

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