

**Report 5 to
Rapport 5 au:**

Council

Conseil

Submitted on December 9, 2020

Soumis le 9 décembre 2020

Submitted by

Soumis par:

**Krista Ferraro, Executive Director / directrice exécutive
Ottawa Police Services Board / Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa**

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Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2020-CCS-PSB-0005

SUBJECT: OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE 2021 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

OBJET: BUDGETS D'IMMOBILISATIONS ET DE FONCTIONNEMENT 2021 DU SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City of Ottawa Council approve the Ottawa Police Service 2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil municipal d'Ottawa approuve les budgets préliminaires de fonctionnement et d'immobilisations de 2021 du Service de police d'Ottawa.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Ottawa Police Service Budget Book dated 4 November 2020 previously distributed
2. Extract of Minute 29: 4 November 2020 Special Board meeting
3. Extract of Draft Minute 12: 9 November 2020 Finance & Audit Committee meeting
4. Extract of Draft Minute 30: 23 November 2020 Board meeting

Document 2

Extract of Minute
Minutes 29 – Special Meeting
4 November 2020

1. 2021 DRAFT OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS
Presentation
Documents to be tabled at the meeting
-

A presentation was made by Chief P. Sloly, CAO J. Letourneau and CFO C. Rogers, which is available [online](#).

It was clarified that the OPS is hoping to secure \$1 million in grant money to help fund a portion of the \$1.5 million for the mental health strategy. Regardless of whether the OPS obtains the grant, the Service is committed to the investment in the strategy.

It was also noted that the NRTs are the best model for police to work in and with communities therefore 20 additional officers are being invested in the NRTs in rural and suburban areas.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive and table the Ottawa Police Service 2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets, to be considered at the Board meeting on 23 November 2020.

RECEIVED and TABLED

Document 3

Extract of Draft Minute
Minute 12 – Finance & Audit Committee Meeting
9 November 2020

1. 2021 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS: DELEGATIONS

Presentation

A presentation was made by Chief P. Sloly, CAO J. Letourneau, and CFO C. Rogers.

The Committee then heard from the following public delegations:

1. ERIN LEIGH, OCTEVAW
2. ERICA IFILL, COALITION AGAINST MORE SURVEILLANCE
3. MAR KHORKHORDINA
4. JACK BELLEMARE
5. ROBIN BROWNE
6. EUAN WHEATON
- ~~7. MORELL ANDREWS (registered but did not attend)~~
8. EMMA RICHTER
- ~~9. CHRISTINE BURTON (registered but did not attend)~~
10. MATTEO CIMELLARO
11. LAURA SHANTZ
12. PAUL JORGENSON
13. ERIN ROTHSCHILD
- ~~14. MITCH JACKSON (registered but did not attend)~~
15. DAVID HENESSEY
16. NICK GROVER
- ~~17. MAYA BASUDDE (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~18. NAGAD ABDILAH (registered but did not attend)~~

19. SOPHIA JACOB & NICHOLAS HARRISON, SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL OF OTTAWA

20. ADAM GIBBARD

~~21. FRANCIS YEL, SOUTH SUDANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA (registered but did not attend)~~

22. TREVOR HACHÉ

23. GABRIELLE JACOBS

24. IFRAH YUSUF, JUSTICE FOR ABDIRAHMAN COALITION

25. MIRANDA GRAY

26. CASSIE SLACK

27. SAM HERSH, HORIZON OTTAWA

28. SOUHEIL BENSLIMANE

29. MWINYELE

30. KARIN FREEMAN

31. ETHAN SABOURIN

32. BROOKE SHAW

33. FARNAZ FARHANG

34. LISA MACLEOD

35. SAMANTHA MCALEESE

36. WILLIAM FELEPCHUK

37. MAE MASON

38. JUSTIN PICHE

39. BILLEH HAMUD

40. STACY DOUGLAS, SOMERSET WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH
CENTRE

41. JESSICA SCALLEN

42. VANESSA ARNELE - statement read by Elke Dring

The Board received the following written submissions:

1. Lee Pepper, [Annex 1](#)
2. Philana Dolin, [Annex 2](#)
3. Roland Hanchard, [Annex 3](#)
4. Sophia Lowe, [Annex 4](#)
5. Shannon Watt, [Annex 5](#)
6. Jaron Chalier, [Annex 6](#)
7. Caitlin Hawkes Frost, [Annex 7](#)

The following points of clarification were made during the delegations:

- Some delegates addressed incidents involving OPS officers and their facing of disciplinary actions. Board Chair D. Deans and FAC Committee Chair L.A. Smallwood both addressed these comments, stating that the Board is not currently mandated to handle these concerns, but that provincial appeals have been made to grant the Board greater oversight in such matters.
- Delegations were told that the Board will continue to listen and were promised that their words would not fall on deaf ears after a question was raised as to what kind of accountability the Board adheres to in holding public consultations.
- It was recognized by both the Board and Chief Sloly that the police have long been tasked with handling calls that would be far better suited to other services.
- It was acknowledged that the sign of an effective police force is the very absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police.
- It was clarified that, could the budget be broken down into a simple equation of “x” amount of money is invested, which leads to “x” amount of crime reduction, then budget results of the past years would appear to be quite poor. However, the police have been involved in far more than just crime prevention and that must be taken into consideration when analyzing the budget.
- A comment was made that police should not be involved at all in the Mental Health Strategy or its implementation. In response, a point was made that oftentimes mental health issues will present themselves in such a way that the police are still needed: a crime in progress,

someone wielding a gun, etc. It was said that part of the challenge in getting this right is that the overall safety of the public must remain top of mind.

The following key points were raised by delegates:

- Multiple delegates pledged support for the five demands issued by the Justice for Abdirahman Abdi on 24 October 2020 and called for them to be implemented by the Board and the Service.
- Many called for the transferring of funds from the police budget to other social service providers. While some offered support for the Mental Health Strategy put forth by the OPS, others expressed concerns related to the implementation timeline and it being vague.
- Abolishment of the police service entirely was suggested by some.
- Multiple delegates called for the banning of dynamic entries, also known as no-knock warrants.
- The efficacy of the Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs) was questioned by multiple delegates, with references made to them being a rebrand of Direct Action Response Teams (DART) and Prevention and Intervention of Violence in Ottawa (PIVOT).
- While some delegates called for a freezing of the budget at 2020 levels, others called for a decrease to the budget.
- Numerous calls for transparency were made, related to policing as well as to consultations held by the OPSB.
- Many insisted that the proposed budget does not signify change, nor is it representative of a police service or board that is listening to the public. Examples offered included further funding for weapons and salary increases.
- It was suggested that in putting together delegation lists, preferred pronouns could be included alongside names.
- Points were raised with respect to the accessibility of the meeting in terms of timing, technology, and language barriers.

