialized woman from a low-socioeconomic background and am very concerned about the unfettered support of the latest budget proposal by the London Police Service (LPS). This budget requests a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a thirty percent increase in the city's police budget over the next four years. The police budget is already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%, a full 8% higher than the second-highest category of the city's overall budget. Consistently, the LPS has grounded the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Furthermore, the LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city and a considerable amount of modernized technology for those officers, creating a more efficient police service.

These claims are lacking important context. For example, according to Statistics Canada (2023), since 2022 London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%). In fact, our decreases in crime are outperforming the national average in all categories apart from violent crime, of which we are just shy of the national average. The LPS also roots its claims in rising crime rates on the relative increase in response times to code three, non-emergency calls. However, without context on the nature of these calls we are missing important information about how often these calls do not require a police presence, meaning funding would be better allocated to non-police responses. We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous, Black, racialized communities, women, girls, and non-binary folx and Queer communities, unhoused and street-involved folx, lower socioeconomic status neighborhoods, disabled folx and the many intersections of these communities. Thus, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are further considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending.

It's also important to note that non-police-based community responses to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), such as the Hubs through the newly implemented *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* in London are only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. Lastly, the LPS' proposed purchases—like a second armored vehicle, state-of-the-art training facility with London Fire, and the incorporation of body cameras—are high ticket items and have demonstrated no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates. This article lists some of these items and their associated costs <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drones-tasers-body-worn-cameras-what-s-in-the-london-police-budget-ask-1.7100175>, some of which are additional year-over-year additions to an ever-increasing police budget in a time where community-based supports and resources are being cut and/or are continuously underfunded. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that requires the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

#### FAQs:

**Q1:** Doesn't hiring more officers result in lower crime rates?

**A1:** As stated by retired police chief Murray Faulkner, increasing police budgets and hiring more police officers does not correlate with lowering crime rates. Police forces react to the presence of crime, but do not necessarily prevent crime. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is "no consistent correlation" between police spending and crime rates in Canada (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>). The police budget is an endless cycle of reactionary response – you can look to Toronto for a stark example. Their police budget is over 1.2 billion dollars a year and yet, this year they are making similar justifications as the LPS for more funding. It is also worth noting that they have also "modernized" with body cameras etc. Policing is not prevention.



**Q2:** Where should the funding for the LPS be reallocated to, if given the option?

**A2:** At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging.

**Q3:** Are there recent examples of communities who have been looking to a more community-based approach?

**A3:** Yes! For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. Although the program is relatively new, it is showing promising results. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. The London Hubs are a structurally similar initiative facing the same underlying causes; unlike Toronto, these initiatives lack the sufficient time to better understand their impact on reducing police response.

### **List of Demands for City Council:**

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context on much of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. This following list of demands is not exhaustive:

#### **1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET**

Have LPS take another look to identify areas they can reduce their budget. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at 16% <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review-1.7099166>. Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. Mayor Josh Morgan has indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.8% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility (the cost for just the first year), totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city.

#### **2. CONDUCT** further research on the following:

- a. Call Times
  - i. Code 3 calls – what are they specifically? Do they necessarily require police attention?
  - ii. What percentage of total calls do the LPS respond to in which other community services are also responding to?
- b. Mental health related calls
  - i. How many calls were mental health related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?
- c. Housing/homelessness related calls
  - i. How many calls were housing/homelessness related in 2023? How are police resources being used to address these calls effectively?

**3. DEFER** the vote on the LPS budget-ask for council to proactively assess a community perspective that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

- a. Demand more details from the police. For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?
- b. Waiting to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding.

**4. FUND** more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks

with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced appropriately.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. At a minimum, we deserve a response to the questions posed and a thorough explanation of how the proposed decisions offer greater benefit to our city. Now is not the time to provide extra funding to the police, particularly funding for things like new technologies and armored vehicles when a significant amount of community members are unable to access even basic necessities.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Ramdharry

**From:** Kastoori Barua  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:04 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] London budget

Dear London Budget Committee,

My name is Kastoori. I am a citizen of London, Ontario, residing in Ward 13. I am emailing to encourage City Council to vote NO on the recent budget ask by London Police Services (LPS).

I demand that City Council:

1. Conduct further research on call times, both mental health calls and homelessness calls
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with all community members before making a decision.
3. Fund more grassroots organizations and nonprofits that do essential work in our London community, including: SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares
4. Send back the proposed police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of all your constituents. At a minimum, we deserve a response and a detailed explanation of how the decision benefits our city.

Kind regards,

Kastoori

**From:** nicole brandon  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2024 10:50 PM  
**To:** City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Stevenson, Susan <[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] city budget

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillor Stevenson,

I am writing today to express my incredible disappointment with the proposed four-year city budget. That's putting it mildly, because I am angry!

I am angry that our libraries are chronically underfunded.

I am angry that the London public transit system is woefully inadequate.

I am angry that the City declared a climate emergency, yet does little to tackle the problem of climate change.

And I sure am angry that all these things suffer because the police are awarded such a big slice of the pie.

I don't doubt that more police officers are needed. London is a growing city. I'm ok with an increase in the police budget. But 672 million dollars? More than half a billion!?!?!?!? The ask is enormous, yet you don't bat an eye.

Many Londoners are scratching their heads at this. Instead of pushing back against the public outcry, please listen to our concerns.

I live in OEV. This neighbourhood lost its public school a few years ago, and now it might lose its library. HELL NO! Libraries are invaluable resources that provide safe spaces, education, many resources, and help for people who need it. The services offered by libraries can help lift a person out of poverty, which, these days, is so important.

Transit? The system is years behind. Infrequent service. Over-capacity buses that leave people stranded. And it takes so long to get from A to B. How awful for the Londoners who rely on transit to get around. (Thank you Councillor Stevenson for voting to increase the LTC budget).

Mr. Mayor, I'm appalled at some of your recent comments about the reasonable asks from the LTC and the LPL, etc. You're at a loss that the amount awarded is not enough? Why do you feel that the police should get 100% of their ask while other essential services get bits and pieces? You want to audit the LTC? Sure. But this sounds like a deflection from the valid concerns Londoners have about the police budget.

Police react to crime, not prevent it.

I've been in London since 2011. I am an educated professional. I volunteer. I donate to local charities (like My Sister's Place, Ark Aid Mission, Lifespin, and Indwell). I shop at local businesses. I'm exactly the demographic this city needs. And I'm seriously considering leaving London.

I am asking you to properly fund libraries, transit, the arts, and climate-friendly initiatives. These services and programs benefit everyone by providing the services and programs that tackle some of the root causes of crime.

Furthermore, I am asking you to ask the Police Board to find efficiencies, which is no more than what you are asking of other essential city service providers.

Sincerely,

Nicole Brandon  
Elizabeth Street, Ward 4 London



February 10th, 2024

Chief Thai Truong and the London Police Services Board  
City of London Police Services  
601 Dundas Street  
London, Ontario  
N6B 1X1

Dear Chief Thai Truong;

*Re: Request for Reconsideration of Budget Allocation and Strengthening Community Collaboration to end Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women.*

We are writing as a collective of organizations and leaders within the Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women Sector and wish to express our concerns about the London Police Service budget submitted to the City of London.

We hope you and your team would be willing and open to review our concerns and suggestions about possibly repurposing funds.

Specifically, we are looking at the multi-year budget request to the City of London for body cameras, car cameras, and a light armored vehicle (Business Cases P-28 and P-29. within the City of London Draft Multi-Year Budget).

These three items amount to \$4,471,627 in capital costs and an additional \$1,940,492 in operating costs, totaling \$6,412,119 over the next 4 years or an annual cost of \$1,603,030. While we understand the importance of investing in technological advancements for law enforcement, we would like to bring to your attention the urgent need for resources to address critical issues such as Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking. We are under the understanding that the Intimate Partner Violence Unit is one of the only units within LPS that does not have an investigative component. These crimes not only pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of our community members but also demand a comprehensive and proactive approach.

We would like to request that LPS reconsider the allocation of funds from the proposed budget for body and car cameras and redirect a portion of those resources towards strengthening units dedicated to, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and combating Human Trafficking. An example of an appropriate reallocation of funds would be an investment in an investigative section specific to the Intimate Partner Violence Unit, who is trauma and violence informed. By enhancing these specialized units, we can make a more profound impact on the safety and security of our community as well as being survivor focused and practicing more trauma and violence informed care. The nuance of Intimate Partner Violence, for example, is extremely important and we feel it goes beyond regular training that uniformed officers attending these calls would receive.

The Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Teams at LPS do essential, lifesaving and critical work that deserves to be funded properly.

With the international spotlight on London Police Service and how they respond to sexual violence, we believe that now is the time to put resources into this important work, address challenges and shortfalls, and focus on protecting our community.

We feel strongly that the London Police Service needs to understand that when we hear about LPS members being sent to Dubai to participate in a SWAT competition (no matter the benefit), while rates of femicide are skyrocketing in the province of Ontario, it shakes our trust. Community collaboration is a key component in building trust, understanding and support between law enforcement and the public. By working together, we can create a safer and more secure environment for all residents of the City of London.

Additionally, we encourage the London Police Service Senior Leadership to actively engage in and fund partnerships and innovative collaborations with local community organizations that specialize in addressing these critical issues. Establishing strong ties with community partners can facilitate a more holistic and effective approach to combating crimes such as Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the challenging decisions you must make on behalf of our community and trust that you will prioritize the safety and well-being of its residents. All five of our organizations are more than willing to meet and discuss further with your team.

Sincerely,

Jessie Rodger - Executive Director of Anova

Tim Smuck - Executive Director of Changing Ways

Jennifer Dunn, Executive Director at the London Abused Women's Centre

Elyas Farooqi - Managing Director of the Muslim Resource Centre

Elyssa Rose - Executive Director of Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy

CC: London City Council Budget Committee

**From:** colleen murphy

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:56 AM

**To:** City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>; Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget requests.

Good morning to you both.

I am writing to share what my priorities are as a Londoner and a resident of Ward 4.

I would like my letter to be added to the public agenda.

I strongly support the ask of the London Public Library as it is a vital community space that provides connection for many Londoners. The idea of closing libraries due to much needed repairs not being funded is short sighted. Libraries provide knowledge, safety, community and so much more. Local artists have been able to create albums in the music space at the main branch to launch or continue their careers..

London has declared a climate emergency and yet the budget does not seem to align with this. I would like to see the increase in transit hours that the LTC is requesting funding for. This not only aligns with London's Climate action plan but also with London's declaration of being a safe city for women. As a woman, who for much of my life here in London relied on Transit, I can tell you that not being able to get a bus after work can leave women in vulnerable positions. Although I mostly commute by bike these days, the last two times I have attempted to take the bus to and from work the bus has driven by myself and at least 7 others waiting because it was already at capacity. I need you to increase funding for transit. I need transit service to provide more frequent service and not have full buses continue to pass me by. I need to be able to get around the city in a reasonable amount of time and not have to dedicate hours of bus travel just to get to my job or do an errand. Reliable bus service also has economic benefits, if it is difficult to get to local businesses more and more Londoners may resort to on-line purchases and this takes more money out of the local economy. Our small businesses support our communities and we need to support them.

I would also like to see snow removal in all bike lanes as again this aligns with London's Climate Action Plan. Mainly Londoners are choosing to be car free and in order to meet our Climate Action goals we need to make it easier for more people to do so.

Finally I do not support the ask for the police budget and would highly recommend that police services be asked to go back to the table and readdress their ask. We do not need an armoured vehicle, we would be better served with a mental health worker at the libraries. We cannot continue to allow the police budget to grow year after year without seeing results and the fact is we won't see results because Police respond to crime they don't stop it. I think it is also important to note that police have made this city less safe for women who reported sexual assaults and were not believed, for women who died or were assaulted in their care and for many minorities.

Thank you for your time.

Colleen Murphy  
London ON  
N5Y 2J6

> From: Arlene Thompson  
> Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:02 PM  
> To: Budget <[Budget@london.ca](mailto:Budget@london.ca)>  
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns Re: 2024 budget  
>  
> Dear Budget Committee,  
> I am writing to express my concerns with the Budget released by the Mayor.  
> There are many demands on a limited budget and it is impossible to meet all requests.  
> I totally understand why a rate hike is necessary.  
>  
> However, while I am very supportive of the Police department and recognize that they are performing a challenging job in the City, I do not see why they are getting such a big increase and others are being cut. Also, Neighbourhood Decision Making is getting an increase. The projects that have been funded are nice but do not benefit a majority of Londoners. I do see the Neighbourhood Decision Making as a frill.  
>  
> London Public Library should not be faced with a decrease in their budget. London Public Library operates with a very lean budget. The Library is one of the only places in the community that someone can enter without paying a fee or explaining why they are there. The Library meets an essential need for people who need access to WiFi or the computers because the person is unable to afford to pay for monthly internet service at home. If you are homeless, the Library's computers offer a way to connect with family and friends. If the Library is forced to close locations and limit hours of opening, the people who can least afford it are the ones who will be impacted.  
>  
> London Public Library requires funds to maintain and repair the 16 buildings. With the limited funds available, the buildings are not being maintained as they should be. If infrastructure is not maintained on a regular basis, eventually the taxpayer is faced with a higher bill when issues become severe and there is no recourse but to address the problems.  
>  
> We can be proud of the service that the staff are able to offer while being understaffed. London Public Library is not asking for a huge increase and possibly it is not possible to give an increase but they should not be faced with a cut to their already extremely tight budget, especially when this is multi-year budget.  
>  
> Thank you for reading the concerns of a citizen,  
>  
> Arlene Thompson  
> Sent from my iPad



**From:** Matthew Brown

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:49 AM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <[pvanmeerbergen@london.ca](mailto:pvanmeerbergen@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget input (with consent to be included in public participation meeting)

Good morning, Mayor Morgan, Councillor Van Meerbergen, and the City Budget Committee.

I understand the desire for a safe city and also understand how difficult the budget process must be, so thank you for all your effort on this.

That said, I cannot support the City giving full funding to the London Police Service, especially at a time when funding for community services like transit and libraries is at risk.

Beyond studies that say that police spending has no consistent correlation with lower crime rates (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>), it is simply irresponsible to give the London Police Service everything it is asking for at a time when other community services and City departments are facing cuts. I am not a zealot and don't support the abolishment of the police or any such thing -- I agree that police have been tasked with doing too much but the answer isn't I'm simply asking that Mayor and Council act in the best interest of all Londoners by scrutinizing the ask from the London Police Service just as closely as any other service or department in the City.

Can you honestly say that the London Police Service deserves every one of their asks? The drones? The tasers? A SECOND armoured vehicle? A new training facility? Body cameras that can be turned off? I have no issues whatsoever with my taxes going up but I beg you to make the increase justified and worthwhile to all Londoners, especially vulnerable populations in need.

The small fraction that you take away from the London Police Service would mean the world to the London Public Library and London Transit (or any other number of services that need further investment, like our hubs or affordable housing).

The only power I have is in my vote, so please know that if the London Police Service receives funding for their full ask, I will actively campaign against Mayor Morgan and my Counsellor (Van Meerbergen) in the next election.

Thank you for your time.

Matthew R. Brown

Westmount Homeowner

**From:** Rachelle Miele  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 12:42 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] LPS Budget for PPM

Dear city council,

I am a citizen of London and a resident of Ward 13. I am sending this letter to urge you to vote NO on the recent budget ask from the London Police Service (LPS).

The proposed budget is a gross misuse of city funding and is not community focused. Crime rates are down and Londoners highest concerns centre around social issues including housing, food insecurity, mental health, access to healthcare, and substance use.

More police means more criminalization of already highly criminalized and marginalized folks as well as an increase in the criminalization of mental health and homelessness. More police does not lead to safer communities and having more police does not prevent crime - increased spending also does not lead to lower crime rates. Increased police budgets such as the one proposed by LPS increases the criminalization and over policing of marginalized folks including Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, disabled folks, those living in poverty, and those experiencing several of these intersecting identities. Marginalized folks are not only likely to not receive help but are also at an increased risk of experiencing police violence.

What London needs is investment in our community and support services. At a time when community members are struggling and do not have basic necessities like food, housing, employment, and healthcare, the need to address social issues through community and care rather than policing is imperative.

This letter is for the public participation meeting (PPM) and I consent to have the letter part of the public agenda.

Dr. Rachelle Miele

--

**Rachelle Miele, PhD**  
Instructor (she/her)  
Department of Sociology

Western University & King's University College at Western University

I acknowledge that Western University and King's University College are situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak, and Chonnonton Nations.

