

**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