CITY COUNCIL DELEGATIONS

1. COUNCILLOR KEITH EGLI
2. ~~COUNCILLOR RILEY BROCKINGTON~~ (*registered but did not attend*)
3. COUNCILLOR SHAWN MENARD

4. COUNCILLOR MATHIEU FLEURY

The following points of clarification were made following the comments by the council delegates:

- A question was raised regarding why the hiring ratio of female to male officers isn't 50/50. Chief Sloy explained that the current rates of gendered hire do signify large change, but that they don't have set quotas. The OPS are seeing a large increase in female applicants, and their hiring reflects that.
- A question was raised regarding use of force training and mental health training for existing OPS officers. Chief Sloy said that training is conducted for existing officers at in-service sessions. He emphasized that more training is not necessarily better, but better training is better.
- A question was raised regarding COVID-19 budgetary pressures. It was explained that in collaboration with the City of Ottawa, the assumption is that grants from senior levels of government will come through. Because of this, there is a \$0 budgetary impact.
- A question related to background check timelines was raised. It was said that the online process should provide completed record checks within 24 hours. In instances where there are complications, such as if a person needs to be fingerprinted, the wait time might be longer.
- A question on red-light camera revenue was raised. It was said that the 2021 budget revenue representation demonstrates the third year of a three-year funding strategy.
- Clarification was made regarding the OPS fleet expenses. The \$4.5 million figure is the annual amount required to replace vehicles simply from a maintenance perspective. The \$6 million figure includes the additional amount required to pay for growth costs and retrofitting of vehicles. It was then explained that Ford and Dodge are the only two manufacturers with police-rated vehicles.
- \$600,000 of the budget is inflationary.
- The cost of the independent facilitator for the Community Equity Council is \$45,000, which is embedded in the Respect, Values and Inclusion budget on page 122 of the budget book.
- Compensation increases make up \$9 million of the budget.
- A request for supplemental information that breaks down the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan's funding across the organization was

made. CAO Letourneau said he would have that information available at the 23 November Board Meeting.

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive the presentation and delegations for information and consideration.

RECEIVED

DRAFT

Document 4

Extract of Draft Minute
Minute 30 – Regular Meeting
23 November 2020

3. 2021 DRAFT OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS: PUBLIC DELEGATIONS
AND APPROVAL

Budget document previously distributed

The Board heard from the following public delegates:

1. LAURA SHANTZ
2. ASTOR LI
3. ~~BROOKE SHAW~~ (*registered but did not attend*)
4. ROBIN BROWNE, 613 – 819 BLACK HUB
5. SUZANNE OBIORAH, PRIMARY CARE AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS; SOMERSET WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
6. FREDERIC LANGLOIS, HORIZON OTTAWA
7. DAVID HENNESSY
8. CAROLINE ALINCE
9. SAMANTHA MCALEESE
10. CASSIE SLACK
11. SARP KIZIR, COALITION AGAINST MORE SURVEILLANCE (CAMS)
12. MAR KHORKHORDINA
13. KATE NOYES
14. MWINYELE D
15. ~~KARIN FREEMAN~~ (*registered but did not attend*)
16. IFRAH YUSUF, JUSTICE FOR ABDIRAHMAN COALITION
17. STEPHANIE HARRISON
18. VELVET LECLAIR
19. MIRIAM SHAFTOE

20. BIBI HAKIM
21. ERIN GREEN (Rothschild)
22. JACK BELLEMARE
23. KHADIJA EL HILALI
24. TAMARA SALLOUHA (*registered but did not attend*)
25. LAURA AGUIAR
26. DR. KATHRYN DESPLANQUE
27. WILLIAM FELEPCHUK
28. JENNIFER BONGONDO
29. FARNAZ FARHANG
30. JADE ODIASE
31. CHELSEA BERRY (*registered but did not attend*)
32. NADIA HANAK (*registered but did not attend*)
33. VINCE NOGUEIRA
34. HAYLEY RIVIER-GATT
35. JAMES BRUMMEL (*registered but did not attend*)
36. ALISON SMEDLEY
37. JENNIFER FLETCHER
38. REEM AL-AMERIE
39. JANET JACKDEN
40. APPOLINAIRE MUSHANA (*registered but did not attend*)
41. KHULUD BAIG
42. RACHEL URBAN SHIPLEY
43. ANNIE RUSSEL (*registered but did not attend*)
44. ERWANN GUIDEZ
45. FATIMA SANOGO
46. SAM BOSWELL (*registered but did not attend*)
47. ROXANNE BUCKLE

48. AUBREY WOLF
49. SAM HERSH
- ~~50. ELLIE CHARTERS (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~51. BRIANNA MCKELVIE (registered but did not attend)~~
52. AMANDA ROCHA
53. GABRIELLE FAYANT
54. CHRISTY FLETCHER
55. SYLVIA HUGHES
56. VICTORIA MARCHAND
57. DANI LANOUCETTE
58. IAN MARTIN
- ~~59. AYMAN YAAQOUBI (registered but did not attend)~~
60. SARAH GELBARD
61. LINDSAY DORDER
- ~~62. QUINN RIVIER GATT (registered but did not attend)~~
63. JULIA HAMER
64. SEKALALA JASON SEGUYA - EQUITY COMMISSIONER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA STUDENTS' UNION
65. JAMAL BOYCE - FORMER VP ACADEMIC OF THE CONFLICT STUDIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
66. YANAMINAH THUHLLAH - PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK STUDENT LEADERS ASSOCIATION
67. LARS CLOOT
68. XUE XU
69. MAGDA OSMAN statement read by Alicia-Marie LeJour
70. AMBER LABELLE
71. KATHLEEN MARSMAN & ELLA BRETT
72. RAHEL ABEBE
73. MIA TRANA

74. MORRELL ANDREWS
75. NGUYỄN ANH THU (KING KIMBIT)
76. CHASLEY-CLAUDIA NINKINZO
77. LEMA IJTEMAYE
- ~~78. INSHALLAH WALLAH (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~79. KIMBERLEY PARADIS (registered but did not attend)~~
80. SOUHEIL BENSLIMANE
81. STEPHEN ROCK
82. REBECCA CANNEY
83. PARISA ANONBY
84. VANESSA LEMAN
85. IXCHEL MEDINA HERNANDEZ
86. CHLOE MARTIN
87. SYDNEY EDWARDS
88. ABRAAR ELMI
- ~~89. EKAT BARRIOS (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~90. SHARUKA SELLIAH (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~91. ANDREW CLARK (registered but did not attend)~~
92. INDIRA FLORES
- ~~93. DAVID WEATHERALL (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~94. BABACAR FAYE (registered but did not attend)~~
95. MIREYA POON YOUNG
- ~~96. MADELEINE KELLY (registered but did not attend)~~

The Board received the following written submissions:

1. Suzanne Obiorah, [Annex 8](#)
2. Laurel Duncan, [Annex 9](#)
3. Janine Kiefer, [Annex 10](#)
4. Tamara Sallouha, [Annex 11](#)