*I may email you late at night or on the weekend. Please do not feel any pressure to respond outside of your typical working hours.*

Hello Budget Committee and Londoners,

The past 2 weeks have been quite turbulent for me in terms of attempting to get through all of the multi-year budget proposals and properly understand their implications. I've been spending several hours outside of my workday combing through the Mayor's proposed budget and then nearly 20 hours going through the recorded budget committee meetings including today's livestream.

Frankly, as a renter, the thought of an 8.7% property tax increase is terrifying. The thought of 30% in property tax across the next 5 years is harrowing. I see how we got here and I know it took several tough decisions, but it's the sort of thing you can barely prepare for. As landlords across the city and the province continue to surcharge given the loosening of restrictions, things like this continue to give them reasons to justify increasing rent for people like me, my colleagues, and anyone else in the city. Reading that more than 86% of apartment condos in London are owned by investors makes me sulk. With no vacant home tax or anything of the sort, renters are essentially bankrolling investors to keep on scalping apartments, driving up rental prices, further changing the real estate values making switching from renting to owning a property even more costly.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-investment-property-1.6739784>

Over the 20 hours worth of budget committee meetings, I learned more about the different proposals that had come forward for the budget and tried to understand how we got to where we are. I found some of the discussions quite irritating and thought the priorities of several councillors seemed to be quite inconsiderate to what a lot of Londoners are going through. Equally, I found some councillors to be hypocritical, stating that the priority should be on not hurting the taxpayer and helping Londoners, whilst also not voting in favour of amendments necessary to supporting the community. However, the most common pattern I found was that no portion of the budget had consistent support aside from the LPS budget requests. As far as the council was concerned, the LPS needed every one of their requests met to a T, with barely any questions asked. The reasoning for this was surprising, given that it seemed to only apply to this one group and nowhere else. When it comes to supporting the LBL which finds itself underfunded and needing more, "they shouldn't make such large requests and should do what they can with what they have." When it comes to supporting the LTC, we've given them enough, even though they say and have evidence that they're at capacity a lot of the time and riders are left behind, even though London is way behind in supporting transit compared to other municipalities "we've given them money, they shouldn't keep asking for more and should manage with what they have." But barely any criticism was made of the LPS budget. We got, "They've done their review and stated that this is what they need to keep going, and we need to give them exactly that." The LPL and LTS budget proposals were both cautiously optimistic, they didn't express a strong desire to revamp their facilities, let alone build two additional ones, just to make the service better with the facilities they have, and continue providing an essential service to the community. I respect that their cautious optimism was met with realism, but the realism was quite harsh and frankly inconsiderate.

The deputy mayor expressed "frustration" that the LTC said ridership would decrease with its increased fare, but ridership increased. If I'm understanding him correctly, he thought that upon seeing the \$0.40 increase, London Transit riders would make the decision immediately

to purchase a \$30,000 vehicle within the first month of experiencing that new fare. Seemingly expecting an instant effect to take place as though purchasing a vehicle is not another strenuous investment that takes months of planning and weighing out the cost-benefit. One could argue that knowing the fare increase was coming would give people time to plan to get a car, but that would forgo the fact that the LTC announced the fare increase in December when Londoners were dealing with all the hustle and bustle that comes with working at the end of the year. As someone who frequently commutes through Transit around London I've been doing all I can to budget, and weigh out the pros and cons of car ownership, whilst dealing with the rapid increase in grocery prices, and a high rental price that is likely to increase again. I'm frankly glad to be staying away from owning a vehicle for as long as I can, but as costs continue to increase, getting a vehicle is beginning to look like a worthy investment, especially without improved route servicing. I was glad that after two amendments we could see the LTC budget increased substantially. But that was not easy. Despite the impassioned pleas from the LTCs board and several of the councilors, the budget increase could only happen due to a singular swayed vote. That's terrifying.

Despite several councilors seeming to connect with the LPL, it was consistently described as an unworthy service. As its operation has become more expensive and they've had some difficulty going at things the way they have been, an increased budget would bring relief to that and help them. I was happy to see the budget amendment for an increased 2024 budget, but sad to see it couldn't get the continuous budget increase requested for the following years. Libraries mean a lot to me, but I've found that they are most impactful for children. Closing a singular library branch in a community takes its service away from children. Children who won't be able to write letters to plead for the closest community learning space for them to stay open. Continuing to insist that the library cut costs in other libraries and focus that money elsewhere, is blatantly denying the usefulness of library spaces. Libraries are not meant to be for-profit centres. If any of them are receiving less foot traffic than expected it is likely a result of underfunding to the library requiring reduced hours, or requiring that services and programming at less populated branches be cut. It seemed several times that the council was taking issue with how few services there were at some branches, yet ignoring how that could be fixed with more funding.

Without daring to be as audacious as the LPS, both the LPL and the LTC brought forth reasonable cases that were torn apart and gutted. Which isn't to say they didn't get anything. They did get funding, noted several times to be more funding than they have received prior, which I'm very grateful for and looking forward to seeing the results of, but they faced such strong challenges to request more. Challenges not at all present to the LPS. They made this request that will cost a 5.0% increase in property tax because they know what they need. It seems that there is such a large blind faith in the LPS, amounting to in funding \$672 million, over the next four years. Despite listening to the meeting, I am still quite baffled at how so much of this constitutes a need. Especially given how few questions were asked regarding it. A second armoured vehicle? The first one doesn't track much usage. In 2006, 2009, and 2011, the LAV was only used once. It wasn't used at all in 2007, 2008, and 2010, and twice in 2017. In 2013 and 2014, the LAVs were deployed eight times, and in 2012 and 2018, six times. In fact, the bulk of its usage has been in training or just for display. But we're just okay with paying the nearly \$500,000 price tag to get a new one? To hire around 100 officers, its own hike in price that I won't argue here, they're proposing building a new training centre (amidst headquarters improvements) costing \$80 million in this tax increase. A new remotely

piloted aircraft system, of which they received 8 more in 2021, costing nearly half a million again.

The big asks of the police budget are not investigated further because councillors and the Mayor trust whatever the police do. But how exactly do any of the above increases do that? They are the most costly ventures and simply add more of what the LPS already has. How does that make individuals safer?

Safety is a thing of the present. The police are a response. Crime doesn't stop when there are more police. It is responded to at a better pace. As the cost of living increases, crime will increase. As the cost of living increases, homelessness will increase. We will never have enough officers to "stop" crime, because crime comes before the response. Increasing the property tax by 8.7% while refusing to fund community resources, nonprofit supports, and transit, will take people out of their homes. It will make people desperate for money. It will lead to more theft, it will lead to more violence. Sure we'll have more people available to respond to the crime, but by focusing on the response and increasing the cost of living through doing so, this budget continues to contribute to the problem.

It's hard for me to expect much change from this, as I've seen how amendments go in the committee. Regardless of how strongly I feel about this, I know several of you have made up your minds on what's more important. 100 letters like this wouldn't convince you to approach this differently. This is sad because that is what the representation of councillors should amount to. I conclude my letter with concern. For the city, and for those who are struggling much more than I, who will have to bear this increased property tax as well.

Thank you for listening,

Emmanuel Akanbi  
Ward 13 Resident

#### References:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-investment-property-1.6739784>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-police-get-a-bird-s-eye-view-of-crime-scenes-thanks-to-drones-1.6871087>
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-police-light-armoured-vehicles-1.5081305>

From: Christine Montgomery  
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:49 AM  
To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Library budget

Libraries are more relevant than ever and LPL needs your support desperately! Please allot the library the much needed dollars that they deserve.

Christine Montgomery

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Wayne Ferguson Kim Chapman  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 10:22 AM  
**To:** Pribil, Jerry <[jpribil@london.ca](mailto:jpribil@london.ca)>  
**Cc:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 Budget Questions and Input

Dear Mr. Pribil...

I've attached the email I sent to you on December 30th regarding my support of the LPL budget. Thank you for your response and giving my email consideration. In the light of the upcoming budget, I have some questions for you. I'm aware that the budget is practically finalized and I feel a bit helpless as to see any changes at this time, but as a taxpayer and London resident, I feel I needed to get my questions to you and my thoughts on paper. Here goes.

The changes to our property taxes are predominantly due to the changes in the approval of the London Police budget's approval (>50%). I would like to know:

\* why so little debate on the acceptance of this budget? Where did you, as my elected official, stand on the London Police budget's approval.

\* why such a gigantic ticket price on a training centre and facilities? (According to the London Police force's presentation, \$49 million in 2024 and \$74 million in 2025). While I can find a lot of information on the rationale for increased personnel and technology, I can find very little information on the rationale for this HUGE cost to taxpayers. Please help me understand this gigantic cost. In my opinion, cost savings to help support the library could have come from these funds. I've done some research and while I understand that council is not allowed to dictate operations of the police force and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission Tribunal could be used to weigh in on cuts, a \$ amount could be cut and the Police Force would need to figure out how to allocate the remaining \$ funded.

\* Please note that I do understand the need for more FTE, as we are understaffed on a per capita basis compared to other larger Canadian cities; however, London's crime rate hit a 20 year low in 2022 and I do not feel that the council has completely looked into the research regarding police funding and crime rates. Taxpayers are squeezed with rising costs for housing and food...where's the "judicial creativity" in looking at this huge expenditure and increase to our taxes?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Chapman

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Email sent December 30th 2023

First of all, I hope you and your family are having a wonderful holiday season, and I wish you all the best for the upcoming year.

Thank you for representing Ward 5 on council - I voted for you - and I am now writing to you for the very first time as I and my husband would like to advise you that we strongly support LPL's request to an increase in their budget allotment for the 2024-2027 budget increase. I have read their proposal and support it. I agree that local **libraries** are the cornerstone of healthy communities, and that a thriving local **library** can, in so many ways, support the needs of a diverse municipality. I agree that our **library** also supports the various needs as addressed in our overall budget (as mentioned in their proposal). And when I see a facebook post from LPL stating that the roofs are leaking in several branches, I feel a visceral tug in my heart - we need to fix it!

For me personally, I have had a longstanding love of literature and, consequently, **libraries**. I've used a **library** for information, sanctuary, meetings and esthetic pleasure and just to pass the time and I've shared my love of them with my family and friends. It's easy to forget about the necessary budgets that are needed to keep our **libraries** in tip top shape. Let's show our **library** that we NEED them and we SUPPORT them FULLY regarding their proposed budget.



**From:** Bonnie Parkins  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FUND OUR LIBRARY

This is not the time to be cutting the budget of the London Library. If we have to pay more property taxes, oh well. The people most in need of its services don't pay taxes. The rest of us need to pony up. The fact is the library saves each of us hundred of dollars a year with services you can't really even put a price on. I can't afford to buy all the books I read in a year. Or pay for access to research materials in the archives. How much value is added to our community by outreach programs like ESL and children's programs? The library provides employment for hundreds of skilled people. The buildings are a safe place to go.

City Council and Mayor MAKE THE LIBRARY A PRIORITY.

Bonnie Parkins

Moir St, London



# Neighbourhood Legal Services

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX

**By Email to** [budgetcommittee@london.ca](mailto:budgetcommittee@london.ca)

February 21, 2024

City of London

**RE: City of London 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Consultations –  
Supplementary Submission**

Neighbourhood Legal Services (London and Middlesex) Inc. is a poverty law clinic assisting low income individuals who reside in Middlesex County with legal issues in the areas of Housing, Income Maintenance and Employment Law.

A large portion of our work is providing legal advice, assistance and representation to low income tenants facing eviction applications at the Landlord and Tenant Board. Through this work we have seen the importance of the Hoarding/Extreme Clean Program and the Housing Stability Bank in assisting numerous tenants to maintain their affordable housing units.

In our initial submission in the budget consultations, we outlined our reasons to support Business Plan #P15 Hoarding/Extreme Clean Program and Business Plan #16 Housing Stability Banks (HSB) Expenses.

We were dismayed to learn that these business plans were not included in the Mayor's budget and further that council did not vote to approve these business cases in their budget deliberations.

We are imploring councilors to reverse these decisions, as we adamantly believe that these two business cases would prevent an increase in homelessness at a low cost as well as maintaining much needed affordable housing units.

We would like to share our recent experience with both programs to show why council should approve these two business cases.

## **1. Business Plan Hoarding/ Extreme Clean Program – Business Plan # P-15**

Our clinic has worked with Extreme Clean on numerous files over the last year. In fact, Extreme Clean has referred tenants they were working with to us as these tenants were facing eviction applications and were unaware that they could seek help from our clinic. Some of these clients were struggling with mental health and hoarding issues, but many others had problems preparing their units for pest management treatment and/or experienced difficulty maintaining their homes in a state of ordinary cleanliness due to age and/or disability. In the last couple of weeks alone two tenancies were saved due to the involvement of Extreme Clean. One tenant is blind and another suffers degenerative arthritis and is in her 80's. In both these cases we were able to mediate settlements (performance agreements) with landlords at the Landlord and Tenant Board to avoid the evictions of these tenants from their affordable units. These past/ongoing settlements are only possible because Extreme Clean was involved.

We also are aware that Extreme Clean involvement in tenant's homes is mandated in discharge plans from hospitals. Patients cannot be discharged from hospital if their units are not habitable or cannot be made to accommodate their transition from hospital. In some cases, people need assistance to de-clutter their spaces to make room for mobility equipment. In other cases they need to make the space safe for personal support workers to attend them. If they don't get that help they cannot be released from hospital, effectively blocking the beds for new patient admissions.

Unfortunately, the only source of funding for Extreme Clean comes from the City. Without this funding Extreme Clean will no longer be available to help very vulnerable tenants. These tenants do not have the resources to implement a different plan to save their tenancies. These tenants will likely become homeless and due to their disability issues will be extremely difficult to house, once homeless. They often face difficulties navigating digital systems and cannot locate housing online. We submit the cost to the City is high as these individuals will need resources through homelessness programs.

## **2. Housing Stability Bank (HSB) Expansion – Business Plan # P-16**

Many of the tenants we assist are facing evictions at the Landlord and Tenant Board for rent arrears from affordable units. Tenants fall behind in rent for numerous reasons that include job loss or an unforeseen financial emergency. For example, this week we had a tenant fall behind in his rent as he had additional medical costs (cancer drugs not covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit plan). With the assistance of the HSB we were able to mediate a settlement, or repayment plan, with his landlord to save his tenancy.

We would like to highlight that in order to get assistance/funding from the HSB a tenant needs to demonstrate that they have the ability to pay the rent going forward. They must provide a realistic budget that takes into account all of their basic needs, and show that the landlord will accept the funds and isn't going to try to evict the tenant for another reason. The tenancy must be affordable and sustainable.

The need for the Housing Stability Bank has grown. This was highlighted by the HSB request for additional funding of \$500,000.00 from the City in 2023 to meet the increased demand on their program. The HSB did receive this funding in a one time installment. However, there was no increase to their base funding. This allowed the HSB to continue to provide much needed funding to clients without the requirement of implementing much stricter criteria before providing assistance. In 2023, for a short period the HSB did implement much stricter criteria which meant that in a number of cases our clinic was not able to mediate settlements with landlords.

The HSB has requested an additional amount of \$700,000.00 to their yearly base funding to meet current and anticipated demand. We again submit that this is a low cost tool/program to keep tenants in affordable units. Without this increase, we submit that many tenants will become homeless with additional costs to the City.

We know that people experiencing homelessness experience elevated rates of dangerous health conditions, injuries, violent victimization, and increased mortality. People experiencing homelessness are at an elevated risk of experiencing mental illness and/or substance use disorders. And for children and families, homelessness can lead to devastating consequences including developmental delays, disruptions in education, and family separation. All of these issues come with a price tag for municipalities and other levels of government. When people need to access the community hub system the cost

per homeless person is much higher than providing them with low cost support through the Housing Stability Bank and/or Extreme Clean.

Moreover, we also note that when tenants lose their affordable units, in most cases these units become no longer affordable due to vacancy rent decontrol; they are gone for good. This is because once vacant, the landlord can set any amount of rent, and this often results in the doubling of the rent and thus the unit is no longer affordable housing. London needs to protect our dwindling stock of affordable housing. Building new affordable housing is certainly an important objective to many members of London's City Council, but any housing built after 2018 will not be subject to Guideline Rent Increases and will take years to build. Protecting currently affordable housing stock is vital and in line with the City's objectives and responsibilities.

