

From: Vicki Van Linden

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 6:10 PM

To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the immense increase in the proposed police budget

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

I urge all members of council to take a harder look at the huge increase proposed for the police budget, and trim that budget request down.

I understand that new police service staff need to be hired based on our larger population. If response times are to be improved, then it seems clear that we need more police officers. Nevertheless, the police service budget request, like all budget requests, should be examined carefully and should never be accepted at face value.

Building a safe city requires a variety of city services for citizens especially for those who are vulnerable, including young people who need activities to guide them toward being emotionally healthy adults. Libraries have been doing a good job of expanding services that are important to vulnerable and lower-income citizens. Our library system is a good example of a public service that has kept up with the changing needs of our community and we should facilitate their ability to meet those needs.

Of course we need a strong and effective police service; just as we need a good library system, drop-in centres for young people, safe consumption sites for those who are addicted, homeless hubs, and recreational activities to build safe communities.

Please take a harder look at that proposed police budget and trim it down.

Sincerely,

Vicki Van Linden
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