

TO: Budget Committee

FROM: Deanna Ronson

RE: 3rd Meeting of Council, February 27, 2024, Item 3 (3.1) on the Agenda
Public Participation Meeting

Dear Chair Pelosa, Mayor Morgan and Committee Members,

I am writing to state that I object in the strongest possible terms to the committee's support of Business Cases P-28, P-29, and P-57 from the proposed City of London "Multi-Year Budget 2024-2027."

I urge the chair and all committee members to send the proposed LPS budget back to the LPS for revisions, and to defer the LPS budget until all residents of London can be consulted on this matter.

It is difficult to see the LPS budget being pushed through without proper examination and questioning while so many other public services are underfunded.

We know from published research that increased policing and the militarization of police does NOT reduce crime, nor result in "safe cities."

As an ally to the Black and Indigenous communities, I echo their call for council to stand by the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, as well as the MMIWG National Inquiry Calls for justice related to policing. We know from countless published research that policing has a disproportionately negative impact Indigenous, Black and radicalized communities.

We do NOT need an increase in the militarization of the LPS. What we do need, is a reallocation of funds to address the current homelessness, housing and mental health crises.

Please vote to defer the LPS budget and send it back to them. Fulfil your promises to address the current social crises in London by reallocating funds from the police budget to public services like housing, shelters, transit and other community supports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson
