

From: Patrick Linardic
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:31 AM
To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget

Hello,

As a resident of ward 6 I wanted to give my feedback on the budget for this year.

First off, it goes without saying that the police budget increase is absolutely insane. The problems in London leading to more crime have to do with standards of living, poverty, desperation, mental illness and drug abuse. Police are a reactionary force that respond to this, they do not fix the underlying issues which lead to higher crime rates. This is common knowledge so I am not sure why the proposed police budget is beyond anything anyone could imagine. Especially when public transportation, homelessness, and rent prices are objectively more pertinent issues. Also not to mention that taxpayer dollars went to the London police being in Dubai facing off against Russian police forces.

I really hope the city realizes what they are doing in the long run, which is shooting themselves in the foot for an investment pattern which has historically not led to more vibrant, diverse and exciting communities. London is also going to grow an insane amount in the next few decades. Please do not lack on transit development. If London hits 600,000 people without REAL rapid transit, it will become another Brampton. I moved from Brampton to London because it was horrible there, please don't let this city become an urban hellscape. Invest in transit, and affordable housing. I am willing to bet that the majority of the people working at city hall do not take public transit to get to work, therefore they are unable of understanding how inefficient, and lackluster the system really is. I also find it especially frustrating that members of the city council believe that the transit and financial inefficiencies are due to "too large of a bureaucracy within the commission" and "too much money going to the people within the commission than the actual bus system". I find it frustrating that they will then turn around and not hold the Police service to the same standard.

Also, cities like Waterloo and Brampton are getting much larger budget increases for their public transit. Once again, London gets left in the 20th century with its funding patterns. Also, London police do not need an armored vehicle. That is beyond insane, HOCO does not get that rowdy. Seriously though, taking the money it would cost to buy a new armored vehicle and using it to buy new buses would go infinitely farther to better the lives of the people in your city.

This city needs to get wit the times and start making the right decisions

Patrick