

**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