5. Emily Manzerolle, [Annex 12](#)
6. Calla Tait, [Annex 13](#)
7. Taylor Percy, [Annex 14](#)
8. Mamta M, [Annex 15](#)
9. Toni van Eeden, [Annex 16](#)
10. Emma Bainbridge, [Annex 17](#)
11. Social Planning Council of Ottawa Board of Directors, [Annex 18](#)
12. Kiley Hyland, [Annex 19](#)
13. Rebecca Marshall, [Annex 20](#)
14. Vanessa Ravalico, [Annex 21](#)
15. Emily Ferguson, [Annex 22](#)
16. Paula Whitelocke, [Annex 23](#)
17. Sam Boswell, [Annex 24](#)
18. Nadia Hanak, [Annex 25](#)
19. Mae Mason, [Annex 26](#)
20. Template email from multiple senders, [Annex 27](#)

The following key points and comments were made by the delegations:

- Many delegates expressed suspicion as to why the police dispersed the November protest when community members from the three groups involved in the demonstration were due to meet with city officials, including Chair Deans, later that same day. This caused delegates to further question the budget increase and was pointed to as yet another example of the inequity faced by black and indigenous community members when interacting with police.
- Points were raised about the mistreatment of sacred objects when the police attended to the demonstration at the intersection of Nicholas and Laurier streets on 21 November. Chief Sloy said they had reached out to other agencies, inquiring on how to best proceed in handling the sacred flame and medicines. He admitted that mistakes were made, and that they need to build guidelines into their policing practices.

- The name of whomever authorized the OPS to use City resources the morning of 21 November was requested.
- It was said that an increase in the OPS budget will demonstrate a failure to address society's most vulnerable members.
- Many called for further funding of social services in place of the police.
- Some called for the budget to be frozen at 2020 levels and for the difference to be transferred to Ottawa Public Health.
- The lack of trust between police and black and indigenous communities was highlighted many times.
- The over policing of indigenous and black people was referenced.
- Accusations of police gaslighting black and indigenous people were made.
- The abolishment of the police entirely was recommended by some.
- Calls were made for increased availability of mental health services.
- The removal of resource officers from schools was demanded. The increase in Neighbourhood Resource Teams was also disputed.
- Many people took issue with the fact that their tax dollars are funding this budget increase, which they expressed being against.
- A recommendation was made that the Board should bring in a third-party to manage delegation and consultation sessions.
- There was an all-encompassing push for the investment in people through social services as opposed to a further investment in policing.
- Many referenced the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition, Black Diaspora Coalition, the KZ Land Protectors and Anishinaabe Land Protectors, offering support for their demands.
- A single delegation supported the budgetary increase.

Chair Deans recessed the meeting at 10:20 p.m. on 23 November to be resumed at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday 24 November. When the meeting resumed, the Board heard from Council delegations.

COUNCIL DELEGATIONS

1. RILEY BROCKINGTON

Councillor Brockington addressed the Board on 24 November. He stated that society needs the police, but that police culture must change.

He detailed three requests:

- A reduction to the planned number of new hires in 2021 from 30 to 10.
- The release of a public report that would detail the mandate, annual objectives, and metrics for the Neighbourhood Resource Teams.
- An increased collaboration between the OPS, the OPSB and City Council in 2021.

Following the delegations, the Board had an opportunity to raise their questions to the service. The following points of clarification were made:

- \$11.3 million of the budget increase is related to inflation.
- There are \$2.7 million in efficiencies, which have reduced the budgetary requirements.
- The “new services” category of the budget accounts for the Mental Health Strategy, Workplace Sexual Violence and Harassment Project and de-escalation training.
- The Board was told that the long-term goal regarding workplace sexual violence and harassment is to prevent the occurrence of such instances altogether. When they do happen, they’ll aim to reduce the risk of reprisal. Those that have occurred will have timely intake, resources rapidly assigned and see prompt resolution, which could lead to the termination of members if deemed necessary.
- The OPS plans to bring together a large group of community members to contribute to the Mental Health Strategy. The Board will receive a consultation plan at their December meeting for approval. The idea is to address upstream issues, working towards prevention. The Chief explained that they aim to be decreasingly involved in all aspects of mental health calls, except in instances where policing is necessary: if there’s violence and or criminality. The mental health strategy will be community lead and supported by the service.
- It was said that a result of the successful implementation of the mental health strategy will surely be a reduction in need for police services, at which time a reallocation of funds can be explored.

- CAO Letourneau anticipates that a \$9-10 million budget increase will be required to meet statutory salary obligations come 2022. If the goal is to freeze the budget at 2021 levels, the \$9-10 million will have to be made up for in efficiencies.
- A question was raised regarding whether in implementing the Mental Health Strategy, efficiencies equal to or greater than the anticipated statutory increases of 2022 might be achieved, to arrive at a sought after zero-base budget then. It was explained that in not yet knowing that strategy's design, although that might be a reasonable interpretation, it is too early to say.
- Concern regarding the use of the cop-to-pop ratio in the budget document was raised. The goal of policing is the absence of crime, it was said, and the cop-to-pop ratio fails to acknowledge that. Chief Sloy responded, saying that the statistic is more accurately reflected if referred to as member-to-population, as it's not just inclusive of sworn officers. The OPS has gone from 10-12 neighbourhood officers up to 80 in the last 13 months, and members in that role are focused on prevention and community partnerships. They're leading a shift in policing within the community from reactivity to proactivity.
- In terms of the diversity of recent hires, the Board was provided the following breakdown: 33 per cent are women, 35 per cent are racialized, 3 per cent are indigenous.
- Within the group of 48 new recruits, 50 per cent are racialized, 40 per cent are female and 3 per cent are indigenous. 22 of the group are bilingual in French and English. There are an additional 23 languages spoken, with 34 of the 48 speaking languages beyond English and French. They're all highly educated, having either attended college, university or both.
- A point was raised by Councillor King that in order to achieve overarching change, the service will need underlying support from racialized communities. Without this support, it'll be impossible to address systemic issues. With that in mind, he expressed support for the service seeing a budgetary increase of only the amount required statutorily. He requested holding all other expenditures and increases until there's been wider public consultation.

- CAO Letourneau confirmed that it would be possible to proceed with the tabled motions if the 2021 budget was restrained to just the statutory increases.

DRAFT

Motion on Community Equity Council Moved by Councillor R. King

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Community Equity Council (CEC) has a mandate to collaborate with the Ottawa Police Service to work more effectively with Indigenous, racialized and faith based communities in Ottawa; and

WHEREAS the relationship framework of the CEC stipulates that members of the Council are expected to attend meetings, work on a subcommittee and work with both members of their own identified community and members of the public; and

WHEREAS there is a recognition that this work takes time and the commitment may be prohibitive to some who want to participate but do not have the resources to do so; and

WHEREAS to make the membership of the CEC most representative of the community and recognition that resources to full participate in these meetings may be required; and

WHEREAS some of these resources can include things such as reliable transportation and childcare to allow for members to full participate in the CEC,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ottawa Police Service allocates an amount no more than \$25,000, to be funded from existing budgets, to support members of the CEC and CEC event participants with reasonable expenses to be determined by the Chief Administrative Officer and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an accompanying policy for expenses is developed by the CEC to assist with clarifying eligible expenses while still maintaining flexibility.