On numerous occasions, our clinic has requested additional funding from the Province for affordable housing initiatives, and to improve social assistance rates but for the most part of our requests have fallen on deaf ears. Some members of Council at the City of London have stated that they will not support these two business plans because they believe that other levels of government need to step up and provide support. Such an assertion does not help tenants facing homelessness, and just as important, it does nothing to preserve affordable housing units. The City of London needs to step into the breach in the short to medium term as the community, the one directly impacted, continues to press the Provincial/ Federal governments to adequately fund housing/ homelessness programs and significantly increase social assistance rates.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Pagnello', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina M. Pagnello  
Executive Director and Lawyer

**From:** Lee Abidakun

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:07 PM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Hillier, Steve <[shillier@london.ca](mailto:shillier@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I oppose the London Police Budget asks

Hello,

My name is Lee Abidakun and I live in London, ON, I am a resident of Ward 14. I am emailing to let it be known I oppose the proposed London police budget ask and ask that an amendment be made immediately.

**There is absolutely no link between increasing police budgets and a decrease in crime rate in Canada.** According to a University of Toronto study, research found “no consistent associations” between police funding and crime rates across 20 large municipalities, including Hamilton, Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal. Stealing funds from all other social programs to boost an already enormous police budget does not address the root cause of crime which can largely be tied to housing insecurity, food insecurity and mental health (etc.).

I demand that city council:

1. Conduct further research on call times- both mental health and homelessness calls
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with ALL community members before making a decision
3. Fund more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community, including SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, and LondonCares
4. Send back the police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of ALL of your constituents. At minimum, we deserve a response and detailed explanation of how the decision actually benefits our city.

Lee Abidakun

N6E1J4

Ward 14

-----Original Message-----

From: Hillary Coggins

Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2024 11:36 AM

To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor  
<[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police budget

No. Stop. Do not approve the proposed budget. It is insane. I don't object to the purposed increase to my taxes - but use those funds to pay for social services. Cops aren't social workers. We need more social workers not more people with guns.

Societies have tried police states - they don't work. Look at happy societies - what they all have are robust social support systems.

Voting in favour of increasing the police budget in this way is bigoted. Full stop. Voting in favour says you hate minorities and the poor.

I remain,  
Hillary Coggins

February 6, 2024

**TO:** Mayor Josh Morgan, City Councillors, Budget Committee

**RE: London Police Service Budget**

Dear Mayor Morgan, City Councillors, and Members of the Budget Committee

My name is Dr. Lesley Bikos, a former London Police Service (LPS) constable with a decade of studying the institution of policing. I submit this letter to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed police budget and to offer additional facts and context for you to consider during budget deliberations. I thank you for your service to our community and hope the content of this letter assists you in making vital funding decisions that impact our whole community, but particularly communities most marginalized by systems of oppression. The LPS has requested a \$672 million increase that includes a \$33 million raise in police salaries. In total, this budget demand accounts for a 30% increase in the city's police budget over four years, a budget item already significantly higher than other city budget categories at 18%. Mayor Josh Morgan and the London Police Services Board endorsed the budget in full, prior to council deliberations, and seemingly without question or further examination.

Consistently, the LPS and Mayor Morgan has grounded the need for a budgetary increase in language that promotes fear, with statements such as London is "the third most dangerous city in Ontario," arguing that increased police spending will decrease crime rates, making our city "safer." Additionally, on January 29th the police union put out a public statement calling people who question or don't support the police budget "radical defund the police zealots," which the police chief then endorsed. These disparaging and divisive comments are outrageous and harmful. The police and city council made commitments to address anti-Black racism, including reallocating funds from the police budget to community services/supports. Further, these two institutions regularly claim to support Truth and Reconciliation and equity-based responses to ongoing oppression in our city. This budget, including the harmful rhetoric used to justify it and its impact on the increased criminalization of marginalized folx, do not support these commitments.

The LPS argues that a budget increase will permit an increased presence of policing throughout the city, reduce crime rates, lower response times, address organizational wellness, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and add a considerable amount of technology to modernize and create a more efficient police service. The budget proposal lacks detail and leaves many important questions that council must consider as part of an ethical decision-making process prior to granting the largest budget increase in the city's history.

#### *Crime Statistics and Clearance Rates*

LPS has presented the figure of 79.7 in relation to the 2022 crime severity index numbers, indicating we are the third highest city for crime rates in comparison with the big 12 cities in Ontario. Their numbers, while correct, are missing important context. The data not provided by LPS indicates that we are trending down in the overall crime severity index (down by 10%), violent crime (down by 15%), and non-violent crime (down by 7%). In two of the three categories we are performing better than the national average except for violent crime, but we are just shy of the national average. The data tables shown in Appendix 1 outline both Ontario and LPS' crime severity index and clearance rates from 2018 to 2022. The numbers reveal that LPS improved in almost all areas in 2022. What these tables tell us is that the severity and quantity of crime are actually trending down. While the numbers are better in the Ontario graph, this is an average of all the police services in Ontario, which differ in size etc. However, despite this, you will note that when we compare the percentages for 2022, we are outperforming the Ontario averages. This is not to invalidate the very real issues our city must address, but it does indicate a pattern of going in the right direction that should be included as part of the decision-making process. Improvements could be tied to some of the alternative responses and reporting programs LPS put into place over the past year or two



such as Coast, hospital handoffs, alternatives for non-emergency reporting, and some of the new officers they may have already employed. LPS was approved last year for extra funding to hire 52 new officers, to address the same reasoning of this budget ask: complex calls, higher crime rates, clearance rates and officer workload. Have they hired all 52 officers yet? If not, it seems hard to justify hiring 97 more officers without taking the time to hire all 52 first, take time to evaluate their impact, and reassess as required.

Another important area we need to better understand involving the crime severity index numbers/clearance rates/time on calls are the types of calls the police are attending and the frequency in these categories. We need a break down of what the criminal code calls are over the past 5 years. For example, how many are related to property damage, theft, assault (level 1, 2, 3) and so on. What are the circumstances around those incidents? Asking for this data by the number counts, not percentages (e.g., x number of theft under \$5000 calls) and a comparison of those numbers over the past 5 years will help us understand the larger picture of where police resources are going and how as a community, we can assist in addressing the root causes behind those criminal code offences. An audit, particularly on the code 3 calls for service would also be helpful to better understand where we can find alternatives other than armed police officers to respond. What exactly is the breakdown for calls for service in code 2 and code 3 calls? What type of calls – a categorization of calls and then number counts in each would provide a fuller picture. Not an average time on code 2 and 3 calls but an actual breakdown of all the calls for service in the past 5 years, what was the nature of the call, how long were officers on them, how many officers? Who is overseeing the time on calls? Officers on the road clear them themselves – what does accountability and supervision look like? Because code 3 calls are non-emergency calls – we need more information on what the issues are and what exactly the plans are to address them. Many of the code 3 calls can involve things such as traffic, noise complaints, cold break and enters and so on. Much like traffic calming measures, many of these calls can be handled by less expensive, non-armed special employees. This is not a new idea and could easily be piloted. Having a fulsome picture of this data is the first place to begin this process. When will we see an exact layout of the plan to revamp the response for calls for service? Will LPS provide a comparison as part of this plan? E.g., what they do now and how the new plan is different. Can they provide a test case example of policing services where this has been done with an evaluation of the results? What exactly, item by item is needed to implement this plan?

Statistics Canada (2022) includes an assessment of all criminal code offences from 2018-2022. These numbers reveal that we are, again, trending downward for 2022 (6% lower rates), meaning there were less criminal code incidents reported by the LPS in 2022. There could be many reasons for this, so asking for detailed data is important. How are clearance rates down when criminal code incident rates are also down by 6%? It could be more complex calls that take more time which is also impacting their call time. This is where a breakdown in calls for service is important. We need to assess what these calls are for, what makes them complex, and the time each is taking. If it is revealed that many of these calls involve things like mental health crisis calls, then the case for adopting something like what Toronto is doing, which is showing real promise for diverting calls from the police, is vital to explore:  
<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/community-safety-programs/toronto-community-crisis-service/>

Asking questions is important because there is context missing in the numbers provided by LPS to justify the 30% increase. The trend in these areas reveal improvement, LPS has newer responses that may be part of that success, and the inclusion of new systems responses such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* Hubs are being implemented at the city level (which will further reduce some calls for service). Considering these considerations, we must pause on at least some of the budget asks to allow for further evaluation – it is the socially and fiscally responsible decision. However, the city would also need to commit to continuing to invest in prevention such as the Hubs, affordable

housing, community-led and organizations programs, healthcare, food security, transit, community centres, the arts, libraries and so on to address the root causes of harm. **Let me be clear: We cannot shift resources from the police without simultaneously supporting and properly resourcing community-led responses and services.**

### *Gun violence*

The rise of gun violence in London is another area that requires a more nuanced discussion than the implication that the average citizen in London risks being killed by gun violence on our streets. In 2021, there were 28 shooting occurrences and in 2022 there were 25. Statistics reveal that we are in line with the Canadian average as of 2021, and researchers have associated higher gun violence in the past several years with Covid pressures: <https://theconversation.com/gun-violence-soared-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-new-study-finds-but-the-reasons-why-are-complex-170250>. The pressures from the pandemic have not ceased and have been exuberated by the current economy. Gun violence is a public health issue, a housing issue, an economic precarity issue, so again we must invest in people and community. It is a real and pressing issue, but the police are called after the fact – prevention is key. Often the argument is gang violence – when you invest in youth, provide opportunity, you see rates of gang membership fall – this is well documented. The police need to provide more context for their assertions regarding gun violence. For example, providing a break down on where the gun incidents occurred and the circumstances of each case. Was it between parties who knew each other? Was it street involved folks’ enacting violence against each other? Was it gang related? The point is – if LPS is going to suggest that the average citizen is at risk of being killed by gun violence they should have to provide more evidence.

There are communities having success reducing gun violence through community-led responses and investment in community services and supports. Toronto is an example where the city is investing in prevention and community-led safety through community-based programs that reduce police as the response to various social issues. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/gun-violence-trend-2023-toronto-1.7064901> Preliminary results show it is working. For example, gun violence is down year-over-year (30%), calls for service diverted from the police for folks in crisis, people getting wrap around supports that address root causes so they do not come in contact with the police. Regent Park, a neighbourhood in Toronto that has struggled with gun violence just reported no shooting deaths in 2023 due to a \$2.5 million investment over 5 years to community services <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2024/02/02/regent-park-credits-zero-gun-deaths-to-investment-in-social-programming/>.

### *Theft and Property Damage*

Crimes such as theft and property damage, which are both frequently raised concerns, are largely reactionary responses, meaning it happens and then the police attend. The police, no matter how many officers we hire, cannot be in all places at once. Again, council investing in people and communities is the way to address the roots of why theft and property crime occur as prevention. Jurisdictions such as Toronto are acknowledging the police are not the best entity to do this work through listening to people of lived/living experience, experts and community organizations who work with folks living in crisis. For example, this is the new response by Toronto City Council adopted in Feb. 2022 (began in 2021) is a “a bold and different approach to advancing community safety by working collaboratively across sectors, communities and governments. It will work to bring about a safe Toronto that promotes and celebrates the well-being and resilience of all residents by, [in part], expanding the definition of community safety beyond crime or policing to include well-being.” This preventative approach is similar to what we have begun in London with the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness*. Now is not the time to prioritize spending on the police, we must begin the process of funding prevention

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/community-safety-programs/community-safety-well-being-plan/> Indwell is another example. St. Thomas police report a significant impact on their calls for service with having Indwell in their community. We also have Indwell in our community – have we assessed their impact on police calls? What about the new Hope House that just reported huge success for supporting 25 people in acute need, diverting them from the hospitals and police <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/housed-and-hopeful-one-womans-path-to-londons-new-homeless-system>. If we properly funded and resourced initiatives we already have while also implementing new infrastructure for additional non-police responses to complex calls best served by community responses, we would get to root causes and prevention with less expense and most importantly, reduced harm, for people most marginalized in our community. If modernization is the goal (a key priority identified in the budget justification), then the type of example provided by Toronto is what cities are increasingly exploring. There are many examples to draw from.

### *Gender and Sexual-based Violence*

Another priority identified in the goals of the budget are human trafficking, intimate partner violence, sexual assaults, and hate crimes. These are serious harms that must be addressed, but gender and sexual-based violence are amongst the least reported harms to the police (and have been for decades). National statistics show that “the odds of sexual assault being reported to police are about 80% lower than for other violent crimes. Only six percent of sexual assaults are reported to police, making it the most underreported crime measured in the General Social Survey on Victimization (Adam Cotter, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2019). There are alternative, community-led, survivor centered programs in various jurisdictions that offer folks who experience gender and sexual-based violence more choice and support than the criminal justice system and the police. It is important for people to have more choices than the police, acknowledging that if people wish to report to the police, they should have the best experience possible. Our city investing in initiatives that get to the root causes of this type of violence and offering support for victims and survivors outside of policing is increasingly acknowledged as vital for prevention vs mass funding to reactionary responses such as the police. There are various initiatives happening that are survivor-led and centered to explore. The LPS piloted an alternative reporting program called ‘Speak Out,’ do we have an evaluation of this program?

Overall, only about 30% of people ever call the police to report a crime in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2019). These rates are even lower for marginalized communities. A new study that looked at the 20 largest municipal police services across Canada (including London) found there is “no consistent correlation” between police spending and crime rates in Canada. The study looked at a decade of police spending and found no clear relationship between higher (and rising) police budgets and crime, and no association between more police spending and a reduction in crime rates <https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>. The police’s response to these findings is that they are responsible for more than calls to do with crime, which is true in the current system. The main argument, as demonstrated through this letter, is that some cities and communities are moving away from this model, and we can too. In fact, it is imperative we begin that process if we are committed to a vibrant, healthy, safe, anti-racist and anti-oppressive, equitable city for all. We must invest in communities and people.

### *Hiring more officers for specific neighbourhoods*

In relation to hiring 97 more officers – was there community engagement done to see if these neighbourhoods want more officers in their community? What did that process look like? Who, exactly did it include? What community groups/organizations did they speak with? Were populations most

impacted by a greater police presence such as Indigenous, Black, racialized folks, unhoused folks, street involved folks, communities that are economically disadvantaged, and so on, consulted fully? Doing a community survey by calling a random selection of people is not a fulsome community consultation. Further, what were the questions asked? The police services board state that the main concerns around safety was identified as issues related to homelessness, drug use, mental illness, traffic and so on – was the feedback explicitly that respondents want more police? Or was that an assumption made by LPS and the Board? Indigenous, Black, racialized folx, 2SLGBTQIA+ folx, disabled folx, street involved folx, folx in poverty and their intersections are at increased risk for police violence, criminalization, and not receiving help when they do contact the police. So who, exactly, becomes more “safe” by increased police in communities? A fulsome consultation with people most impacted by police contact must be conducted.

What, exactly, is the justification for the expansion for the Emergency Response Unit? How many officers are in this unit? These are speciality trained officers that involve heavy weaponry and so on, which is a high-cost unit. What is the evidence of the need for more resourcing to this unit? What is the business case for this – where is the evidence that this will be effective and is needed? How will this benefit our community? A breakdown of the calls they have attended in the past 5 years, what their role was, how long they were on the call, how many officers in that unit attended is important information to know. Recent Canadian research found that ERU units have been increasingly responding to calls they were not intended for. A breakdown of this type of information can help us understand if and why expansion of this unit is needed. If they are attending calls not in line with their mandate, then a reduction of their calls can be applied, and more officers for that unit will not be required.

### *Organizational Wellness*

Connected to hiring more officers is organizational wellness, identified as one of LPS’ top 3 priorities, which includes mental health supports. What does the LPS have in place now? What is the funding currently allocated to wellness supports? Have they had consultation from an expert on how to best support wellness for officers and staff? What, in detail, is the plan in place for the money asked for in relation to organizational wellness. What are the expected outcomes of each of the steps they are asking for funds for. What are the evaluation mechanisms built into this plan and how will council and the public access a report on progress?

How many officers are currently not able to perform their work duties? A breakdown of how many officers are off on mental health/sick leave or suspended for misconduct of some kind is important to better understand how many officers are actively working. When are these officers anticipated to return to duty? How many officers are on administrative duties (meaning they cannot work on the road)? A breakdown of why they are on administrative leave and when they are anticipated to return to regular duties should be given as part of the report. This can be done without recognizable details included and is part of the need for much more transparency overall.

