



February 26, 2022

Budget Committee  
London City Council  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

**RE: 2024-27 Multi-Year Budget**

Dear Committee Members,

I am unable to appear before you at the Public Participation Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and so I am submitting these very brief remarks on behalf of Pillar Nonprofit Network and our members.

Pillar has devoted the past few months to convincing our members that their voices are valued and necessary. Each of them expert in their own spheres, they are still wary of offending critical funders and regulatory bodies, including a fear of backlash from the City. When they appeared in numbers before you in January, when they appear before you tomorrow, I ask that you recognize their bravery and attend to their expertise. Whatever they ask of you, whatever they wish you to hear, they have stepped out of their comfort zone to share it and I hope they will feel their voices are indeed valued.

For ourselves, we wish to reiterate our praise for your visionary Strategic Plan and your leadership in an innovative Health and Homelessness Whole of Community System Response that centres the experiences of people experiencing homelessness and the people who serve them. We are frankly surprised by the scale of investment in policing and remain hopeful that you will find a way to balance the community's needs and invest equally in services that improve the everyday lives of everyday Londoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Cassidy", written in a cursive style.

Maureen Cassidy (she/her)  
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