

From: Lisa McLean

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

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Ferreira, David <dferreira@london.ca>; Budget Committee <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