

From: colleen murphy

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:56 AM

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget requests.

Good morning to you both.

I am writing to share what my priorities are as a Londoner and a resident of Ward 4.

I would like my letter to be added to the public agenda.

I strongly support the ask of the London Public Library as it is a vital community space that provides connection for many Londoners. The idea of closing libraries due to much needed repairs not being funded is short sighted. Libraries provide knowledge, safety, community and so much more. Local artists have been able to create albums in the music space at the main branch to launch or continue their careers..

London has declared a climate emergency and yet the budget does not seem to align with this. I would like to see the increase in transit hours that the LTC is requesting funding for. This not only aligns with London's Climate action plan but also with London's declaration of being a safe city for women. As a woman, who for much of my life here in London relied on Transit, I can tell you that not being able to get a bus after work can leave women in vulnerable positions. Although I mostly commute by bike these days, the last two times I have attempted to take the bus to and from work the bus has driven by myself and at least 7 others waiting because it was already at capacity. I need you to increase funding for transit. I need transit service to provide more frequent service and not have full buses continue to pass me by. I need to be able to get around the city in a reasonable amount of time and not have to dedicate hours of bus travel just to get to my job or do an errand. Reliable bus service also has economic benefits, if it is difficult to get to local businesses more and more Londoners may resort to on-line purchases and this takes more money out of the local economy. Our small businesses support our communities and we need to support them.

I would also like to see snow removal in all bike lanes as again this aligns with London's Climate Action Plan. Mainly Londoners are choosing to be car free and in order to meet our Climate Action goals we need to make it easier for more people to do so.

Finally I do not support the ask for the police budget and would highly recommend that police services be asked to go back to the table and readdress their ask. We do not need an armoured vehicle, we would be better served with a mental health worker at the libraries. We cannot continue to allow the police budget to grow year after year without seeing results and the fact is we won't see results because Police respond to crime they don't stop it. I think it is also important to note that police have made this city less safe for women who reported sexual assaults and were not believed, for women who died or were assaulted in their care and for many minorities.

Thank you for your time.

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