CARRIED

Motion on Funding for Research Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by: Member B. Johnson

WHEREAS the OPSB and OPS have committed to making meaningful change within the service to best serve the City and communities; and

WHEREAS the OPSB wants to lead change in policing by updating policies and procedures in partnership with the OPS; and

WHEREAS the OPSB has already added two policy reviews, Use of Force and Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, to their workplan; and

WHEREAS these reviews will require significant research and analysis of best practices, current legislation, and must include robust public consultations; and

WHEREAS it is the intention of the Board to undertake a three-year Strategic Planning exercise to align with a three-year budget forecast; and

WHEREAS the OPSB is entering into Collective Bargaining with both the Ottawa Police Association and Senior Officers Association;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSB increase their professional services budget with one time funding by \$150,000 for 2021, to be funded from existing OPS Capital WIP budgets, in order to allow for the Board to take on a scope of work change; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT where possible, this work is done in consultation and partnership with the OPS and external stakeholders in order to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure outcomes that best serve the City of Ottawa.

CARRIED

Motion on a Three-Year Forecast Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by: Member B. Johnson

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) are dedicated to making meaningful change and ensuring the police service best reflects the needs of our City; and

WHEREAS the OPSB is committed to develop a three year Strategic Plan which is responsible for outlining the priorities for both the OPSB and the OPS while reflecting the needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS the OPS and OPSB will be conducting policy reviews that may impact the operations and requirements of OPS and the OPSB in the future; and

WHEREAS a long range financial forecasts will allow OPS to reflect long-term goals and prepare for anticipated changes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT during the 2022 budget development, OPS build a three year financial forecast that aligns with the Strategic Plan as approved by the Board.

CARRIED

Motion on Deployment Model for Community Police Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by: Member D. Nirman

WHEREAS the OPS and OPSB are dedicated to making meaningful change and ensuring the police service best reflects the needs of our City; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) and Ottawa Police Service (OPS) 2021 Draft Operating Budget includes funding for the hiring of an additional 30 officers; and

WHEREAS OPS has committed to expanding the Neighbourhood Resource Teams beyond the urban core to include both suburban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS OPS and the OPSB recognize that communities across Ottawa have needs based on their unique demographics and that deployment models should reflect these differences; and

WHEREAS the OPSB and OPS have committed to reviewing and updating policies and procedures related to how OPS responds to calls for service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPS review how they could use alternatives to sworn officers, including civilians who have suitable expertise, experience and certification in a variety of areas such as mental health practitioners, social workers, or youth outreach workers, to make up deployment teams based on community needs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OPS work in consultation with key community partners to determine where and how these individuals could be deployed to best serve the community; and

THEREFORE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OPS works in consultation with the OPSB who has final approval on this plan to leverage civilian members to continue and grow the community policing.

CARRIED as amended

Motion on Restorative Mediation Moved by Member B. Johnson

Seconded by Vice Chair L.A. Smallwood

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) heard from close to 100 delegates at their meeting of November 23rd; and

WHEREAS many of those who participated spoke to the broken relationship between the BIPOC community and the OPSB; and

WHEREAS the Board recognizes a need to strengthen their own relationship with the community, outside of that with the Ottawa Police Services; and

WHEREAS before taking on consultations with the community or approving policy on issues such as a new mental health response, the review of use of force policies, or the approval of an additional 30 service members, the Board must have a solid foundational relationship with these same communities; and

WHEREAS mediation is a practice that can help restore lines of communication and trust between two parties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board seek to hire a third party to establish a mediation process with the Ottawa community, specifically those that identify as BIPOC.

CARRIED

Motion on Community Partnership Fund Moved by Member R. Swaita

Seconded by D. Deans

It was amended that the funding would come from existing OPS funding. CAO Letourneau confirmed that that fund reallocation can be accommodated.

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) heard from close to 100 delegates at their meeting of November 23rd; and

WHEREAS many of those who participated spoke to an inability to effectively share their experiences and desires with the Board; and

WHEREAS the Board recognizes a need to strength their relationship with the community in order to appropriately and accurately reflect their needs in the decisions they make; and

WHEREAS community funding is not easily accessible and communities would benefit from a specific stream of funding for police matters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board establish a community partnership fund of \$150,000 annual base funding, to be funded from existing OPS resources, that will seek to support community groups in their efforts to ensure policing in Ottawa reflects the needs of their communities; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the terms of reference for this fund will be created at through the Boards Policy and Governance Committee.

CARRIED as amended

Motion on 2022 Budget Moved by Vice Chair L.A. Smallwood

Seconded by Chair D. Deans

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) heard from close to 100 delegates at their meeting of November 23rd; and

WHEREAS many of those who participated spoke to a desire to see the Ottawa Police Budget either frozen or reduced; and

WHEREAS the Board is determined to bring meaningful change to the Ottawa Police Service and ensuring the it reflects the community that it serves;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board ask the Finance and Audit Committee to strike a working group to determine how the 2022 Ottawa Police Budget could be reduced or frozen at 2021 levels.

CARRIED

The Board then considered the main budget motion below. Councillor Rawlson King requested his dissent be recorded and the remaining Board members voted in approval of the budget.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board:

- 1) Approve the 2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets.**
- 2) Direct the Executive Director to forward the Budgets to City Council for approval.**

CARRIED

Written Submission #1: Lee Pepper

October 20, 2020

Hello,

I am writing to offer a written submission to the Finance and Audit Committee, as follows:

I live and work in Centretown and am writing to ask the Finance and Audit Committee to please consider the safety of my neighbours when you consider the Ottawa Police budget.

Daniel Montsion was found not guilty of killing Abdirahman Abdi in part because it was found that his behaviour, in holding someone down and beating his head with armoured gloves, was not a substantial departure from the standard of a reasonable police officer. If this is considered a reasonable way to respond to a 911 call, my Black and Brown neighbours cannot feel safe here in Ottawa. I do not want to live in a city where, during a pandemic and a public health crisis, the police receive a greater budget increase than our public health unit.

I reject the idea that police be given more money so that they can improve. They have shown us who they are, and what they consider a reasonable way to treat us. The Ottawa Police Association responded to Abdi's tragic killing by selling wristbands with his killer's badge number. I will never forget this. I urge you not to forget this.

I urge you to reject or decrease the Ottawa Police budget increase, as we move together towards building a city where we can all thrive.

Thank you,
Lee Pepper

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Written Submission #2- Philana Dollin

October 21, 2020

I would like to submit my comments regarding the Ottawa Police Services budget. I would like to reiterate the words of others who have done much of the work before me that:

We need prevention, not punishment.

We need to invest in community resources and supports that don't criminalize people.

We don't need more cops with more guns and tasers who will perform "dynamic entries" or resolve a mental health call with violence.

We need to do *everything* we can to stop violent and fatal interactions between police and Black, Indigenous, and other racialized people and communities.

