

**To:** Mayor Josh Morgan & Members of the City Council

**Re:** Funding for the London Public Library's Security System Via P-59

Hello, Mayor Morgan and City Council Members,

The main purpose of my letter is to request that Council members support an amendment to fund business case P-59. This will assist the public library with upgrading and improving its security access infrastructure, ultimately reducing the overall cost of this system in the long term.

I am of the understanding that all other business cases prepared by the public library for the draft budget have gone before the council over the last month for amendment considerations for the mayor's budget with some being passed, but most failing. Business case P-59 is the last remaining business case for the public library that has not been given equal consideration.

In the last budget committee meeting on February 15th, multiple council members made comments about the library board needing to find more ways to reduce their projected base budgets for 2025 to 2027. I would argue that supporting business case P-59 to fund upgrades to the library's chronically malfunctioning, and outdated security access system over 2024 and 2025 is one way to support the library board in finding some of those savings.

As was reported within the detailed business case for P-59 - "Library Security System Upgrades", the various security access systems throughout the different branches of the public library present costly, disruptive, and environmentally taxing issues.

Please refer to page 716 of the Draft Multi-Year Budget<sup>1</sup> where detailed information about the cost of maintaining this system is outlined under the subheading 'Additional Details'. In summary, service calls for this system cost the library over \$34,000 between 2019 and 2023. The current system also costs thousands each year to cut new keys that are lost, stolen, or broken, or require replacement when the lock mechanisms themselves have to be replaced. Each of these service calls requires service personnel to travel to and from sites, increasing the overall greenhouse gas emissions required to maintain these older systems. Moreover, the age of the system has caused chronic delays in overall service call turnaround as the availability of

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<sup>1</sup> [Draft - 2024 to 2027 Multi-Year Property Tax, Water, Wastewater and Treatment Budgets](#)

replacement parts steadily declines. This doesn't just stress out the staff at these branches, it also compromises the safety and security of the people and assets within each branch.

The upgraded system proposed in this business case would be capable of remote support services, and low-cost, on-site key card replacements, thus reducing the greenhouse gas emissions for the system significantly. The new system will also require fewer service calls in general, reducing maintenance costs overall. In summary, funding this business case for the library would assist them in making their security access infrastructure “more responsive, cost effective and [facilitate a] safer environment to staff and Londoners”<sup>1</sup>. Thus I am asking you to please consider requesting an amendment to include some level of funding for business case P-59 - “Library Security System Upgrades”.

I respect the need to stay mindful of the ‘ballooning property tax rate’, as some councilors have coined it. Though I'm sure you've heard from many citizens now that P-28 and P-29 appear bloated and with room for amendments to reduce their impact on our overall tax rate. I am also a citizen who does not agree with our city's tax dollars going towards such an emphasis on authoritarian approaches to safety via the overfunding of a police state. What we need is to **DEFUND THE POLICE**, and instead direct that funding towards housing and the creation/facilitation of safe spaces - two things the library either provides or helps people find.

Thus, if there is concern regarding where to recover the funding to support P-59, a small reduction in the budget allocated within P-28 and/or P-29 would easily account for the needed funding. The Deputy Chief and LPD can surely get creative in finding savings if they weren't given a choice about a reduction in funding for their business cases, much like the council has insisted the CEO of the library should do for business cases P-30 and P-69.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to seeing you at the public participation meeting on February 27th.

Take care for now,

**Becca Amendola**  
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