



February 10th, 2024

Chief Thai Truong and the London Police Services Board  
City of London Police Services  
601 Dundas Street  
London, Ontario  
N6B 1X1

Dear Chief Thai Truong;

*Re: Request for Reconsideration of Budget Allocation and Strengthening Community Collaboration to end Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women.*

We are writing as a collective of organizations and leaders within the Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women Sector and wish to express our concerns about the London Police Service budget submitted to the City of London.

We hope you and your team would be willing and open to review our concerns and suggestions about possibly repurposing funds.

Specifically, we are looking at the multi-year budget request to the City of London for body cameras, car cameras, and a light armored vehicle (Business Cases P-28 and P-29. within the City of London Draft Multi-Year Budget).

These three items amount to \$4,471,627 in capital costs and an additional \$1,940,492 in operating costs, totaling \$6,412,119 over the next 4 years or an annual cost of \$1,603,030. While we understand the importance of investing in technological advancements for law enforcement, we would like to bring to your attention the urgent need for resources to address critical issues such as Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking. We are under the understanding that the Intimate Partner Violence Unit is one of the only units within LPS that does not have an investigative component. These crimes not only pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of our community members but also demand a comprehensive and proactive approach.

We would like to request that LPS reconsider the allocation of funds from the proposed budget for body and car cameras and redirect a portion of those resources towards strengthening units dedicated to, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and combating Human Trafficking. An example of an appropriate reallocation of funds would be an investment in an investigative section specific to the Intimate Partner Violence Unit, who is trauma and violence informed. By enhancing these specialized units, we can make a more profound impact on the safety and security of our community as well as being survivor focused and practicing more trauma and violence informed care. The nuance of Intimate Partner Violence, for example, is extremely important and we feel it goes beyond regular training that uniformed officers attending these calls would receive.

The Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Teams at LPS do essential, lifesaving and critical work that deserves to be funded properly.

With the international spotlight on London Police Service and how they respond to sexual violence, we believe that now is the time to put resources into this important work, address challenges and shortfalls, and focus on protecting our community.

We feel strongly that the London Police Service needs to understand that when we hear about LPS members being sent to Dubai to participate in a SWAT competition (no matter the benefit), while rates of femicide are skyrocketing in the province of Ontario, it shakes our trust. Community collaboration is a key component in building trust, understanding and support between law enforcement and the public. By working together, we can create a safer and more secure environment for all residents of the City of London.

Additionally, we encourage the London Police Service Senior Leadership to actively engage in and fund partnerships and innovative collaborations with local community organizations that specialize in addressing these critical issues. Establishing strong ties with community partners can facilitate a more holistic and effective approach to combating crimes such as Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the challenging decisions you must make on behalf of our community and trust that you will prioritize the safety and well-being of its residents. All five of our organizations are more than willing to meet and discuss further with your team.

Sincerely,

Jessie Rodger - Executive Director of Anova

Tim Smuck - Executive Director of Changing Ways

Jennifer Dunn, Executive Director at the London Abused Women's Centre

Elyas Farooqi - Managing Director of the Muslim Resource Centre

Elyssa Rose - Executive Director of Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy

CC: London City Council Budget Committee