I am not a member of the Black community in Ottawa, but I have friends and loved ones who are. I have people within my community who have fought hard on the Abdirahman Abdi case and have been supportive of their work. I was disappointed (to say the least) to see the verdict released yesterday.

In the midst of two major global pandemics (covid and anti-black racism), they have continued to show up and do the work for the betterment of all our communities.

I am showing up now, to put my foot down and raise my voice in favour of ensuring that Ottawa's Police budget reflects my beliefs.

Please hear our calls for change. Let's make Ottawa part of the revolution for the betterment of humanity!

Sincerely
Philana Dollin

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Written Submission #3- Roland Hanchard

October 21, 2020

I think it is essential that money that would ordinarily go to police services be diverted to other forms of first responders, mental health workers, social workers, supervised injection sites and others of the sort. The police have shown they are not the best form of response when someone is having a mental health crisis, an overdose, dealing with poverty/homelessness and other non-criminal activities. It is time that Ottawa takes a proactive and progressive stand in helping our most vulnerable citizens. Please reduce the amount of money given to the OPS and invest in what our community needs.

Roland Hanchard

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Written Submission #4- Sophia Lowe

October 22, 2020

I am writing in advance of the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Services Board budget and finance meeting on November 9th, 2020 to share that I want to see a smaller police budget and a redirection of these financial resources to other community resources and supports.

We need funding to strengthen our communities, not more money to police them. Community centres, libraries, outdoor spaces, the arts, youth programming, recreation facilities and programs, mental health supports, mentorship, language programs, education spaces, etc. These are where we build strong, safe and resilient communities. Police continue to divide our communities and make them less safe and healthy.

I am a white woman, a worker, a tax-paying citizen and a mother with young kids and I do not trust the police to make me and my family safer. Until the police show themselves to be non-violent, anti-racist and community-minded, there is a need to redirect funding to support our communities directly and build trust with law enforcement.

I believe we have a long way to go in terms of racial justice and building trust in all our diverse communities in Ottawa. There has been so much pain, racism and violence and trust with the police in Ottawa is completely broken. This budget can be a first step and could be a humble decision for Ottawa to reinvest in prevention and mental health response supports, to reduce the police budget and begin to rebuild trust in our justice systems.

Thank you for bringing my concerns and the concerns of Ottawa's citizens forward.

Sincerely,

Sophia Lowe

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Written Submission #5- Shannon Watt

November 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Finance and Audit Committee,

I would like to express my concern with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) budget for 2021. I disagree with the proposed 3% budget increase. First, this increase is out of touch with the economic realities and hardships our community is facing under a pandemic. The budget that is funded by the taxpayer, should reflect that many community members have lost their jobs, and many more will be facing severe financial strains. An increase in budget in the face of everyone else's budget cuts and employment loss erodes the trust the community has in the OPS and frankly speaks to entitlement and not to the OPS values of Honour, Courage, and Service.

Secondly, the OPS needs to reduce the costs of policing overall. The challenge to balance resources and services with community needs is formidable, but options need to be considered for long-term fiscal sustainability. Although I am supportive of increased mental health training for OPS members, the addition of mental health professionals to the OPS seems duplicative to the work of our struggling Community Service sector who have had to respond to the amplified pressures of this pandemic with limited resources. The OPS should be focused on community safety and security, where it is more likely to spend money effectively. And this increase in funds should be directed to the mental health experts within the community service sector who are likely in turn, to spend this money effectively.

The last decade has shown that using police services to address the wellness and mental health of our communities has been unsuccessful and that it may instead only broaden gaps in poverty, privilege, and wellness. In these challenging times, it is my sincere hope that we find ways to better use our even more limited community dollars to ensure our overall community wellness.

Sincerely,

Shannon Watt

Ottawa Resident

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Written Submission #6- Jaron Chalier

November 3, 2020

The city council voted to maintain a police budget increase for 2021 and seems adverse to the ideas of defunding the police. They [ignored](#) the calls by councillor Menard that during this public health crisis from the pandemic, increased money should go to public health, not police. The police services asked for a budget for changes that claim to address systemic racism, that have ignored the very easily accessible demands of the [Canadian](#) Black Lives Matter movement. I would like an explanation from the budget committee on why they feel this budget is necessary. What is the rationale behind increasing its budget when there is clear rationale that other sectors need it more?

The chief [wants](#) things like training for anti-racial profiling and mental health checks, when in contrast, the [citizens](#) of this city and country actually want investment in social housing, food, and free public transit; we want unarmed mental health professionals to do mental health checks; we want shelters to have increased funding for people with emergencies like domestic violence. When BIPOC have made their demands clear, why does the police service ignore them? When will the Ottawa police service work with other services to reallocate funding?

Sincerely,

Jaron Chalier

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Written Submission #7- Caitlin Hawkes-Frost

November 6, 2020

To the Finance and Audit Committee of the Ottawa Police Services Board,

I'm writing ahead of the budget and finance meeting on November 9, 2020 to share my thoughts on policing in Ottawa and what the future could and should hold for our city's police.

The institution of policing has evolved significantly over the last 30 or 40 years. Putting aside the particularly problematic origins of policing in Canada, in our more recent past, we asked police officers to help keep the peace. As populations grew, become more diverse, and economic, racial and other divides become more obvious and our communities struggled, we have asked the police to expand their role. Yes, keep the peace, but also prevent crime. Engage the community. Go into schools and prevent crime there. Engage with the most vulnerable, mentally ill and unhoused populations. Be peacekeepers, investigators, crime fighters, crime preventers, social workers, harm reduction workers and security guards.

As citizens, we are asked every year to permit more of our taxes to fund the expansion of policing. Even as we've seen problematic behaviours from individual police (in Ottawa and elsewhere) and from the institution of policing itself, we are asked to trust that positive change and reform will happen from within, and that simply more training is needed. More equipment. More officers. More cars. More community police offices. These things will help keep us safe.

I do not feel safer, and we pay a lot of money for our police service today. We are asking too much of the policing function. More police and policing does not reduce crime. Less poverty, more opportunities, greater social and economic equality, and more community support reduces crime. We have asked the police to do too much and be too much, and we have seen too many examples of our own communities not only unserved by police but hurt or killed. When your only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. It's time to shift some of that funding to the other tools in our kit.

I would like to see a funding reduction from the OPS and a reallocation of funds. The City of Ottawa recently declared a housing and homelessness emergency; reallocate to public housing. Ottawa Public Health has faced a crisis year with the pandemic and need 24M for next year's budget; reallocate to OPH. In this pandemic, overdose rates have risen drastically, and the population is experiencing an increase in mental illness

Annex 7

and mental health struggles as we continue to isolate to reduce transmission; reinvest in mental health services. Every year we ask our schools to do more with less; reinvest in youth programming.

