

From: nicole brandon

Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 10:50 PM

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

Cc: Budget Committee <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