LPS also identifies diversity, equity, and inclusion as a priority. What is their detailed plan? What is a detailed, intersectional breakdown of their organization, including by levels of staff, constables, middle management, and senior leadership? Have they had an audit in this regard to look at their policies, practices, and procedures within the past several years? What is the retention rate of officers, including an intersectional analysis? What were their reasons for leaving? Did you conduct exit interviews? What steps have the organization taken to address their feedback? How many workplace complaints have they received over the past 5 years in relation to equity, diversity, inclusion matters? Workplace environment, culture, discrimination, workplace violence? Leadership complaints? Burnout and mental health? How were these resolved? What actions were taken as an organization to address these complaints? These

questions/themes are all tied into the research (including my own) of officer wellness, retention, and barriers to healthier workplaces. Often these types of complaints are minimized and handled internally, meaning we have no public data on what is happening within the organization as it relates to wellness, inclusion and so on (this is common across police services). There is also often retribution for complaints and a culture of fear around reporting mental illness, workplace harm and discrimination, systemic 'isms,' gender and sexual-based violence, race-based violence and harm, reporting officer misconduct and so on. These types of organizational problems have been correlated with lower retention rates, lower productivity, higher rates of disengagement, higher rates of mental illness and officers on leave. Again, asking what, in detail, is the plan in place for the money asked for in relation to diversity, equity, and inclusion matters to ensure there is a detailed, well thought out plan in place. What are the expected outcomes of each of the steps they are asking for funds for. What are the evaluation mechanisms built into this plan and how will council and the public access reports on progress?

Asking these questions is important to establish the workplace environment, what they have concretely done to address workplace culture and organizational barriers to a healthy environment that includes diversity, equity, inclusion and employee wellbeing. If they have many officers off on leave or on administrative duties (which can include mental illness and/or investigations, misconduct etc.) that is something to consider in relation to the now yearly ask for many more hires. The cycle will continue if the work of addressing the workplace environment, policies and procedures is not completed. Why not focus resources and support for officers you already have? Ensuring you aren't recruiting into harm is vital.

#### *Wants vs Needs: Technology and Weaponry*

Body-worn cameras/dashboard cameras are a high price item that continue to cost significant funds, meaning the ask related to body cameras and dashboard cameras does not end with this budget. This is an ongoing cost for things like administrative and data management programs and operators, training, replacing equipment and so on. Asking for a breakdown of how much per year this technology will cost going forward is important. There are police services that have started to divest from them because the costs are so high, and the evidence of their effectiveness is not conclusive. Asking for a detailed plan (including the numbers) of how adding this technology will reduce their costs over time, as is implied, is important. There is extremely limited research in Canada about their effectiveness, and the research out of the U.S. and U.K. is not conclusive. It is true that more police services across Canada are investing in this technology, but here are some considerations from Eric Laming, a Ph.D. student who is one of the few in Canada doing this research:

There is little Canadian research of their effectiveness. The research that does exist globally indicate that there are ongoing concerns over privacy and policies about data collected, officer control re: turning cameras on and off (turning their bodies during incidents etc.), police control of the footage, and the significant costs associated with BWC. "To date, the research performed on police body-worn cameras is limited to the U.S., which can distort the perceived benefits and drawbacks of body cameras in Canada if research is not adequately contextualized...Given how new the technology is and its limited implementation, these benefits need to be considered in tandem with several more negative factors, including implicit biases in interpreting ambiguous video footage, privacy concerns, technical issues, and high implementation costs." <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/october-2019/push-for-police-to-wear-body-cameras-is-premature/>

Here's some more commentary of what is happening in Calgary and Toronto who have both adopted BWCs for all of their officers in 2019 and 2021. As noted below, they continue to ask for vast funding for similar narratives of efficiency, call times, and the need for more officers. Meaning, BWC in these

services (supported by inconclusive research of their effectiveness and worth of investment) has not produced the promised results. Calgary has body-worn cameras since 2019 and it hasn't reduced crime nor reduced budget asks for expanding staff (asking for another 50 new officers this year alone) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-police-alberta-funding-hire-officers-1.7058667>. Toronto (BWC since 2021) is similar, still asking for increased money each year. This year they are asking for an extra 20 million in an already over 1.2 billion/year budget, indicating they need more officers to help with efficiency and call time. "TPS noted in their budget ask that the 2024 portion of the budget will be spent on increasing front-line resources to focus on emergency response time, augmenting investigative capacity for timely closure of cases, and improving oversight and accountability through supervision...This budget allows the Service to continue the vitally important proactive policing programs and build partnerships with other organizations with the goal of supporting safer communities," Demkiw (Toronto police chief) <https://www.cp24.com/news/toronto-police-seeking-20-million-budget-increase-for-2024-1.6694889>. These are real time examples that support the inconclusive evidence of the cost/benefit analysis of BWC. It appears in the cases of Calgary and Toronto, BWCs have not provided a significant reduction in cost via increased efficiency.

Often the justification for BWC is transparency and accountability. Here is an article of another Canadian researcher who discusses accountability and BWC (again, the research is inconclusive with mixed results). "Advocates of body cameras roundly assert that the devices will bring transparency and accountability to police practices resulting in discernible improvements to officer behaviour— notably the reduction in police use of force incidents. However, the evidence in support of such claims is mixed and currently little is known about the actual impact body-worn cameras might have on police accountability in practice." <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/police-control-of-body-camera-footage-undermines-meaningful-accountability>.

The U.S. has high rates of BWC and dashboard cameras *and* has the highest rates of use of force and citizen killings when compared with western countries (Canada is second). The rates of police killings in the U.S. and Canada continue to rise year-over-year and continue to disproportionately impact Indigenous, Black, racialized communities and/or folks in mental health crisis. Meaning, BWC as a solution to use of force and police killings is not fully supported by data and needs much more research. Use of force in London continues to disproportionately impact Indigenous, Black, racialized folks, the same with Toronto (a newly published report from the Ontario Human Rights Commission confirms this), despite BWC since 2021. A final consideration in relation to BWC is the video footage. To date police collect and manage the data, they choose what to release and when (or oversight bodies will decide this) and are the ones who provide context to the event. Here is a quote from the article link above: "Law enforcement officials assert that police narration of body camera recording is necessary because footage will never show the entire context of an incident, and that recordings will be subject to conditions of poor lighting, poor audio, and limited camera angles. What remains unclear is how the police can be held accountable by the use of body-worn cameras when the "official" narrative is manufactured and controlled by police themselves."

This budget ask includes drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased Emergency Response unit funding, which all amount to increased weaponry and the creep of militarization of the police. What, exactly, is the business case for these items? What, exactly, warrants the increased militarization of the police in London? How do these items benefit the community? Part of the budget also asks for a state-of-the-art joint training unit with London Fire, which includes a whopping cost of \$42 million just for the first year. Again, what is the business case for this? Just in these items alone there is approximately \$50 million dollars that are clearly wants, not needs. Pushing through items such as these in a time where increasing numbers of community members don't have basic necessities, should give this council pause. In the current economy of rising inflation impacting so many, including people

who generally have economic security, reverberating pandemic impacts on small businesses, a 30% increase in rent in the past year, more folk than ever using food banks etc. Raising people's taxes by 8.6% with 5% on an unquestioned, under examined police budget is frankly harmful and irresponsible. This is an easy area to consider reallocating money to community supports and services.

Like any institution, the police are going to find ways to justify their budget ask. It's also important to note that we have failed as a city to address the crisis levels of complex social problems. by properly funding housing, food, education, healthcare, education, transit, libraries, community centres etc. The police have been tasked with too much for too long in this city, and city council has responsibility for this problem. It is time to change course and begin the process of building infrastructure that diverts calls from the police to the proper channels that support people and address root causes. This shift takes time, education, and an acknowledgement that real safety comes in community connections and the proper resourcing of community-led responses. We've begun important investments that are already building out these types of responses. Our priorities must continue to be put in these types of programs. Yes, the police need some funding, but large portions of this budget require much more assessment and appear to be more about their wants as an organization verses what they need. It is council's responsibility to sort through what the priorities are within this budget. Putting that work back on the police like Hamilton has done is a good option. Ask the LPS: If you had to reduce your budget ask, what are the top 3 things you would take out of the budget? What is the cost reduction for each of these items? Why did you choose these three items?

Overall, a consideration of the harmful impact of the extension of over-policing in oppressed communities, coupled with evidence that increased police spending has no consistent correlation with decreased crime, are vital considerations in relation to where the city prioritizes spending. At the LPS' own admission, and consistent with police calls for service across the country, much of their time is spent on complex calls that involve social problems such as people in mental health crisis, unhoused communities, and/or people who use substances. Criminalizing our community members is not the answer, nor is it effective in solving the problem. We have decades of data to support this. Crime rates need to be critically examined through the lens of preventative measures. Instead of increasing the police budget, we should reallocate money to essential services, community-and-grassroot organizations, and community-led responses that meet people's basic needs, connect them to community, and provide a sense of belonging. For example, in 2021, the City of Toronto introduced the Toronto Community Crisis Service, which works to address mental health crises in the community without police response. In the one-year outcome evaluation report, the program diverted 78% of mental health and substance use calls that came through 9-1-1. Only 4% of calls required a police presence. It's important to note that non-police-based community responses to the underlying social causes of crime (e.g. food and housing precarity, lack of access to healthcare, education, opportunities, etc.), such as the Hubs through the newly implemented *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* in London are only just emerging. This system response has not received sufficient time to assess its impact on the types of incidents related to social causes of crime. This budget ask is harmful because it simultaneously expands police officers' powers throughout the city and perpetuates underlying social harms driving poverty and homelessness in London by demanding a huge increase that requires the defunding/underfunding of community-based supports/responses.

### **List of Demands for City Council:**

It is socially and fiscally irresponsible to approve an unquestioned, underexamined police budget. The LPS has failed to provide context on much of their assertions, the data they provide is limited, and there are many questions that must be addressed. The following list of demands is not exhaustive:

## **1. SEND BACK THE POLICE BUDGET/CUT THE BUDGET AND REALLOCATE FUNDS**

Have LPS identify areas they can reduce their budget and if they will not, then council, particularly the mayor, must lead this process. The City of Hamilton's city council just voted in favour of this action in an attempt to reduce the police budget, which makes up less of their overall budget than ours at 16% <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-review-1.7099166> . Toronto city council just declined the police ask of an extra \$20 million to \$7.4 million. Mayor Josh Morgan has indicated that the police budget represents more than half of the 2024 budget increase, or 5.0 of the proposed 8.6% tax increase. Part of this budget is for body cameras, new SUVs and another command vehicle, drones, Tasers for all officers, a second armoured vehicle, increased members of the Emergency Response Unit, which means increased weaponry and militarization, and a \$42 million state-of-the-art training facility, totaling a minimum of \$50 million, not including training and ongoing yearly costs. This is socially and fiscally irresponsible at a time in our city where so many are struggling to access basic necessities, community services/supports, a 30% increase in rents, more people using food banks than ever, small businesses struggling after the pandemic, and general economic pressures for many in our city. Cut these items out of the budget – they are wants, not needs, and reallocate those funds to community-led services that get to prevention and root causes of crime.

**2. CONDUCT** further research and ask for more detailed data to be provided by the police. The body of the letter above outlines numerous questions, concerns, and items that require more thought and investigation by council prior to agreeing to a 30% increase.

**3. DEFER** the vote on the LPS budget to more thoroughly assess a community perspective that includes ALL community members, including those who most frequently encounter the police. What are their needs and suggestions? What non-police responses could we pilot that meet these needs in a non-criminalizing, community-based approach? Collect more public input and reflect on what the community is asking for.

a. Demand more details from the police. For example, have they hired the 52 officers they were already given extra funding for in 2023? They have also recently implemented programs such as alternative reporting, hospital hand offs for mental health calls, COAST and statistically their numbers improved in 2022 – how have these initiatives reduced their calls for service?

b. Waiting to assess the impacts of newly implemented programs such as the *Whole of Community System Response to Health and Homelessness* should be a priority before agreeing to more mass funding.

**4. FUND** more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community to support individuals, especially marginalized and racialized folks, folks who are unhoused and/or folks with mental illness/addiction. SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, London Cares and more are examples of community-led services/supports that should be resourced appropriately. Many requests for funding of vital services such as transit, libraries, public washrooms, community services/programs, the arts and so on have been denied or given minimal funding to pay for the police budget. This is not a balanced budget. This is not prioritizing the health and wellness of our community, two pivotal requirements for a safer city for all Londoners.

**5. Create a Community-led Working Group** to assist in evaluation, innovation, and community collaboration toward shifting our priorities from a police-focused city to a city that prioritizes community-led safety, prevention, and getting to the root causes of harm. Indigenous, Black, racialized folx, 2SLGBTQIA+ folx, women, disabled folx, folx with lived/living experience of poverty, homelessness, and/or mental illness, folx who work with people most impacted by the police, and the many intersections of these community members must lead this work. Folx with knowledge about non-police responses, community-led safety, and transformative justice may also be beneficial.



I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of your constituents who deserve to be a part of the decision process of funding allocation. Please feel free to contact me for further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lesley Bikos  
Assistant Professor,  
King's University College, Western University  
[lbikosresearch@gmail.com](mailto:lbikosresearch@gmail.com)

# Appendix 1: Tables 1 and 2

## Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</sup>

Frequency: Annual Help  
 Table: 35-10-0026-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0052) Save my customizations  
 Release date: 2023-07-27  
 Geography: Canada, Province or territory,  
 Customize table  
 Geography: <sup>3, 8, 9</sup> Ontario [35]  
 Reference period  
 From: 2018 To: 2022  
 Apply

Showing 18 records Filter Reset

Geography <sup>3, 8, 9</sup>	Ontario [35] <sup>10</sup> (map)				
Statistics	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crime severity index <sup>11, 12, 13, 14</sup>	60.40	60.99	55.54	56.17	58.47
Percent change in crime severity index <sup>15</sup>	7.19	0.98	-8.94	1.13	4.09
Violent crime severity index <sup>14, 16</sup>	74.51	75.41	69.67	72.85	77.71
Percent change in violent crime severity index <sup>15</sup>	6.70	1.21	-7.61	4.56	6.67
Non-violent crime severity index <sup>14, 17</sup>	55.18	55.66	50.33	49.97	51.28
Percent change in non-violent crime severity index <sup>15</sup>	7.42	0.87	-9.58	-0.72	2.62
Youth crime severity index <sup>14, 18, 19</sup>	51.03	48.30	37.37	31.84	41.61
Percent change in youth crime severity index <sup>20</sup>	-11.00	-5.35	-22.63	-14.80	30.68
Youth violent crime severity index <sup>14, 21</sup>	77.42	75.78	62.59	51.79	73.48
Percent change in youth violent crime severity index <sup>20</sup>	-6.96	-2.12	-17.41	-17.26	41.88
Youth non-violent crime severity index <sup>14, 22</sup>	32.55	29.12	19.82	17.92	19.39
Percent change in youth non-violent crime severity index <sup>20</sup>	-16.88	-10.54	-31.94	-9.59	8.20
Weighted clearance rate <sup>23</sup>	41.03	40.12	40.47	41.31	39.85
Percent change in weighted clearance rate <sup>20</sup>	-3.57	-2.22	0.87	2.08	-3.53
Violent weighted clearance rate	62.01	60.32	61.77	61.27	60.25
Percent change in violent weighted clearance rate <sup>20</sup>	-2.13	-2.73	2.40	-0.81	-1.66
Non-violent weighted clearance rate	30.84	30.27	29.87	29.69	27.49
Percent change in non-violent weighted clearance rate <sup>20</sup>	-4.73	-1.85	-1.32	-0.60	-7.41

## Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in Ontario<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

Frequency: Annual Help  
 Table: 35-10-0188-01 (formerly CANSIM 252-0085) Save my customizations  
 Release date: 2023-07-27  
 Geography: Province or territory, Policing district/zone  
 Customize table  
 Geography: <sup>6</sup> London, Ontario, municipal [35162]  
 Reference period  
 From: 2018 To: 2022  
 Apply

Showing 18 records Filter Reset

Geography <sup>6</sup>	London, Ontario, municipal [35162] (map)				
Statistics	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crime severity index <sup>7, 8, 9, 10</sup>	83.95	82.99	81.09	88.62	79.71
Percent change in crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	6.70	-1.14	-2.29	9.29	-10.05
Violent crime severity index <sup>14, 12</sup>	71.76	72.44	75.55	107.24	90.91
Percent change in violent crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	3.92	0.95	4.29	41.95	-15.23
Non-violent crime severity index <sup>10, 13</sup>	88.14	86.59	82.89	81.93	75.91
Percent change in non-violent crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	7.54	-1.76	-4.27	-1.16	-7.35
Youth crime severity index <sup>10, 14, 15</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Percent change in youth crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Youth violent crime severity index <sup>10, 14, 15</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Percent change in youth violent crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Youth non-violent crime severity index <sup>10, 13, 15</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Percent change in youth non-violent crime severity index <sup>11</sup>	--	--	--	--	--
Weighted clearance rate <sup>16, 17</sup>	36.19	34.37	30.68	33.46	32.15
Percent change in weighted clearance rate <sup>11</sup>	-3.29	-5.03	-10.74	9.06	-3.92
Violent weighted clearance rate	65.23	66.03	57.77	55.06	53.49
Percent change in violent weighted clearance rate <sup>11</sup>	-3.23	1.23	-12.51	-4.69	-2.85
Non-violent weighted clearance rate	27.69	24.85	21.80	22.16	21.93
Percent change in non-violent weighted clearance rate <sup>11</sup>	-2.26	-10.26	-12.27	1.65	-1.04

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:24 AM

To: Karam Albakri

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns about LPS Budget Increase

My name is Karam I am a citizen of London, Ontario and a resident of Ward 5 I'm writing to encourage City Council to vote NO on the recent budget ask from the London Police Service (LPS).