All these investments are going to contribute to a healthier, more stable population, and a reduction in crime. We do not have to pay police to be social workers and mental health crisis workers when we have professionals to perform these roles. And the police do not need to be a cornerstone in every initiative

related to crime or public safety. The police do not equal safety for all citizens, there are other ways to build safe communities, and it's time we consider where else to invest our funds to get the outcomes we are seeking.

Thank you,

Caitlin Hawkes-Frost

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Written Submission #1: Susan Obiorah on behalf of the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition

November 16, 2020

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Ottawa Police Services Board Finance and Audit Committee.

We are the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition; a network of 15 Black leaders in health and social services, academics, and community associations all of whom are committed to dismantling the systemic barriers that exist within our mental health system.

Our coalition aims to hold health system leaders accountable to ensuring safe, accessible and culturally competent mental health programs and services for Ottawa's African, Caribbean, and Black community.

We would like to express our support for the Ottawa Police Services Board to develop a comprehensive mental health strategy, and we are pleased to learn of your intentions to lead a broad and meaningful community engagement process. Members within our coalition have the expertise, experience, and relationships to support your efforts, and we are interested in influencing this strategy.

Robyn Maynard writes quite extensively about Black experiences of Police Interventions in her book, *Policing Black Lives*, where she explains that:

“Black communities are not only fearful of being stopped or harassed by police, Black communities live in a state of heightened anxiety surrounding the possibility of bodily harm in the name of law enforcement. A genuine fear of law enforcement officers exists among many in the Black community, a response that is rational given the circumstance. In a society where many white Canadians think of the police as those who protect their security, Black people, quite legitimately, largely fear for their security in any situation that could involve the police (p.102).”

It's important to ask ourselves, why is access to mental health services for Black people more likely to be through police or the courts than it is for White people?

The use of force against Black persons suffering from mental instability or mental illness is of particular concern. According to the African Canadian Legal Clinic's Anthony Morgan, “Racialized minorities, especially Black males, are dramatically overrepresented in incidents of police use of deadly force when confronted with a person in mental distress (Maynard, p.106).”

As a coalition, our goal is to achieve equity in our mental health system, offering healthier outcomes for Black residents in Ottawa. We believe that in order to truly achieve this goal, our strategies need to be grounded within Black communities, and centered around the Black voice.

The current configuration of the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition began in the fall of 2018, ignited by numerous conversations and forums with community leaders and organizations.

What we have heard from within our Black communities:

- A deep lack of trust based on past negative interactions with health care providers and law enforcement, including experiences of racism and discrimination.
- A lack of understanding and awareness about the detrimental mental health impacts from chronic exposure to racism, poverty, police brutality and social exclusion/isolation.
- Insufficiency with current models used by mental health professionals which do not routinely integrate culture, faith, language and community as part of the care.
- Inadequate representation of Black Mental Health Professionals.
- Guidance and support is often sought from community and faith leaders who they know and trust. Leaders have identified challenges with feeling equipped to support and manage the broad spectrum of mental health challenges they see in their communities.
- A lack of awareness about available resources, especially those that are free, and community led.

By leveraging our experiences, relationships and expertise, our coalition is an essential proponent of establishing a new approach in responding to mental health crises that are significantly impacting members in our communities.

“To move away from police as first responders, we must build the community’s capacity in crisis intervention, and we must address the lack of trauma-informed, anti-racist, anti-oppressive approaches within the mental health field” ... including addressing the root causes of mental health crisis which involves putting more resources into anti-poverty work and mental health care (Margaux Feldman).”

Many transformative justice movements have demonstrated how the first responders with the greatest success are with those who know the person in crisis. We need to recognize there is value in developing models of care with community members who

can competently respond to mental health crisis. This requires investments in funding to build capacity within our community.

Everyone living in our city should have confidence to safely access and navigate our systems, structures and surrounding institutions. In order to gain and sustain trust, we know such systems need to be reflective of the communities they serve. This trust is indispensable when addressing such issues in Black communities, especially when addressing mental health and its surrounding stigma.

While our health system provides varying levels of clinical care and emergency services, in times of crisis, support that addresses local needs in the community to minimize mental distress, foster hope, and support recovery is lacking. Our Black-led coalition aims to inform a regional, multi-pronged strategy that addresses the diversity within Black communities, while fostering our resilience. Working alongside the Ottawa Police Services is one way to realize this strategy.

Yours in health,

Suzanne Obiorah

On Behalf of the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition

CC. Councillor Diane Deans

Board Chair, Ottawa Police Services Board

CC. Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly

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Written Submission #2: Laurel Duncan

November 16, 2020

As asked for by most if not all the speakers last meeting, I too echo that the Board needs to freeze the budget at 2020 numbers in order to restore even a small amount of faith from the community back into the Ottawa Police Service. Calls for defunding and reallocating funds are not new, just louder, and we know that promises of consultation, training and community engagement have been left unanswered for many years. The only way for our city to heal and develop is to use the 3% increase in other sectors that so desperately need it. Many speakers have given the Board and the Service a so-called road map to do so if they decide to listen. I would also like to make a personal ask that Chief Sloy stop allowing his officers to wear 'Thin Blue Line' patches while on active duty - further showing citizens Ottawa Police show solidarity and support for themselves and not the public that they serve.

Thank you for your time.

Laurel Duncan, Ward 3 Resident.

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Written Submission #3- Janine Kiefer

November 22, 2020

Good afternoon,

I am writing concerning the upcoming budget discussion regarding the budget for the Ottawa Police Services. Although I am unable to attend the meeting, I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts in writing.

While I applaud Chief Sloly's stated commitment to restoring public confidence in the force, it's simply too little too late. The OPS has been given many chances to build confidence in their system, but have failed time and time again. I can't possibly understand why it will be any different this time around. Indeed, the most recent actions that occurred early in the morning on Saturday November 21 have demonstrated that things won't be different and Sloly's words are just that...words. The circulated videos showing dozens of police officers approaching a handful of peaceful, mostly sleeping, protestors on the corner of Nicholas and Laurier should leave everyone feeling uncomfortable, or in my case, outraged and disgusted. This cowardly display of force from the police has done nothing to restore confidence in me and has instead reinforced the need to reallocate resources away from the police and toward community resources.

Although I could say so much more, I know that you are likely receiving many many emails concerning the upcoming budget discussions, so I will keep it brief. Do not approve the proposed budget increase for an already bloated OPS budget. This money can be used to invest in resources such as affordable housing, public transit and social infrastructure; resources that can genuinely benefit community members, rather than contributing to ongoing criminalization and marginalization of certain groups of people.

Thank you for taking the time to read these comments.

Sincerely,

Janine

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Written Submission #4- Tamara Sallouha

November 22, 2020

To the Ottawa Police Services Board,

As we all know, this year has been nothing short of devastating. We have collectively faced trauma and reevaluated how our world functions. Through this pandemic, we have shone a light on the injustices throughout the world, throughout Canada, and throughout our own city. The people have spoken, and they do not want to live in a system that turns a blind eye to brutality, murder, and genocide.

