

From: Lee Abidakun

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:07 PM

To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Hillier, Steve <shillier@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the London Police Budget asks

Hello,

My name is Lee Abidakun and I live in London, ON, I am a resident of Ward 14. I am emailing to let it be known I oppose the proposed London police budget ask and ask that an amendment be made immediately.

There is absolutely no link between increasing police budgets and a decrease in crime rate in Canada. According to a University of Toronto study, research found “no consistent associations” between police funding and crime rates across 20 large municipalities, including Hamilton, Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal. Stealing funds from all other social programs to boost an already enormous police budget does not address the root cause of crime which can largely be tied to housing insecurity, food insecurity and mental health (etc.).

I demand that city council:

1. Conduct further research on call times- both mental health and homelessness calls
2. Defer the vote on the LPS budget and consult with ALL community members before making a decision
3. Fund more grassroots organizations and non-profits that do essential work in our London community, including SafeSpace London, Atlohsa, and LondonCares
4. Send back the police budget and tell LPS to find ways to reduce it

I ask you to respond to the above demands and consider the voices of ALL of your constituents. At minimum, we deserve a response and detailed explanation of how the decision actually benefits our city.

Lee Abidakun

N6E1J4

Ward 14