



LONDON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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January 16, 2012

Ms. Cathy Saunders, City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario N6B 1Z2

Dear Ms. Saunders:

Re: Municipal Council's Request for London Police Services Board attendance before Service Review Committee.

We acknowledge receipt of a request for our attendance before the Service Review Committee.

We recognize that this is a new committee formed by Council, and further, that the request was directed to all Boards and Commissions and was, therefore, written in a general form. As this request is from a new committee, the London Police Services Board (LPSB) in responding to this invitation, wishes to share with Council the legislative authority under which the LPSB operates and how that authority dictates the level of interaction between Council and the LPSB.

The Police Services Act provides that every municipality is obliged to provide "adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs". This responsibility is discharged through the establishment and maintenance of a municipal police service with the ultimate responsibility for the provision of police services, law enforcement, and crime prevention; with the oversight of this responsibility being vested in the LPSB. The LPSB is composed of both municipal and provincial appointees and has responsibilities that include proposing an annual budget, establishing budgetary priorities and objectives, and setting direction on the manner in which the funds are to be spent.

In addition, The Police Services Act stipulates the criteria to be followed by Council in reviewing estimates and establishing an overall budget for the LPSB. Of particular note is that, in establishing the overall budget, LSPB cannot surrender to Council or any committee of Council its authority to approve or disapprove specific items in the estimates or specific police service levels used to establish them.

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It is our understanding that Council has sought advice from the City Solicitor on this issue. We have not been privy to that advice, but understand that the legal advice provided is consistent with the legal advice we have received. As such, the LPSB is not in a position to appear before or report through the Service Review Committee, for the purposes of discussing service change implications associated with achieving the 2012 budget target, or outlining specific service change implications that could result from meeting that target.

It is clear that the legal responsibility to provide "adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs" is the sole responsibility of the LPSB. The LPSB, due to its composition, has input from, and is cognizant of the economic and budget considerations of the City of London. The LPSB, with the assistance of the Chief of Police and the LPS staff, has identified what is considered to be "adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs" and has established a budget to meet these obligations.

Having said that, the LPSB is very aware of the fiscal reality confronting the City of London and continually works to establish and approve responsible annual operating and capital budgets, while being mindful of their impact on the community and other City Departments, Boards, and Commissions of any tax increase. To that end, ongoing service reviews continue to be undertaken by the Board, in consultation with the Chief of Police, since the approval of the 2012 budget. These reviews are being conducted with the express purpose of looking for further opportunities for reductions, notwithstanding that the current and approved operating budget already assumes a significant amount of risk. Furthermore, should the operating budget for 2012 be approved at the target amount of 3%, there will be a further erosion of service, recognizing that adequate and effective service may already be compromised at present levels.

The Board, through its own, ongoing service review process and in response to Council's 3% target, has determined that the following necessary actions, either individually or collectively, would have to be implemented:

- Internal redeployment of resources from preventative crime mitigating work to more reactionary, higher-cost, calls for service.
- Downsizing and/or elimination of core community support programs and services;
- Severe impacts to infrastructure accounts (fuel, training, equipment) necessary to maintain operations; and
- Delayed hiring of attrition replacements.

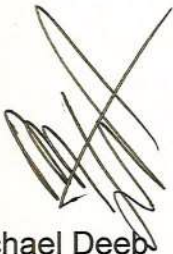
These outcomes would further negatively impact service levels and potentially create a funding deficit for 2012.

The LPSB wishes to participate in a budget review process that is open and transparent, and in keeping with the legislative authorities governing the relationship between the Board and Municipal Council. To that end, the LPSB and the Administration will be present on

the following dates, as provided by Council, for the purpose of broadly discussing the London Police Service's operating and capital budget requirements:

January 26, 2012
February 2, 2012
February 9, 2012
February 21, 2012

The above information is respectfully submitted in the spirit of co-operation recognizing the limits of related legislation under which we are governed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Deeb', with a large 'X' mark over it.

Michael Deeb
Chair, London Police Services Board

Cc:
Chief Bradley Duncan, London Police Service
Mayor Joe Fontana, City of London
Jeff Fielding, C.A.O, City of London
Councillor Nancy Branscombe, City of London