When the city proposed to increase the budget of the Ottawa Police by more than 13 millions dollars, it felt like lemon juice on a cut. It shows us just how little the city cares about its people and their well-being. As the Ottawa Police state, they are "committed to protect the safety, security and **quality of life** in Ottawa". The quality of life does not improve with more policing, but with community support. There are so many ways the community can be served with this money. The very obvious ones being schools and healthcare centres. During covid especially, we need as many supports as possible within these institutions (especially mental health resources). We also have people being evicted from their homes and shelters at maximum capacities during a pandemic. Perhaps the city could direct more money towards ensuring housing for all so that people aren't stressed during a pandemic and therefore more susceptible to illness. Speaking of the pandemic, why not direct this money towards making testing as easily and readily available to all people - including those without the ability to reach facilities or members of communities speaking second languages. I could go on and on about all the potential ideas of where this money could improve quality of life for the citizens of Ottawa.

Looking at the board members of this organization, I wonder just how well the vast community of Ottawa is represented in your decision making. If this board truly cares about what is best for the citizens of Ottawa, then it will choose to **freeze the budget increase**. It will consult with communities to ask how the Ottawa Police could better serve its peoples. Please think carefully on this matter and show us that you care. We are counting on you.

Thank you,

Tamara Sallouha

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Written Submission #5- Emily Manzerolle

November 21, 2020

Good morning,

I am writing to you today in staunch opposition to a further increase in the Ottawa Police budget.

In looking at the budget for the City of Ottawa, it is unfathomable that during a pandemic, an increase to the Police budget would be considered while there are reductions being made to that of Public Health. In a city where transit fees are constantly increasing (and set to do so again) to make ends meet, that we would continue to provide additional funding instead to a group that targets and harassed minority communities in the city.

The police budget increase is unnecessary, given the size of their current budget. If concerns are raised regarding providing services, the recent information being provided on alternative service providers (as part of the ongoing push to defend police services) can provide ample options for where the additional funding could be put to better support those in need. And given the recent action taken by the Ottawa Police to arrest peaceful protesters in the middle of the night under false pretenses, they under NO circumstances should receive another penny from the city.

Thank you for offering the public the opportunity to provide input to you on the matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the abhorrent actions taken today by the Ottawa Police.

Emily Manzerolle



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Written Submission #6- Calla Tait

November 21, 2020

I am writing as an Ottawa citizen, to make clear that I do not agree with your decision to increase the police budget this year. It is obvious that the current system does not work and is hurting our community - how can we sleep at night knowing that?

First, I know that you have been in contact with the Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition approaching, and after this weekend's inappropriate and unjustified arrests, it is even more obvious how necessary this email is.

Second, there is a **pandemic** that is killing our citizens. We need social supports, resources for small business, and community health and care more than ever. How can you justify ignoring these, and instead increasing the budget of police?

Our city is watching, and all we ask is that you prove us wrong. If Ottawa Police intend on giving justice or peace, clearly they are not doing that right now.

Sincerely,

Calla Tait

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Written Submission #7- Taylor Percy

November 21, 2020

I have worked in a women's shelter and watched police not know or refuse to help women and children fleeing violence. Giving abusers nothing more than 'conditions' easily broken.

I've worked with homeless youth and heard the stories of BIPOC being brutalized for nothing while their white counterparts get away with much worse crimes.

Do better, or better yet reallocate funds to areas that are already doing it better.

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Written Submission #8- Mamta M

November 23, 2020

Good morning,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming Ottawa Police Service board meeting.

I stand in support in the calls to action and demands from the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition and Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition.

The Ottawa police's behaviour this weekend with the arrest of 13 peaceful protesters is immediate cause for concern. There are many questions and concerns that need to be addressed regarding conflicting accounts as to what happened that Saturday at 3:30 a.m. as well as the treatment of these individuals while they were detained. I believe the actions of the Ottawa Police is even more reason why the budget should not be approved. Community trust has been broken and this needs to be rebuilt in good faith before anything is approved.

Additionally, as we continue to deal with the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear we need to invest more in community programs, social services and especially affordable housing. We need to better address issues of mental health, poverty and drug use and that does not mean increasing funds to police. By freezing the police budget, this creates the opportunity to move funds to community services and to address these important issues.

Thank you for your time,

Mamta M

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Written Submission #9- Toni van Eeden

November 22, 2020

Hello,

My name is Toni van Eeden and this email is for everyone on the Ottawa Police Board.

This pandemic has illuminated to many of us the deeply harmful aspects of the systems we as taxpayers and residents of Ottawa fund and rely on for our safety. I'm incredibly disappointed in how the Ottawa Police Board has handled the legitimate and harrowing cries for change from the black and indigenous communities thus far.

But I believe we are on the same side.

It is obvious to us all that the police are doing harm. No one can deny that.

Personally, I don't want our to live in a city where our main avenue for dealing with those disenfranchised, struggling with trauma, oppression, addiction, illness, and adverse poverty to be an armed group of individuals who use tactics grounded in violence and intimidation. We have come further than that as a society. We know better. We know what these people need. Change. Support. Space to be angry, grieve, and rest.

Do you truly want to look back on this time in history and think that you had a role to play in holding back this necessary progress? We simply cannot return to the way things are. People are dying, frustrated, hurt, and at the end of their tethers. They are being put in impossible situations because we aren't brave enough to make a radical statement in the name of love and survival.

We are all teetering on our own difficult edges. Balancing the enormity of the unknown that lies ahead and the increasing stress of getting through any given day.

The only ways we survive is to if we take care of each other. If we don't just say it but actually do it. Even when it is super uncomfortable.

Hear the pleas of your community. The millions funded to the police every year would make unimaginable differences to the quality of life and real survivability of human lives by providing affordable housing, mental health support, and food safety.

Freeze the budget tomorrow. Show them that you are sorry and that you understand their incredible pain. Listen to them.

I believe that if you can do that you will do the right thing. You will find a way to care for the people who need it most.

Thank you for hearing me out! Tomorrow is going to be a difficult day for many people and I by no means want to add to the stress of distress of anyone's evening. I just cannot sit here and wonder if maybe something I said wouldn't have made just the tiniest difference in making this world safer for someone who really needs it.

In love and peace,

Toni van Eeden

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DRAFT

Written Submission #10- Emma Bainbridge

November 23, 2020

I am writing this statement to express the urgent need to reject the Police Services Budget, which would propose an increase of \$13.2 million for operation costs of the Ottawa Police. An increase in the Ottawa Police Services' budget would not help make Ottawa a safer place, but rather further harm its marginalized communities.

