

**From:** Matthew Brown

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:49 AM

**To:** Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <[pvanmeerbergen@london.ca](mailto:pvanmeerbergen@london.ca)>; City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Budget input (with consent to be included in public participation meeting)

Good morning, Mayor Morgan, Councillor Van Meerbergen, and the City Budget Committee.

I understand the desire for a safe city and also understand how difficult the budget process must be, so thank you for all your effort on this.

That said, I cannot support the City giving full funding to the London Police Service, especially at a time when funding for community services like transit and libraries is at risk.

Beyond studies that say that police spending has no consistent correlation with lower crime rates (<https://www.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.2022-050?journalCode=cpp>), it is simply irresponsible to give the London Police Service everything it is asking for at a time when other community services and City departments are facing cuts. I am not a zealot and don't support the abolishment of the police or any such thing -- I agree that police have been tasked with doing too much but the answer isn't I'm simply asking that Mayor and Council act in the best interest of all Londoners by scrutinizing the ask from the London Police Service just as closely as any other service or department in the City.

Can you honestly say that the London Police Service deserves every one of their asks? The drones? The tasers? A SECOND armoured vehicle? A new training facility? Body cameras that can be turned off? I have no issues whatsoever with my taxes going up but I beg you to make the increase justified and worthwhile to all Londoners, especially vulnerable populations in need.

The small fraction that you take away from the London Police Service would mean the world to the London Public Library and London Transit (or any other number of services that need further investment, like our hubs or affordable housing).

The only power I have is in my vote, so please know that if the London Police Service receives funding for their full ask, I will actively campaign against Mayor Morgan and my Counsellor (Van Meerbergen) in the next election.

Thank you for your time.

Matthew R. Brown

Westmount Homeowner