I demand that City Council:

1. Conduct further research on call times - both mental health calls and homelessness calls  
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with ALL community members before making a decision.

3. Fund more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community, including SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and LondonCares  
4. Send back the police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it.

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of ALL of your constituents. At a minimum, we deserve a response and detailed explanation of how the decision benefits our city.

Thank you,  
Karam

February 16, 2024

Dear Mayor Morgan and Members of the Budget Committee,

Thank you all for your work on this budget. I appreciate the space you are making to hear community concerns and I commend your advocacy on behalf of your constituents.

**I am writing to share suggestions for your consideration of potential improvements to future iterations of London’s budget-making process, aimed at reducing barriers to public engagement.**

As we near the end of this multi-year budget cycle, I reflected on my experiences participating, facilitating community outreach, and having discussions with some of you.

This budget was particularly tough to work on because of its social and economic context. Difficult compromises had to be made. Most groups got some of what they wanted and had to make sacrifices.

From my point of view, the budget was made even more challenging by the way it was communicated. I do not believe this budget was as accessible, transparent, or objective as the community would have liked for it to be. I suspect that engagement with the budget became more complicated, confusing, and polarized because of misunderstanding. While there were wonderful initiatives in the community to facilitate engagement, including many information sessions and “budget translation” services provided, certain barriers made the budget harder for many non-expert folks to access and understand.

I’m providing below a shortlist of suggestions, with an invitation to pick up and discuss any of them later, whenever is convenient.

1. Components of the draft budget are available in spreadsheet format from the City of London Open Data portal ([source](#)). However, this resource is not mentioned anywhere on the Get Involved page for the multi-year budget or in the budget document itself. As far as I can tell, the portal was not updated with information about the mayor’s budget or subsequent amendments. **Access to these data would make it easier for the public to track, collate and compare items in the budget.** Spreadsheets also make it easier to generate graphs, which is important for accessibility because it enables visual comparisons of large sums that are difficult to grasp (e.g., the difference between \$1,000 and \$1,000,000 is abstract for many people). The current budget included information in a PDF that did not allow copying directly from the document, which means any analysis would require that budget items are transcribed manually line-by-line to convert into other formats. This made extra work for supporting community outreach efforts. **I am attaching with this letter a spreadsheet template that I created for communicating contents of the budget (note that it lacks amendments).** This format could be adapted and used by staff preparing future draft budgets.
2. **Information about how external sources of funding are reflected in business cases should be presented in a standardized format.** It would be helpful to indicate the

conditions of funding sources – as in, whether it is dedicated to specific projects or could be redistributed, and if there is a timing window attached. Providing a breakdown of external funding streams as an appendix might be useful.

3. **Budget items that are mandatory, legislatively required, or determined through a process external to the budget itself, should be clearly labelled as such.** This can help the public to distinguish between “wants” and “needs” and to understand the restrictions Council faces when considering adjustments.
4. A **glossary section with definitions and high-level explanations of terms** used in the budget would be generally useful. This could be embedded in the budget or in the Strategic Financial Framework. Perhaps the budget communications could be reviewed in advance by a non-expert group to flag anything that is unclear.
5. The process of Council receiving delegations from representatives of commissions, agencies and community groups during the budget debates seemed disjointed, stressful and did not allow much time for new information shared during these delegations to be processed before voting occurred. Why not instead **host these delegations at standing committee meetings prior to budget debate sessions?** This format could be applied to annual budget updates as well.
6. **Campaigning surrounding this budget by interested parties raise concerns about public opinion being manipulated by aggressive, fear-based marketing and framing.** Given the complexity of the budget, many Londoners depend on access to information provided by external parties to inform their own advocacy. Does the City have a policy or guideline that applies to these third-party activities?
7. Unlike many other comparable cities in Ontario, London presently lacks a public lobbying registry. Consequently, **it is impossible for the public to access information about which interest groups have met privately with members of Council to discuss the budget.** It appears that some groups were granted privileged access to public information sessions. In the interest of transparency, it may be prudent for members of future budget committees to produce records of their engagements with such groups. I am not aware of any requirements for keeping such records.
8. **The City of London’s advisory committees were impeded from providing feedback** on the multi-year budget by changes to process that were not made clear until feedback had already been submitted to standing committees. The schedule (draft budget released in mid-December) left very little time for feedback to be received from the committees and transmitted. A bit more time being included in the budget timeline for initial community consultations could lead to improved quality of feedback being made available to Council.

I hope you will join me in reflecting on your experiences of this budget process, and consider how stewardship of the budget can make this process more transparent, equitable and accessible in the future.

Regards,

Brendon Samuels, Ward 4

**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 7:22 PM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; Ferreira <[ferreira@london.ca](mailto:ferreira@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on proposed budget 2024

Dear sir

it is the time for fiscal restraint and all segments of society should share in the pain of "making do" for this brief period of time.

There are many alternatives to keeping police costs down... axe the second armored vehicle, consider pairing new police with a more experienced partner to create a mentorship, continue training opportunities in colleges instead by the London Police.

Please maintain the support and social services that reduce the need for more policing .

Please keep people in their homes by keeping tax increases reasonable, rather than 30 % over 4 years.

Thank you

Louise White

London, Ontario

N6A 1M6

**From:** Norah Fraser

**Subject:** The police budget

**Date:** February 6, 2024 at 8:20:19 AM EST

**To:** [budgetcommittee@london.ca](mailto:budgetcommittee@london.ca), Mayor Josh Morgan

<[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>, [hmcaster@london.ca](mailto:hmcaster@london.ca), "Lewis, Shawn"

<[slewis@london.ca](mailto:slewis@london.ca)>, [pcuddy@london.ca](mailto:pcuddy@london.ca), "Stevenson, Susan"

<[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>, [jpribil@london.ca](mailto:jpribil@london.ca), Sam Trosow

<[strosow@london.ca](mailto:strosow@london.ca)>, [corahman@london.ca](mailto:corahman@london.ca), Steve Lehman <[slehman@london.ca](mailto:slehman@london.ca)>, Anna

Hopkins <[ahopkins@london.ca](mailto:ahopkins@london.ca)>, Paul Van Meerbergen <[pvanmeerbergen@london.ca](mailto:pvanmeerbergen@london.ca)>, Skylar

Franke <[sfranke@london.ca](mailto:sfranke@london.ca)>, Elizabeth Pelozo <[epeloz@london.ca](mailto:epeloz@london.ca)>, [dferreira@london.ca](mailto:dferreira@london.ca),

Steven Hillier <[shillier@london.ca](mailto:shillier@london.ca)>

Dear Mayor Morgan and City Councillors:

I am a white senior property owner on a low income. I strongly object to my tax dollars going to an increase in the police budget. Meanwhile, public transit, the library system and important components of the Climate Emergency Action Plan are seriously underfunded or not funded at all.

A number of studies have shown that increased spending on the police does not correlate with decreased crime. (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cgp>) Moreover, according to Statistics Canada, London is on a downward trend in overall crime (10%), violent crime (15%), and non-violent crime (7%) in 2023.

We know that a significant proportion of the calls that police respond to do not require a police response and should not involve police. Sometimes the police response is harmful - even lethal - rather than helpful. Funding would be better allocated to non-police responses.

We also know that policing disproportionately negatively impacts Indigenous and Black racialized communities, homeless and under-housed people, lower income neighbourhoods and other oppressed groups. Criminalizing oppressed communities, peaceful protesters and critics of the police budget is not the answer.

Especially offensive is the proposed funding of a second light armoured vehicle, a state-of-the-art training facility, and body cameras — high ticket items for which there is no conclusive evidence for lowering crime rates but that will further militarize the city police force.

Investing in people and communities and getting to the roots of the social determinants of crime is the way forward. We should be funding more grassroots organizations and non-profits that work to support disadvantage communities, especially marginalized and racialized people, people who are unhoused and people with mental illness or addiction. We should fully fund P-8, P-9 and P-10. Fully fund P-3, P-51 and P-52 (public transit). Fully fund the Climate Emergency Action Plan. That is where our money should go.

Sincerely,

Norah Fraser  
London, Ontario

**From:** Patrick Linardic  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:31 AM  
**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget

Hello,

As a resident of ward 6 I wanted to give my feedback on the budget for this year.

First off, it goes without saying that the police budget increase is absolutely insane. The problems in London leading to more crime have to do with standards of living, poverty, desperation, mental illness and drug abuse. Police are a reactionary force that respond to this, they do not fix the underlying issues which lead to higher crime rates. This is common knowledge so I am not sure why the proposed police budget is beyond anything anyone could imagine. Especially when public transportation, homelessness, and rent prices are objectively more pertinent issues. Also not to mention that taxpayer dollars went to the London police being in Dubai facing off against Russian police forces.

I really hope the city realizes what they are doing in the long run, which is shooting themselves in the foot for an investment pattern which has historically not led to more vibrant, diverse and exciting communities. London is also going to grow an insane amount in the next few decades. Please do not lack on transit development. If London hits 600,000 people without REAL rapid transit, it will become another Brampton. I moved from Brampton to London because it was horrible there, please don't let this city become an urban hellscape. Invest in transit, and affordable housing. I am willing to bet that the majority of the people working at city hall do not take public transit to get to work, therefore they are unable of understanding how inefficient, and lackluster the system really is. I also find it especially frustrating that members of the city council believe that the transit and financial inefficiencies are due to "too large of a bureaucracy within the commission" and "too much money going to the people within the commission than the actual bus system". I find it frustrating that they will then turn around and not hold the Police service to the same standard.

Also, cities like Waterloo and Brampton are getting much larger budget increases for their public transit. Once again, London gets left in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with its funding patterns. Also, London police do not need an armored vehicle. That is beyond insane, HOCO does not get that rowdy. Seriously though, taking the money it would cost to buy a new armored vehicle and using it to buy new buses would go infinitely farther to better the lives of the people in your city.

This city needs to get wit the times and start making the right decisions

Patrick





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Ward 9 Councillor- Anna Hopkins  
City Hall  
300 Dufferin Ave  
London, ON N6A 4L9  
[ahopkins@london.ca](mailto:ahopkins@london.ca)

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **RE: Implications of the 2024 Budget on LTC Service Expansion**

After reviewing the Multi-Year Budget for the City of London for 2024-2027, we have noted that there is no mention of the intention to expand bussing services to communities that are not only growing and supporting service industries, but also supporting the city's strategies to reduce London's 5.7% unemployment rate. We are writing to you to ask that you reconsider the expansion of bus services to the West 5, Warbler Woods and Riverbend areas of London.

As noted by the London Transit Commission, the increase of 18,000 service hours per year cannot address a new route operating at a 30-minute frequency, as this would require approximately 20,300 hours. As stated by Councillor Sam Trosow in the recent CBC article regarding more transit funding, "if we cannot allow this very reasonable service upgrade, we are turning our backs on everything we purport to be saying about our desire as a city to get people out of our cars". This statement also pertains to the lack of transportation expansion throughout London. With the importance of green transportation drastically increasing, and an anticipation of 33 million riders in 2024, addressing the vital need of more stops particularly in the rapidly growing Riverbend, Warbler Woods and West 5 area is extremely necessary.

The West 5 development by Sifton Properties Limited is federally commended and supported for being the province's first sustainable, net-zero community. Saving the equivalent of 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 3 years, it has been noted that West 5 sets energy precedents that can help open doors for other green-conscious developments. As of 2024, West 5 alone is a community of approximately 680 homes, and 30 businesses, with plans of growing



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to 2000 homes and doubling the number of businesses. Warbler Woods has upwards of 650 homes, and 15 businesses and Riverbend has upwards of 800 homes -- all with very minimal access to the City of London's bussing system.

Specifically, in the Riverbend and West 5 communities, Riverbend Golf Community and Riverstone Retirement have a total of nearly 200 staff, some working overnight, 7 days per week. Among these staff members, a vast majority are part of the care and food service industries, many of whom attend Fanshawe College, relying on busses to transport them to and from their occupations regularly. To be specific, approximately 25% of staff hired at these locations take the bus. Among those employees, we have found about a quarter of that number left for another position within the first 3 months due to lack of bussing reliability. Note that the 17A Byron bus route is approximately a 30-minute walk to the Riverbend Golf Community and West 5, and the 17B to Riverbend only operates between 6AM and 6PM, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays. Outside of these hours, when an employee or community member would like to travel throughout London, they must source an alternative form of transportation. As you can envision, this creates hiring and staffing unpredictability throughout the entire community.

In such a rapidly growing community providing opportunities in the workforce, experiencing the lack of transportation to the West 5, Riverbend and Warbler Woods community is, to say the least, discouraging. The implementation of more bus routes in these areas will prove to have a greater impact on the City of London and will assist the workforce shortages and unpredictability currently being experienced. We appreciate your reconsideration, and look forward to working with the City of London to continue towards a common goal of supporting the workforce.

**Sylvie Lucas**

*Vice President, People and Lifestyle Communities  
Sifton Properties Limited*

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan SAYLES

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:47 PM

To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I am opposed to allowing the police budget

To use ANY funds for another large, aggressive emergency vehicle .

I want that money to be released to the libraries that expose learning and safe spaces.

I want access to literature for all.

Jan Sayles

Talbot St.

**From:** Vicki Van Linden

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 6:10 PM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the immense increase in the proposed police budget

**Dear Mayor and Members of Council:**

I urge all members of council to take a harder look at the huge increase proposed for the police budget, and trim that budget request down.

I understand that new police service staff need to be hired based on our larger population. If response times are to be improved, then it seems clear that we need more police officers. Nevertheless, the police service budget request, like all budget requests, should be examined carefully and should never be accepted at face value.

Building a safe city requires a variety of city services for citizens especially for those who are vulnerable, including young people who need activities to guide them toward being emotionally healthy adults. Libraries have been doing a good job of expanding services that are important to vulnerable and lower-income citizens. Our library system is a good example of a public service that has kept up with the changing needs of our community and we should facilitate their ability to meet those needs.

Of course we need a strong and effective police service; just as we need a good library system, drop-in centres for young people, safe consumption sites for those who are addicted, homeless hubs, and recreational activities to build safe communities.

Please take a harder look at that proposed police budget and trim it down.

Sincerely,

Vicki Van Linden  
London, ON, N6J 3H2

February 2024

RE: City of London Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027

To Mayor and City Council,

We fully recognize that Londoners, City Council, and the Mayor face difficult choices at present, with many pressing demands from the community and finite resources. While we are grateful for your ongoing support, the budget as it stands presents significant challenges for arts, culture, heritage and library services at a time when we are being called upon to transform our operations and offerings, to engage a growing diverse population in new ways, and become increasingly accessible, inclusive, equitable and sustainable. Now, while still in a period of recovery after the pandemic, and facing new pressures and constraints given the challenging conditions where we operate in downtown London, we need to collaborate across sectors and we need support and participation from the City of London as much as possible.

Working in different ways but with similar purpose, our organizations create and share stories and open conversations that matter to Londoners. Together, we serve hundreds of thousands of people each year, including families, newcomers, and those from equity-deserving communities, providing resources and dynamic opportunities for learning and skill development, as well as employment, volunteer and mentorship opportunities for next generations. We facilitate opportunities that ignite creativity, critical thinking, and dialogue. We foster a sense of community connection and belonging at a time when people need it. Our work helps to define London's unique identity and provides many different opportunities to bring Londoners together.

The City's strategic plan recognizes that investment in arts, culture, heritage, and libraries is tied to economic prosperity, the revitalization of the core area, attracting and retaining talent, and contributing to quality of life. Research also links arts and culture activities to positive physical and mental health outcomes for people at all stages. Our work plays a critical role in advancing goals around reconciliation, inclusion, anti-racism and anti-oppression. As cultural and learning organizations, Museum London, the Grand Theatre, the London Arts Council and London Public Library take our roles and responsibilities in this work seriously.

To rise to the opportunities and challenges of this critical moment for the continued recovery of our organizations and our sector we need to find new ways to work together. Understanding that budget decisions are in final stages, we respectfully ask that the following actions be considered to support our work for the community:

- That Mayor and Council direct staff to undertake a report to explore options for shared or in-kind services to support Museum London, the Grand Theatre, the London Arts Council, and the London Public Library;
- That Mayor and Council direct staff to ensure that our organizations are meaningfully engaged in the implementation of City of London's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan;
- That Mayor and Council direct staff to ensure our organizations are meaningfully included in the forthcoming update of the Cultural Prosperity Plan, the Downtown Master plan, and other relevant plans that will help strengthen the arts, culture, heritage and library services eco-system;
- That Mayor and Council consider striking a standing committee that works to strengthen the arts, culture, heritage and library services eco-system and inform City plans and processes.

We are grateful for the support of the City of London and are aware of the extent of the investment in arts, culture, heritage and library services through the decades. As London grows, to realize its full potential as a safe, thriving City and destination of choice, and a place where our children want to make their homes and raise future generations, the City of London needs to meaningfully invest in its existing arts, cultural, heritage and library assets and recognize that these too are essential ingredients for a safe, healthy, inclusive and vibrant community. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to realize shared goals.

Sincerely,

<b>GRAND</b> THEATRE	 London <b>Arts</b> Council	 London Public Library	MUSEUM LONDON
Evan Klassen Executive Director Grand Theatre	Eunju Yi Executive Director London Arts Council	Michael Ciccone CEO and Chief Librarian London Public Library	Julie Bevan Executive Director Museum London
Rachel Peake Artistic Director Grand Theatre	Allyson Vanstone Board President London Arts Council	Brian Gibson Board Chair London Public Library	Sarah Padfield Board Chair Museum London
George Kerhoulas Board President Grand Theatre			



City of London Budget Committee  
February 23, 2024

**Re: Multi-Year Budget & Community Food Security**

Dear Budget Committee,

The [Middlesex London Food Policy Council \(MLFPC\)](#) was established in 2017 based on the recommendation of the 2016 [Community Food Assessment](#) funded by London Community Foundation. Our vision is that the Middlesex London community sustains a healthy, safe, equitable, and ecologically responsible food system that nourishes all residences and is economically viable. Unfortunately, our community continues to experience significant gaps in our local food system that have been highlighted through issues such as inflation, COVID-19, geopolitical and environmental events. Southwestern Ontario is home to one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the world, and as such our community has a responsibility to protect and grow our regional food system.

We are writing to express our support of the Community Gardens expansion in the multi-year budget. The addition of one new Community Garden plus 20 new plots at existing gardens is an important element of growing our local food system and supporting food security. Community Gardens not only provide critical benefits for food security, but also contribute to community health and well-being through mental and physical benefits. We commend the expansion of the Community Gardens program and believe there are many ways that community food security can continue to be bolstered in our city. We would be happy to continue conversations with City Councillors and staff around ways we can support the enhancement of community food security.

MLFPC has demonstrated local leadership in identifying gaps and opportunities in our food system, most notably through our [Multiphase Assessment of Community Food Security](#), generously funded by the London Community Recovery Network. Our Community Food Security Assessment includes a review of the current food system and recent impacts like COVID-19; community outreach and input; an environmental scan of food policy across eight municipalities; and exploration of the potential for regional collaboration to address long-term food security.

The Middlesex London Food Policy Council thanks you for your time and we hope to continue working together on building community food security in London.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Cordes (past-chair)  
Middlesex London Food Policy Council  
e: [info@mlfpc.ca](mailto:info@mlfpc.ca)  
<https://mlfpc.ca/>



**From:****Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 3:17 PM**To:** Pribil, Jerry <[jpribil@london.ca](mailto:jpribil@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Stone, Melanie <[mstone@london.ca](mailto:mstone@london.ca)>; 'Jeremy Ingleton' <Jacqueline Madden < Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] budget 24-28**Importance:** High

February 23, 2024

There is 3 items for budget consideration

We have a homeless crisis (extreme) Two programs will shutdown preventing homelessness on March 1 2024 if city doesn't consider funding to continue their programs

1. VHA Extreme Clean which helps prevent homeless whether it is eviction because hoarding or clutter thru referral to the city by social services, CCAC, fire department. They provide services such as deep clean, decluttering, organization, hoarding/clutter coach, mental health support these are the main they have given me and ongoing checkin so that I can stay independent n my home and not be evicted because threats/harrassments from my landlord o evict me from my home. Most clients on the program mostly on OW, ODSP, seniors or low income that have no other supports to help keep them in their homes. The works with the person to correct the problem whether is too much clutter in the place or hoarding along working with their mental health. Housing is a human right prevents strain on the health care and with stable housing the person is able to contribute to the community as a person. I know there is limited dollars to go around, but when faced with a cut to a program to keep me and others in our homes it scares me and affects my mental health thinking without this program I will be homeless and more likely die because of my health. There are about 150 clients with the Extreme Clean program and many on the waiting list, if funding nt given for this program there will be 150+ more on the street as homeless, a lot of us will not do well in shelters like myself and there is no room in the shelters. Presently it cost \$400, 000 annually to run the program, so for our sake please save this program so I or others will not be another statistic.

2. The second program is the Housing Stability , they help with loans for last or first month rent, hydro or gas bill arrears up to 500.

These loans help persons low-income acquire a place to live by helping with first or last month rent when applying for a place to live. If a person low-income get behind in hydro or gas, they will provide up to 500 whichever is lowest. These loans are paid back on a monthly payment plan and can only apply once every 2 yrs. These loans prevent utilities being shut off or becoming homeless. Please consider saving this program.

**Paratransit**

LTC has requested money in the budget

But if money is given for improvements as they stated they are requesting please make them accountable that the money the city approves goes to the issues asked paratransit not to another issue with LC that their request was denied. Paratransit needs many improvements to fulfill ADOA requirements please help us needing more accessible transportation so we can participate in the community like everyone else such as work, volunteering, medical appointments community engagement

Thanks for letting me Participate in the Budget Process

Penny Moore  
London Ontario



**To:** Mayor Josh Morgan & Members of the City Council

**Re:** Funding for the London Public Library's Security System Via P-59

Hello, Mayor Morgan and City Council Members,

The main purpose of my letter is to request that Council members support an amendment to fund business case P-59. This will assist the public library with upgrading and improving its security access infrastructure, ultimately reducing the overall cost of this system in the long term.

I am of the understanding that all other business cases prepared by the public library for the draft budget have gone before the council over the last month for amendment considerations for the mayor's budget with some being passed, but most failing. Business case P-59 is the last remaining business case for the public library that has not been given equal consideration.

In the last budget committee meeting on February 15th, multiple council members made comments about the library board needing to find more ways to reduce their projected base budgets for 2025 to 2027. I would argue that supporting business case P-59 to fund upgrades to the library's chronically malfunctioning, and outdated security access system over 2024 and 2025 is one way to support the library board in finding some of those savings.

As was reported within the detailed business case for P-59 - "Library Security System Upgrades", the various security access systems throughout the different branches of the public library present costly, disruptive, and environmentally taxing issues.

Please refer to page 716 of the Draft Multi-Year Budget<sup>1</sup> where detailed information about the cost of maintaining this system is outlined under the subheading 'Additional Details'. In summary, service calls for this system cost the library over \$34,000 between 2019 and 2023. The current system also costs thousands each year to cut new keys that are lost, stolen, or broken, or require replacement when the lock mechanisms themselves have to be replaced. Each of these service calls requires service personnel to travel to and from sites, increasing the overall greenhouse gas emissions required to maintain these older systems. Moreover, the age of the system has caused chronic delays in overall service call turnaround as the availability of

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<sup>1</sup> [Draft - 2024 to 2027 Multi-Year Property Tax, Water, Wastewater and Treatment Budgets](#)

replacement parts steadily declines. This doesn't just stress out the staff at these branches, it also compromises the safety and security of the people and assets within each branch.

The upgraded system proposed in this business case would be capable of remote support services, and low-cost, on-site key card replacements, thus reducing the greenhouse gas emissions for the system significantly. The new system will also require fewer service calls in general, reducing maintenance costs overall. In summary, funding this business case for the library would assist them in making their security access infrastructure “more responsive, cost effective and [facilitate a] safer environment to staff and Londoners”<sup>1</sup>. Thus I am asking you to please consider requesting an amendment to include some level of funding for business case P-59 - “Library Security System Upgrades”.

I respect the need to stay mindful of the ‘ballooning property tax rate’, as some councilors have coined it. Though I'm sure you've heard from many citizens now that P-28 and P-29 appear bloated and with room for amendments to reduce their impact on our overall tax rate. I am also a citizen who does not agree with our city's tax dollars going towards such an emphasis on authoritarian approaches to safety via the overfunding of a police state. What we need is to **DEFUND THE POLICE**, and instead direct that funding towards housing and the creation/facilitation of safe spaces - two things the library either provides or helps people find.

Thus, if there is concern regarding where to recover the funding to support P-59, a small reduction in the budget allocated within P-28 and/or P-29 would easily account for the needed funding. The Deputy Chief and LPD can surely get creative in finding savings if they weren't given a choice about a reduction in funding for their business cases, much like the council has insisted the CEO of the library should do for business cases P-30 and P-69.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to seeing you at the public participation meeting on February 27th.

Take care for now,

**Becca Amendola**  
*Community and Social Service Volunteer*  
London, ON

Attention: City of London Budget Committee — Councillors E. Pelozo (Chair), H. McAlister, S. Lewis, P. Cuddy, S. Stevenson, J. Pribil, S. Trosow, C. Rahman, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Franke, D. Ferreira, S. Hillier, and Mayor J. Morgan.

Dear City of London Budget Committee,

I am writing to voice my concern about the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget for the City of London, specifically about the funding for the London Police Service. I would like this letter to be added to the public agenda.

I do not support the \$672-million budget ask the London Police Service is making of the City of London from 2024 to 2027. I ask the Mayor and Councillors to reconsider their support for it. While we're told by the police that if they do not receive full funding, London cannot be a safe city, research shows that there are "No consistent associations... found between police funding and crime rates across municipalities, and overall, net increases in spending per capita are not associated with greater net decreases in crime rates" (Seabrook, M. S. et al, 2023). Police do not stop crime, they respond to it. Instead of investing record amounts into policing your constituents, invest in services that build up the community, such as libraries, transit, and social services. If people's material conditions are improved, and their access to services and supports increased, London will then be a safer city.

I am concerned about the continued militarization of London's police services. What do the police see as a use for a second light-armoured vehicle if not to use against its own citizens? Why are they attending SWAT competitions alongside possible war criminals? London police do not encourage community engagement and participation. In fact, for many over-surveilled members of our community, including Black Londoners, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ2+ individuals, and those who are unhoused, police presence actively discourages engagement as they feel unsafe and in danger around police as they and their communities regularly face police violence and abuse. Meanwhile, the library is a welcoming and accessible place that strives to provide more and more basic needs while maintaining its mission amid unprecedented financial challenges.

Why does the LPS not have to patch together grants and donations for a new facility like the many underfunded social services in this city have to on a regular basis? Why are they not willing to budge on a single item in their budget request while essential services such as transit will have to make cuts and changes because they're not receiving their full ask? Your role is to represent and speak for the people — not to vie for re-election. If you fear the backlash from asking the police services to reduce their ask, does that not support the very argument that you should say no to their full ask and show you won't be bullied?

As a resident of Ward 4, every day I see firsthand the impact public policy failings are having on people in our city. I ask that you reconsider allocating the full the London Police Services budget request and instead invest in public transit, public libraries, and other essential social services so that *EVERYONE* may feel safe and engaged in the Forest City.

Sincerely,

Laura Thorne  
London, ON  
N5Y 1N6

**From:** Heather and Tom Chapman  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 4:21 PM  
**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>  
**Cc:** Mike Fitzgerald; Ferreira, David <dferreira@london.ca>; Heather D Chapman

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on The Police Budget Ask for 2024-2027  
**Importance:** High

Please accept this letter for the record prior to the City of London Feb. 27th, Public Budget Meeting.

I fully support the full London Police Services 2024-2027 Budge Ask for the following reasons:

1) The Budget **ASK** *is big* because the London Police Force has been severely UNDERFUNDED for decades leading to unacceptable response times to calls and emergencies of days, not just minutes or hours.

This has made our City the 3rd most dangerous City in Ontario.

2) **Our** Police *Officers* are *underequipped*. Yes *this does make a difference*.

The majority of other Canadian Cities have webcams on Officers' person and Vehicles. This shortens time to investigate crimes, incidents and arrests. Quickens Officers' returning to the field. Also saves tax payer funds, providing an equal record of call/incident accountability thereby avoiding costly bogus law suits and court time.

3) **Our** Police *Headquarters* is *underequipped* in terms of infrastructure and communications. (What Police force in Ontario is still using Carbon Paper?) This slows everything down, and the citizens have become apathetic about reporting crime on-line or even reporting it by phone. Lack of reporting gives our Police Services Board and Operations falsely reduced data of the actual rate of crime, danger and chronic nuisance behaviour.

RESULT: The City doesn't get the funding for adequate number of Police Officers or the equipment needed to keep us safe. Criminals, Chronic Offenders and Opportunists are emboldened because it is widely known that there is not enough Police Officers to prevent/catch them.

4) *Police Officers* are the *most broadly trained first line of contact with the many ill and disadvantaged persons on the streets*.

Given the intensity of the current type of drugs like Fentanyl and other opiates and the increased number of guns, shootings and stabbings, it is essential that we have a higher number Police Officers visible on the street. The Foot Patrol Police Officers know many of these persons by name and these persons know the Officers. Police are trained to assess the mental state of these persons and whether or not they pose a danger to themselves or others. They can refer these persons and take them to the right place for help. And they work with the other social agencies.

But there are not **ENOUGH** of them. And we are losing officers due to burn out, and on the job injuries due to lack of tools.

5) The *training facility ask is necessary* for Fireman Training as well as Police Officer Training. Not enough institutions training enough students. We will be in competition for new recruits with other larger Cities like Toronto who also are receiving their large Police Budget Funding transfers from the Ontario Government. The recruitment advantage London has of offering lower average home price, will be offset by the fact that ***our officers are underequipped and infrastructure is missing or ineffective.*** Would you, as a trained Police Officer candidate, move and take a job where your personal safety will be diminished?

**If WE want to compete in recruiting available trained officers, then we need to show new hire candidates that we are improving job conditions.**

6)The BIG ARMoured VEHICLE.

More London ***officers are being shot and killed.*** **More unrest and severity of events are inevitable.** Spurred on by chaotic world events, emotional angst of citizens who have familial links in other countries, disinformation on websites and social media are fuelling extremism that *can* intensify and turn more peaceful protests into riot crowds physically acting out. And would we want another riot like we had on Thurman Drive with students and out of town crashers overturning and burning Media Vehicles? Officers hit with bottles and projectiles? *Is one or more lives worth that or any price?*

What we have seen so far from this new LPS Chief's Office is a will to move forward into and engage with the community.

They have set up a visual presence at Masonville in response to merchants expressing increasing thefts, threats and behaviour that has deterred their customers.

They have gotten a \$300,000 dollar grant from the Ont. Government for the BUILDS program that supports disadvantaged, desperate youth from falling further towards a criminal path.

London has to start thinking of itself as a Big City with all the Big City challenges. A better manned and equipped LPS Operation means safety and ready help for all. The big lifting of community starts with them, empowering the social agencies, and the rest of us.

Once we feel/can see that we are safer, we can have that warm small town feeling again.

You have my permission to share this email with the full City Council and Budget Committee as a public record.

Thank you.

Heather D. Chapman  
Albert St. London Ont. MCC # 118  
Member of London Downtown Condominium Advocacy Group

February 25, 2024

Budget Committee Chair Elizabeth Peloza, and Committee Members,

For us here at the Midtown Community Organization, this Multi -Year Budget started back in early October of 2022, with a letter that was sent into the city, about the Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives 5-Year Review. That was posted on the Get Involved webpage.

Months later into the Spring of 2023, we had the opportunity to speak with city staff, in a virtual meeting to discuss in more detail about the Community Improvement Plans, and what would be beneficial to help the Midtown Community and the Core Area. We very much appreciated Staff, taking the time to listen to us, on what was lacking and what was needed in Midtown.

Around this same time last year, Council was creating and completing their 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, and we very much appreciate the time and effort that was put in by our Ward 13 Councillor, in having Midtown specifically mentioned in that plan.

The current budget that was presented by the Mayor, and has since been amended, has left the middle of the core area out, when it comes to providing the community with additional items such as a “Façade Improvement Loan Program”, it is disappointing that this has happen, however this Multi-Year Budget does provide for funding a “Complete a new Downtown Master Plan” found in Business Case #44, initiative #7, and we have been assured by our Ward 13 Councillor, that it will also include Midtown and the Core Area, as it is currently defined.

We hope that once this “Master Plan” is complete, it will provide a great vision for Midtown, as it is in the Core. Also, we certainly hope, that during this process of creating the Master Plan for the Core Area, that all the” Values” that this current council decided on in their 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, are followed and amplified.

Midtown Community Organization supports the entire London Police Service Budget, as Mayor Morgan, has presented to the Budget Committee.

We have watched what has happened to the middle of the Core Area, within the last 15 years. The impact that crime is having on the lives of residents, visitors and on our small independent businesses is enormous. It is hard to create a vibrant community when people are afraid to leave their homes, and where community members have been victims of crime. People should not live in fear.

We trust that the London Police Service, along with their board, to be the experts in safety and support them in getting the resources that they are asking for in this 2024-2027 Multi - Year Budget.

Sincerely,

Deanna Brown, Coordinator

Warner Thomas, Coordinator

Cheryl Watson, Coordinator

Midtown Community Organization (MCO)

Submission to the Public Participation Meeting - 2024 to 2027 Multi-Year Budget.  
February 27, 2024.

My name is Norah Fraser and I am a co-chair of the Council of Canadians London Chapter.

The Council of Canadians is a national organization. We campaign for universal public pharmacare. We want the federal government to build affordable housing. We agree that federal tax revenues should be shared more fairly with municipalities.

On the provincial level we protest against Bill 23, the "More Homes Built Faster" Act that has added to the city's expenses. We work with the Ontario Health Coalition for full funding of public health care. We agree that ODSP rates should be doubled. Certainly the province should do more to address the housing and homelessness emergency.

You may know that I spoke at a press conference about public transit. We are encouraged that you voted for London Transit to get the funding for added service hours. That will help current and future transit users and the climate.

Of course we are not happy that the money for transit was then taken from the Climate Emergency Action Plan reserve fund. As climate change continues to affect our city we will need more money in the reserve fund for adaptation and mitigation in the near future. As Brendon Samuels explained so well, spending less now will cost more later.

But today I want to draw your attention to a really bizarre moment in the budget debate, and that is the discussion of Business Case P-16, the Housing Stability Bank Expansion.

A few years ago our Blue Community committee worked with city staff and asked Council to declare London a Blue Community. One of the commitments of a Blue Community is to ensure that nobody's municipal tap water is cut off because of inability to pay their utility bill. London was able to make that commitment because we have the Housing Stability Bank.

As the draft Multi-Year Budget explains, the Housing Stability Bank program currently supports approximately 1,900 individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. The bank helps them to secure permanent housing and to stay housed, through the provision of grants and interest free loans to cover the cost of rent, and to pay utility arrears.

Of all the business cases that address housing and homelessness, surely this is the one that most immediately and effectively prevents people from being forced from their homes by unaffordable expenses. They can get a loan or a grant from the Housing Stability Bank. The Bank needs more funding so it can help more people. I thought it would be obvious that councillors who are worried about people losing their homes would vote to fund this program.

But to my astonishment I heard Councillor Lewis say this. "Yes another \$700,000 expansion would help more people, but how many more people does that added 0.1% tax hike add to the back of the line for help? It's an infinite feedback loop," he said.

The correct answer to the question is, "none". Business Case P-16 would add **\$3.13 per year** to the average residential tax bill. Nobody is likely to be driven into homelessness, and need the help of the Housing Stability Bank, because of a \$3.13 increase in taxes. The feedback loop in this case is not "infinite". It stops when we help our neighbours.

But a majority of councillors apparently didn't question the "infinite feedback loop" fantasy. With the best of intentions and not enough time to look at the actual numbers, they voted against funding P-16. The Housing Stability Bank will not have enough funds to meet the needs of some Londoners who are in fact facing the possibility of homelessness.

Mayor Morgan, please consider raising our taxes by an average \$3.13 a year, so that the Housing Stability Bank will have enough funds to help more Londoners who are at risk of homelessness. I think we can afford it.

Thank you.

Business Case P-16 would add **\$3.13 per year** to the average residential property tax bill

Business Case #	P-16	Housing Stability Bank Expansion	
Strategic Area of Focus	Housing and Homelessness	Service	Housing Stability Services
Operating Expenditure	\$2,800,000	Capital Expenditure	\$0
Non-Tax Levy Revenue	\$0	Total 2028-2033 Capital Expenditure	\$0
Net Tax Levy Required	\$2,800,000	Capital Sources of Financing	N/A
Average Annual Tax Levy Impact %	0.02%	Average Annual Taxpayer Impact (Dollars)	<b>\$3.13</b>

The Housing Stability Bank (HSB) program supports approximately 1,900 individuals and families in London who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness to secure permanent housing, to stay housed through the provision of grants and interest free loans covering the cost of rental and utility arrears for those at risk of losing their housing due to these arrears. This business case is requesting additional investment to increase the number of households accessing the HSB, offset the reduction in loan repayments to the HSB, as well as to offset the increase in rental and living costs over the past few years.

As Councillor Lewis later posted on Facebook, he speculated during the debate on P-16 that **adding 0.1% to the tax bill might create more need for help from the bank in an "infinite feedback loop"**. Council voted not to fund P-16.

**Shawn Lewis, London Politics's Post**

hockey for example) and more belt tightening to come. I had to point out in debate on the Housing Stability Bank expansion, "yes another \$700,000 expansion would help more people, but how many more people does that added 0.1% tax hike add to the back of the line for help? It's an infinite feedback loop".

(Facebook Feb 19, 2024)



Fellow Londoners, Council Members, Mayor Morgan and the London Police Services:

I am writing this letter as a last ditch effort to offer some alternative lenses through which to look at the proposed police budget over the next four years. I am not sure whether this information will even make be read, but what else can I do? Due to misinformation from council members regarding the impact of such letter-writing, and disinformation about the ability of council to propose amendments to the proposed police budget, I believed up until this point writing was futile. This also prompts me to include that I am deeply concerned about the trajectory of public participation, community engagement and Reconciliation in the city of London in regard to this iteration of the budget. I am Anishinaabe, and grew up just outside of London, in Elgin County. I have lived in London for the past 16 years, most of that time spent living in SoHo and Old East Village, two neighbourhoods that are impacted by the socio-economic conditions inflicted upon us all by failed policy at every government level. I am writing as a concerned Londoner and note my identity because it does impact how I think, how I relate to this place, and how police have impacted my life.

I am perplexed by the full endorsement of the budget by the Police Board, which contains two council members and the mayor – and I am concerned by Mayor Morgan’s “unequivocal endorsement.” Particularly alarming was the endorsement of the board and those members of council, prompted a post by the London Police Association which said these members “have forged a bold political path rejecting efforts from radical ‘Defund the Police’ zealots.” How is this a bold path when historically, this is the case? The city council has given LPS much of what they’ve asked for over the years. This inflammatory statement implied the board and council, are directly choosing to ignore the voices of Black and Indigenous Londoners who have voiced their critique of LPS itself, and the institution of policing as it exists in Canada, which is deeply concerning to me. The Executive director of the London Police Association was quoted in [CTV News](#) in support of the statement saying “There were words used against police such as genocide and murderers,” said Rick Robson. “And if that language is okay, I would be very well placed to say that that is a radical, zealot point of view. And I stand behind that.”

I want to talk about how problematic it is, that the executive director of the police association does not understand the history of policing in Canada, and its direct relationship to the genocide of Indigenous Peoples, and the role of under-policing in the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, to which a government report released in June 2019, that the failure of police to investigate MMIP (also commonly referred to as MMIWG2S+) as genocide ([MMIWG Report](#)). Additionally, to categorically say police are not murderers is untrue – what else do you call someone who is responsible for the death of someone else? Yes, not all police officers are murderers – but some are. The circumstances that may justify a death aside – someone that takes another person’s life or stands by and does nothing while they die – is a murderer. But that does not even matter because even when police are convicted of negligence, such as LPS officer Nicholas Doering in the death of Debra-Lee Chrisjohn, they remain on payroll as they appeal the verdict, and continue to drain valuable resources when they have been found guilty of wrongdoing. This is just one example.

MMIWG2S Call to Justice 9.1 reads as follows “We call upon all police services and justice system actors to acknowledge that the historical and current relationship between Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and the justice system has been largely defined by colonialism, racism, bias, discrimination, and fundamental cultural and societal differences. We further call upon all police services and justice system actors to acknowledge that, going forward, this relationship must be based on respect

and understanding, and must be led by, and in partnerships with, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.” While the scope of the inquiry was MMIWG2S, there is much to be said about the way governments conveniently ignore things that do not “apply” – in this case the Calls to Justice for all Canadians also reads: “15.2 Decolonize by learning the true history of Canada and Indigenous history in your local area. Learn about and celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ history, cultures, pride, and diversity, acknowledging the land you live on and its importance to local Indigenous communities, both historically and today.”

London’s Land Acknowledgment reads as follows: “This Land Acknowledgement is a first step towards reconciliation. Awareness means nothing without action. It is important that everyone takes the necessary steps towards decolonizing practices. We encourage everyone to be informed about the traditional lands, Treaties, history, and cultures of the Indigenous people local to their region.” I am curious to what extent this is merely lip service, considering that funding a police budget – no questions asked, no amendments is quite contrary to decolonizing practices, and considering that Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in incarceration and justice statistics in Canada, and disproportionately make up the homeless population in London, as an Anishinaabe person living here I am quite stunned by the contradictory intention of the land acknowledgment, and the actions this council has taken towards Reconciliation. I am looking for action and the only action I see is committing to funding the very institution that has failed Indigenous people countless, in the entirety of their existence.

In 2023, [the Yellowhead Institute surveyed the progress on the TRC Calls to Action](#) and found the federal and provincial governments failed to implement any in the entire year. Over and over I hear council members state their “hands are tied” when it comes to almost everything. And I am just wondering to what degree can I continue to participate in city initiatives towards making the city safer, or working towards “Reconciliation,” knowing that the municipality washes its hands of responsibility in Reconciliation and incorporating marginalized voices in their processes?

I would like to share some additional context as to why the institution known as policing, is complicit in the genocide of Indigenous Peoples, and how this is relevant in a Reconciliation context. London Police were established pre-Confederation, in 1855. At the time, Mount Elgin Industrial School, an Indian Residential School was operating just outside of London, in Muncey. When the Indian Act was introduced in 1867, police were the main enforcers of the pass system, and already were sending kids back to Residential Schools like Mount Elgin – this would have been undoubtedly conducted by members of the LPS at that time. We actually do not have a lot of data and analysis of the LPS’ relationship to Indigenous people, and recently they have opened up conversations of an “Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan,” which is promising, and the work needs to be done – but recruitment and training is just one piece of the puzzle. There is nothing in the current police budget that aligns with any resources or capacity building to attend to the TRC Calls to Action, and the MMIWG Inquiry Calls to Justice.

For further context and understanding of responsibility - the City of London’s growth, and ability to take up land – by the city itself, developers and private landowners - land that the city taxes, to generate money for things like the police budget – relied heavily on the enforcement of the Indian Act, and the location of Mount Elgin and we live with the impacts today. The city benefitted from the colonial genocidal project initiated by the federal government and remains to this day complicit in the violation of Treaty responsibilities, such as the alteration and pollution of Deshkan Ziibing, or the Thames River, so

people can no longer sustainably consume fish from the river on a regular basis, and the level of homelessness of Indigenous people. Tax money revenue generated on stolen land to fund the institution that over polices Indigenous people is quite the pathway to Reconciliation.

It has been inferred that the consequences of rejecting the budget proposal will find council entangled with the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, who historically favour police forces over city councils. As a constituent, I find this unacceptable. This response directly undermines the democratic participation of citizens, and as municipal representatives I am calling you to action to dismantle the structures that leave you powerless to determine how the city budget will be spent. What I find most troubling about this arrangement, is that the ability of the police to control their budget with no council input, [pre-dates Confederation](#). While people are quick to dismiss “the past as the past” in the context of MMIP and the role of police in enforcing the pass system, and the Indian Act, I am yet again reminded, **how the decisions of politicians seven plus generations ago, impact the people of today**. If we have a pre-Confederation mandate controlling the impact of city council on the police force, but we refuse to acknowledge the historical and contemporary impacts of London Police and the city of London on Indigenous Peoples – what does this say about our pathway to Reconciliation?

I am genuinely wondering if you could speak to how the approval of this police budget aligns with TRC Calls to Action #30 and #31. I refuse to accept the dismissal of responsibility of the municipality, because municipal governments are not listed in those specific Calls – for decades, municipal, provincial and federal governments have played hot potato with accountability and responsibility when it comes to Indigenous rights and affairs. I am writing about Reconciliation and Indigenous people as an Anishinaabekwe – however there are vastly more lenses and considerations to apply in the decisions you are making as council members and I am not seeing a lot of evidence of bringing in decolonial praxis, or an anti-racist approach, let alone a community-oriented focus that prioritizes social services, community building and the evidence-based practices of harm reduction, and housing homeless people that are informing council’s decisions.

As another argument in favour of the police budget - there has been a number on the Crime Index thrown around and our city has been labelled “unsafe” – giving people the idea that the OCPC will rule in favour thanks to this statistic – because London is now 78.1 on the crime index. [In 2022, London was sitting in a historic low for crime](#) and the city still approved a budget to increase the force by 52 officers since then. We still have no data, or accountability to the impact of that spending – and whether that many officers were hired and the impact they had on lowering crime and increasing safety.

Many people argue this budget increase will bring the force up to 1990s levels – but there is no data or evidence to point to this impacting crime levels at all – [as crime since 1998 has steadily declined](#) (StatsCan). Lastly, Canada’s Crime Severity Index rating was 78.1 in 2022, and our city was city at 74 in 2022. If London is now sitting at 78.1 – [that puts it on par with Canada overall](#). The prime minister of Canada is not advocating for more military spending because a crime severity index rate of 78.1 is too high – the country is no longer safe – why is this inane logic even being applied in this instance? To argue gun crime and homicides are rising is to blatantly ignore that police do not prevent these crimes – robust social services and community building do. [There is evidence that even planting just 10% more trees in a neighbourhood reduces crime](#) by as much as 12%, [yet there is no evidence suggests more police, police spending](#), or light armoured vehicles, or tasers, do. Some of the largest police budgets and police forces in the city remain the most dangerous for Indigenous People – Thunder Bay and Winnipeg come to

mind. Recently the Thunder Bay Police Service was independently reviewed for the systemic racism against Indigenous people demonstrated by their police force.

Lastly, I will say that the community-engagement process needs to shift. It is not robust enough and it is inaccessible. A few meetings at 4:30 or 6pm on weekdays are not accessible. Not having childminding, as well, prevents many people from participating. Many people also still rely on word of mouth or social media to know what is happening and when. You need an informed public to participate ethically in democracy – and based on the lie alone that our city is “no longer safe” – this is a failure to provide accurate data, information and evidence to constituents to participate fully in this process. Additionally, I am calling on you to review the budget and see where it aligns with the Calls to Action and Justice. I am also calling on you to review the police budget-making process and advocate at the provincial level to review this process and create greater accountability to cities, city councils, and the communities they serve and represent. Lastly, I am asking you for accountability – where is there accountability to Reconciliation? What accountability is there for renovations when renovations were just completed within the last decade? A new training facility when the Chief has said in a meeting I attended, “every hour spent training is an officer off duty.” Where is there an accountability process for the police to make our city safer – if in four years the crime index rate has increased – what is the accountability there? When the other facets of society’s health, safety and wellbeing continue to crumble and the evidence continues to demonstrate over-funding police does not create safer communities – who will be accountable and how? I am left wondering – who the city will be safer for?

I want to leave you with this quote from another article “[The brutality is in the budget](#)”

“City budgets are expressions of values—they tell us whose lives matter to the people crafting the budget, often in rank order. Because the stakes of a city budget are life and death, we can measure their impacts by observing whose lives are being shortened and put at risk by the enactment of this value system? We can observe, empirically, that the defunding of community supports and services produces increased violence and vulnerability to violence.”

What kind of future are we building? What kind of future ancestor do you want to be?

Chi Meegwech for reading,

Sara Mai Chitty

**From:** bill brock

**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 8:38 PM

**To:** Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; Bill Brock; Woolsey, Heather <hwoolsey@London.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] presentation for Feb. 27, 2024

To Budget Committee

Attention: E. Peloza, chair

Brief with my approval to put on added agenda for Feb. 27, 2024

Presentation

City Council had approved this process and according to chairperson taken a different procedure this time around.

First item is for new procedure be published because it is apparent Councilors have taken over as leaders instead of staff! Policy setting is gone; staff accountability and expertise is now secondary! Political comments about trust the "Experts" as demeaning when used to attack other groups!

The fundamental procedure is to follow a procedure that is accountable and transparent for all. Noting salary changes for budget chair and deputy mayor were approved and budget chair (according to Mayor) has been busy since last summer! It would be fair to say that this Council is free and open to do whatever they wish; with whomever they wish! When does the public watch a meeting where all councilors and staff make a presentation in layperson terms and everybody gets the same message

The procedure now is each councilor leads their ward and you as a citizen must speak to your ward councilor! Also

Councilors are now directed to ask questions before meeting and arrange any motions etc. before. This allows consensus and support before meeting! The common theme is time is of the essence so much gets approved without question under consent leaving the public out of process! It appears public accountability is gone!

There should be a concern when the justification of community / public meetings is guided by police staff leading the sessions. How does one justify appropriate feedback when 3 wards (75000 voters?) are represented by 100 people!

Second item is an explanation on how police budget and Legislative change #P-L9 equips very patrol officer and vehicle with appropriated weapons along with appropriate training but doesn't affect police budget needs?

The city prepared a 2 year Mobility study involving some 60 people! It started last year of previous council and first year of current. Major costs and not a question raised. Staff are aware of concern and asked why factual data from 2021 CENSUS not used. Millions can be diverted to real needs now!

Item three refers to Business case #P-16 Housing stability bank (\$700,000.) I think it is gone? However because council may claim other gov't responsibility for income problem not ours! You can't ignore the major issue before us

you can't take the view out of site out of mind. The staff were made aware of this concern in hub discussions and ignored issue (refer to 3 questions asked about hubs).

Transit is interesting because some politicians took shots a budget but didn't bother to get the facts! The expertise is not standing at a bus stop at 7:30am . Facts about university year round contract for all undergraduate students from Sept. 1 to following Aug. 30th weren't acknowledged! Not withstanding many written submissions you fail to recognize that the cuts in BRT fully operational system and spine leaves you with (at best) an express service , serving the east , south and downtown only! The links with north and west will be a nightmare!

Because you only talk about next four years you need to validate by factual data raises and organizational changes (staffing by department; consultants by project and area)!

Under your current system not data is necessary unless your budget exceeds approved guideline.

Item #5. should be the providing of such data in a complete form .

Finally given the magnitude of information and the way you do business leaving the public and accountability aside I suggest the following be done:

Prepare appropriate reports as noted above!

Recognize that the 43 neighborhoods making up 14 wards in London are not the same (No Robots).

You must give real and serious recognition of "NEEDS" come first. Look at the disparity for B.I.A.s \$150,000 - \$350,000. (membership 350 to 47?)

YOU MUST DROP THE BUDGET TO around 7% . Failure to do so will raise the need to look at other actions

Hopefully at start of meeting you will provide the status of all business cases and can go from there!

Note: The Mayor was given "POWERS" which appears 10 votes (he +9).

All through this budget process councilors have been talking to get support or consensus ; that is before public meeting! If not careful citizens will have no influence!

William Brock C.I.M.

London Transit 38 years.

London School Board 20 years

Children's Safety Village

Block Parents

Several city briefs or memberships etc.)

**TO:** Budget Committee

**FROM:** Deanna Ronson

**RE:** 3rd Meeting of Council, February 27, 2024, Item 3 (3.1) on the Agenda  
Public Participation Meeting

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Dear Chair Pelosa, Mayor Morgan and Committee Members,

I am writing to state that I object in the strongest possible terms to the committee's support of Business Cases P-28, P-29, and P-57 from the proposed City of London "Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027."

I urge the chair and all committee members to send the proposed LPS budget back to the LPS for revisions, and to defer the LPS budget until all residents of London can be consulted on this matter.

It is difficult to see the LPS budget being pushed through without proper examination and questioning while so many other public services are underfunded.

We know from published research that increased policing and the militarization of police does NOT reduce crime, nor result in "safe cities."

As an ally to the Black and Indigenous communities, I echo their call for council to stand by the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, as well as the MMIWG National Inquiry Calls for justice related to policing. We know from countless published research that policing has a disproportionately negative impact Indigenous, Black and radicalized communities.

We do NOT need an increase in the militarization of the LPS. What we do need, is a reallocation of funds to address the current homelessness, housing and mental health crises.

Please vote to defer the LPS budget and send it back to them. Fulfil your promises to address the current social crises in London by reallocating funds from the police budget to public services like housing, shelters, transit and other community supports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson

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Dear City Council,

### **RE: Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027**

Housing affordability and homelessness are the biggest challenges facing many people within the City of London. We thank you for your commitment, advocacy and investment in housing solutions to date, including your support for the Whole of Community Response. We were pleased to hear Mayor Morgan state “housing as a fundamental human right” in the State of the City address in 2023. Municipal and private investments into the not-for-profit sector is pivotal to working towards the common goal of solving this crisis together.

As our representatives of the City of London, we ask you to consider the systemic ramifications of what increasing the Police Budget would have on the most marginalized people in London without a balanced community approach. Growing research continues to show that investments in policing do not correlate to safer cities, economic prosperity for job growth and investments in community support do. This requires a perspective shift to start seeing the work of community agencies as the essential work that it is. London Police play an important role and we need Police to continue to work alongside us in partnership; however, if we respond with reactive solutions rather than proactive ones, we will be in the same position at the next budget cycle with worsening conditions as marginalized people continue to struggle and survive in deteriorating conditions.

City Council approved the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan which identifies the Strategic Areas of Focus including the following: Reconciliation, equity, Housing and homelessness, and Wellbeing and safety. 30% of the people living on the streets of London self-identify as Indigenous due to long standing impacts of colonization. There will be consequential impacts without a stronger commitment to a community approach that includes increased opportunities for diversion like programs that support individuals to maintain housing with wrap around supports. Without proper attention to prevention measures and systemic change, emergency services become overburdened due to a weakening social safety net and this will not change with the proposed budget. Diverting some of the available funds from policing to housing needs and Indigenous-led programming would create a long-term impact for key areas of the strategic plan.

We recommend the following:

1. 17.6 million dedicated to a new Training Facility for Emergency Services be diverted to Housing Stability Services to increase rent supplements and expand operating capacity within programs to house individuals experiencing homelessness, while partnering with the Housing Accelerator Fund on new housing opportunities to focus on solving preventable deaths. These dollars could also support the amendments P-15, P-16, P-17 and P-18 to help individuals maintain long-term housing stability.
2. 6.6 million for capital and operating costs of body-worn and car cameras, tasers, a drone and a light armoured vehicle be diverted to Indigenous-led programming to increase culturally appropriate supports that will enhance the Giwetashkad Homelessness Prevention Plan.



3. Given the escalation of domestic violence concerns, reallocate police dollars to build an investigative Intimate Partner Violence Unit to align with the Safety of Women and Girls Framework.

In lieu of a thriving community sector, Police Services were never intended to be the responders to the many competing crises they've become today. We call on City Council to make the commitment with us to prioritize housing as a human right by actioning housing as a top priority in the 2024-2027 multi-year budget and aligning with the values of the Strategic Plan. This is opportunity to take the lead alongside ready and willing programs to work towards a thriving community for everyone.

  
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Jaclyn Seeler

Co-Chair of the London Homeless Coalition

# DIRKA U. PROUT

London, ON

February 26, 2024

Mayor Josh Morgan and other members of council

Via email to [councilagenda@london.ca](mailto:councilagenda@london.ca)

**Re: 2024 – 2027 Multi-Year Budget  
Budget Committee Meeting of February 27, 2024**

Dear Council,

As we are near the end of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year budget process, we must not lose sight of the demands that growth put on our infrastructure. We need new housing that meets the needs of new Canadians and other newcomers from other parts Ontario or Canada. This new housing must be supported by infrastructure and services that help maintain the quality of life that our city aspires to. Preparing for present and future growth requires not only new infrastructure, but also closing the infrastructure gap as we go. Although police services are part of the services that may need to expand with our growing population. We should deeply examine if continual expansion of the largest line item in our budget is fully serving the public interest.

I was happy to see that the nine wastewater Business Cases (#WWT-1 to 9) and #P-56 which provides support to the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) were adopted into the Mayor's budget. Many lower income neighbourhoods miss out on much needed initiatives proposed for the Neighbourhood Decision Making Program. It is great that the #P-27 which enables its expansion was put forward. It was also good that paratransit will also receive more funding in the Mayor's budget given no explicit business cases were included in the draft budget.

Knowing we have infrastructure gaps in Core Services Areas of Water and Transportation/Mobility, and in the Cultural and Recreational Services departments, it was shortsighted to have not also included Business Case #P-55, *Additional Funding to Address Infrastructure Gap*. The 2023 Corporate Asset Management (CAM) Plan recommended that when new/expanded infrastructure is being brought online, funds should be invested annually so that the infrastructure gap does not increase.<sup>i</sup>

For example, London's 2023 CAM Plan noted that in the Core Service area of Transportation and Mobility, 22% of infrastructure in this category is in very poor to poor condition, with 30% in fair condition. Comparing to the 2019 Canadian Infrastructure card<sup>ii</sup>, we are behind, as nationally 16% of roads and 12% of structures (including bridges) are in very poor to poor condition. Nationally, 23% of roads and 26% of (including bridges) are in fair condition.<sup>iii</sup>

London has committed to adding 47,000 new housing units by 2031. Recent research commissioned by the FCM indicates that each new home in Canada will require about \$107,000 in municipal infrastructure.<sup>iv</sup> This figure is a base cost as it does not include costs to operate and maintain these new assets, to adapt them for climate change or build to low-carbon standards. Costs to provide community services such as policing, hospitals and schools to these new homes are also not included. Nor are the costs to close the infrastructure gap. This is why it is important now to invest as we grow to close the infrastructure gap. Even with routine maintenance, assets in fair condition can deteriorate to poor/very poor resulting in higher than anticipated costs to rehabilitate or replace.

Another area we are falling behind our municipal peers nationally is in the areas of culture and recreation. In 2023, approximately 18% of London's arts and culture facilities are in very poor or poor condition compared to about 9% for the 2019 national rate. All seven of London's wading pools were

reported in poor condition in our 2023 CAM Plan. When we examine ice arenas and pools, a significant amount of our inventory is in fair to very poor condition putting us above the 2019 national average.

Cultural and recreational facilities add to community and individual health and wellbeing, foster inclusion, found the basis for quality of life and help build resilient communities. It should not take more than 20 years for the London Arts Council to get an increase in funding. We are under investing in London's cultural and recreational infrastructure. That is a reality!

In contrast we are being held hostage by the perception of rising crime by the London Police Services and the London Police Association.<sup>v</sup> A recent University of Toronto study of police funding and crime rates in 20 Canadian cities has indicated that increasing police budgets do not consistently reduce crime.<sup>vi</sup> Considering that more than half of the currently proposed 8.7% budget increase is going to the police, are we getting good value for money? Have we thoroughly examined how many of the calls the police are currently dispatched to are a best fit for their skills?

London is in the midst of both a homelessness and opioid crisis, which can drastically increase costs to health care system, the justice system and emergency services (fire, police and EMS). As we make progress on tackling these twin crises, policing costs will fall with time. Has this fact been taken into account? Further it appears that public has not been given sufficient justification for spending another half a million dollars on a second LAV. It is not clear why a new training facility is required. Are we duplicating some of the efforts of the Ontario Police College?

To be effective with the hard earned tax dollars of our fellow citizens, we should be addressing the roots of crime. The police budget should be reduced and redirected to such efforts. This would require a comprehensive strategy, similar to the whole of community response developed for homelessness. The Canadian Municipal Network for Crime Prevention can be consulted for guidance.<sup>vii</sup> If London had followed the 2008 advice of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to spend \$1 on crime prevention for every \$1 spent on increasing policing perhaps we would not be so "under-resourced".

Policing is a reactive approach to crime. To be cost effective, we should be proactive and address the economic factors (poverty, lack of housing etc.) and social factors (e.g. inequality, lack of adequate social, cultural and recreational services). Investments in transit, library services, arts & culture and recreation for example will do much to reduce health care, social services and police/justice costs.

I ask that Council revisit the decision to not carry forward Business Case #P-55 which was developed to close the infrastructure gap and improve the resiliency of our municipal assets. Secondly we should carefully evaluate what parts of the police budget are necessary. We should also redirect a portion of the police budget toward targeted crime prevention initiatives and purposeful investments in relatively underfunded community services/assets like recreation, transit and library services that more meaningfully address the roots of crime and give citizens a stronger sense of belonging.

Sincerely,

*Dirka U. Prout*

**P.S.** We should not wait until an asset management plan is prepared for the 16 London Public Library branches to provide funding for roof repairs at seven of 16 branches and lighting/energy retrofits. Leaky rooves lead to more extensive and costly repairs if not promptly attended to. A healthy library building contributes to a healthy community.

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<sup>i</sup> See Recommendation No. 7 of Table 23.1 *2019 CAM Plan Recommendations and Progress Reporting* of the 2023 CAM Plan.

<sup>ii</sup> FCM 2019. Canadian Infrastructure Report Card 2019, Monitoring the State of Canada's Core Infrastructure.

<sup>iii</sup> Under transportation structures, the City of London includes bridges, footbridges, culverts, pedestrian tunnels, retaining walls and noise walls. In contrast, the 2019 Canada Infrastructure Report Card does not include retaining walls or noise walls.

<sup>iv</sup> FCM 2023. New research: Canada's housing challenge is also an infrastructure challenge. November 23, 2023.

<https://fcm.ca/en/news-media/news-release/new-research-canadas-housing-challenge-also-infrastructure-challenge>

<sup>v</sup> In 2022, the crime rate in London hit a more than 20 year low. Details can be found in this Free Press article:

<https://fpress.com/news/local-news/analysis-london-police-demand-big-bucks-but-wheres-the-debate>

<sup>vi</sup> CBC 2023. Police budget increases may not reduce crime rates in Canadian cities, research indicates. January 18, 2023.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-budget-crime-rates-canada-1.7086532>

<sup>vii</sup> The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) is a community of practice to build capacity and mobilize Canadian municipalities to prevent and reduce crime and foster community safety and well-being. It can be accessed at <https://safercities.ca/>



February 26, 2022

Budget Committee  
London City Council  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

**RE: 2024-27 Multi-Year Budget**

Dear Committee Members,

I am unable to appear before you at the Public Participation Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and so I am submitting these very brief remarks on behalf of Pillar Nonprofit Network and our members.

Pillar has devoted the past few months to convincing our members that their voices are valued and necessary. Each of them expert in their own spheres, they are still wary of offending critical funders and regulatory bodies, including a fear of backlash from the City. When they appeared in numbers before you in January, when they appear before you tomorrow, I ask that you recognize their bravery and attend to their expertise. Whatever they ask of you, whatever they wish you to hear, they have stepped out of their comfort zone to share it and I hope they will feel their voices are indeed valued.

For ourselves, we wish to reiterate our praise for your visionary Strategic Plan and your leadership in an innovative Health and Homelessness Whole of Community System Response that centres the experiences of people experiencing homelessness and the people who serve them. We are frankly surprised by the scale of investment in policing and remain hopeful that you will find a way to balance the community's needs and invest equally in services that improve the everyday lives of everyday Londoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Cassidy", written in a cursive style.

Maureen Cassidy (she/her)  
Interim CEO | Pillar Nonprofit Network  
[mcassidy@pillarnonprofit.ca](mailto:mcassidy@pillarnonprofit.ca) | 519-433-7876 ext 212

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**From:** Arch Sturaitis

**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 2:47 PM

**To:** Stevenson, Susan <[sstevenson@london.ca](mailto:sstevenson@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for increased funding for London Police in City budget

Hello Councillor Stevenson

We are long-time, part-time residents of London and own several properties in Old East Village. We returned to London this week and were astonished to see the media coverage reporting a backlash to the increased funding of London Police Services in the new budget.

We wholeheartedly support the decision to increase the spending and support of LPS as presented, and would like you to know that we personally understand, as the repeated victims of property crimes, trespassing and B&Es at our properties, that this spending in support of London Police Services is VITAL and long overdue.

Just the other day we were delighted and reassured to see and speak with the LPS Foot Patrol Supervisor walking the beat on our street. We are reminded of the value of a robust police presence for our community, especially in OEV.

Please actively continue to advocate for these essential Police services. We are grateful for your attention in this regard.

This is important especially because we see from the reports that funding is being cut back for social services hubs in this area and from our past hard experience we have seen that one unfortunate consequence of this resulted in homeless encampments, trespassing and theft at our properties.

Sincerely,

Arch Angelus and Laura Sturaitis