Since May, people around the world have been rising up in response to unlawful murders of Black and Indigenous people committed by police. Ottawa is not exempt. Last month, Anthony Aust, a black Ottawa man fell to his death after police invaded his family's apartment by breaking down his door and throwing smoke grenades. Constable Daniel Montsion was recently declared 'not guilty' in the death of Somali-Canadian Abdirahman Abdi despite video footage showing him using excessive force on the man who was undergoing a mental health crisis. In January 2019, Greg Ritchie, an Indigenous man also undergoing a mental health crisis was shot dead by police at Elmvale Mall. The officer who killed him has been cleared. Just a few days ago, Ottawa Police carried out a surprise raid at 3:30 am on a peaceful protest, arresting 12 Black and Indigenous people protesting these very deaths despite the fact that city councillors had previously agreed to meet with them. It is evident that the Ottawa Police Services are dangerous to Ottawa's BIPOC communities, especially those who are disabled or suffer from mental health problems.

The OPS may defend the increase in budget with promises to reform themselves, but we have seen in many police departments across Canada and the United States that these kinds of reforms do not create a safer environment for the communities that the police work with. Giving the police more money will never create a safer environment because policing does not do anything to address the roots causes of crime. In fact, it often criminalizes vulnerable people trying to survive. As most minor crimes stem from poverty, it would be more beneficial to invest in sectors that support at-risk communities such as public health, mental health/ addiction services and housing assistance so that people wouldn't have to resort to crime in order to survive.

As long as we invest in systems that prioritize punishment and profit over compassion, Ottawa will never be a safe place for marginalized communities. I am calling for the Ottawa Police Services Board to reject the budget increase and choose instead to invest in sectors that support the city's most vulnerable populations rather than penalizing their survival.

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Written Submission #11- Social Planning Council of Ottawa

November 23, 2020

Dear Ottawa Police Services Board members,

This letter is intended to reiterate the Social Planning Council of Ottawa's request to freeze the Ottawa Police budget at 2020 levels, but we must first take the time to express our deep disappointment in the actions of the OPS this week. The arrest and subsequent detention of protesters notably coincided with the publicly announced meetings with members of your board - and while this body may claim to have no involvement with the operational decision, one cannot deny that fruitful dialogue is stifled by imprisoning one side of the negotiating table. We urge the OPS to drop all mischief charges against the protesters, and for this board to take the initiative to immediately reschedule meetings with all parties involved.

There is no dialogue without trust, and there is very little community trust in the OPS at this time. This most recent incident has further eroded that trust. In this context, we are concerned that the proposed \$1.5M for mental health alternatives is being presented as an OPS budget item with "broad consultations with community partners", instead of a community-led process with OPS input. Positioning the OPS as the owner of this process risks reinforcing the voices that are already comfortable with police, and further sidelining those that are marginalized. We are concerned that the credibility of the entire process will be undermined and damage the possibility of meaningful reform.

Dialogue is what the SPCO does best. The Social Planning Council of Ottawa is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, charitable research and community development organization created in 1928 in order to respond to acute

socio-economic problems. We have been an active participant in decades of past policing discussions, and we have spent the past couple of years convening conversations among mental health advocacy organizations. We would therefore like to offer our support and expertise to all of the upcoming meetings regarding policing, particularly those being planned around alternatives to policing for mental health crisis calls.

If you choose to implement non-police alternatives for mental health crisis intervention, Ottawa will not be alone. Both Calgary and Toronto have embarked on similar efforts in the past few years, along with over a dozen major American cities and hundreds more around the globe. Implementing alternatives to police for mental health crisis

interventions will relieve an enormous amount of pressure on both the City and the OPS, which will allow them to refocus their efforts on the internal reforms that are sorely needed. It will also directly improve health and social outcomes for thousands of people who face mental health challenges each year in Ottawa. We look forward to that day.

The actions currently being proposed by the board do not go nearly far enough, nor are the required changes being made fast enough. The things that we have requested in this letter are within your immediate power as a board to grant, and we hope that you will hear us and make the necessary decisions to spark real change in our city.

Board of Directors

Social Planning Council of Ottawa

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Written Submission #12- Kiley Hyland

November 23, 2020

Dear Ottawa Police Services Board,

I am writing today as I am concerned about the potential increase to the Ottawa Police Service's budget. The arrest of peaceful protesters by OPS on Saturday November 21, 2020 at 3:30 AM exemplifies racist and wrongful behaviour. I feel that the OPSB did not properly engage with leaders of the Ottawa Black Diaspora – Coalition, Justice for Abdirahman Abdo and the Kitigan Zibi land protectors, who organized the protest. Our public resources should not be used to provide increased funding to the police. We need to increase resources to dismantle the systemic racism and discrimination that black and indigenous peoples face. Additionally, I feel strongly that responses to mental health emergencies should not involve police, but rather health care and social work professionals.

Addressing centuries of systemic racism is certainly not a simple task, however increasing police funding will take our city backwards.

Sincerely,

Kiley Hyland, B. Sc.

MD Candidate, 2024

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Written Submission #13- Rebecca Marshall

November 23, 2020

Community members are counting on our city councillors to vote on freezing the Ottawa police budget. It is not realistic to hand out millions of dollars to law enforcement while social services in this city are scraping by.

Over and over the police prove they are not here to protect vulnerable members of our communities, the latest instance being this weekend at Laurier and Nicholas where 50-60 police officers in SWAT gear encroached on twenty peaceful protestors and arrested them for 'mischief'. This is not the Ottawa I want to live in.

Reallocating funds away from the Ottawa police and into social services is only the first step towards justice for Black Indigenous and People of Colour; Abdirahman Abdi, Anthony Aust, Greg Ritchie, to name only a few were violently murdered by the police - police who have not been held accountable. With every name, the trust between citizens and law enforcement is dissolving.

Together we can build a better and safer community for the people of Ottawa. We are counting on our city councillors to represent our demands, don't let us down.

Rebecca Marshall

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Written Submission #14- Vanessa Ravalico

November 23, 2020

On behalf of my family we are requesting for immediate freezing of the Ottawa Police budget.

Sincerely

Vanessa Ravalico

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DRAFT

Written Submission #15- Emily Ferguson

November 23, 2020

Hello,

I cannot speak at the meeting today as I have a scheduling conflict, but I would like to say that I strongly disagree with the proposed budget.

Increasing the police budget when there have been many calls from the community to decrease and defund the police altogether is undemocratic and shows that the City of Ottawa is more invested in maintaining a racist system than helping it's people.

I strongly believe that freezing the police budget and reallocating funds to community support centred on harm-reduction and support for Black and Indigenous people of colour is in the city's best interest.

Thank you,

Emily Ferguson.

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Written Submission #16- Paula Whitelocke

November 23, 2020

Intimidation and Scarcity tactics are a deep part of police history. Is the force open to change or do they feel their ways are obsolete?

Trauma has been caused century after century all the way into 2020 as we saw 13 peaceful protesters get arrested at 3:30am, ambush style.

I was present on Friday afternoon and could not imagine being thrown in jail because of it.

The police tactics do not serve the greater good of the community. More so the ego that is the police force.

There should be more willingness to work alongside other social services to encourage rehabilitation of those suffering from mental health and addictions most especially.

Why is there 13 million to go to the police while the public transit system is being hiked 2.5%? I would prefer my tax dollars go to social services rather than an ambush force.

If police were more willing to work with other service providers, it would show a willingness to show up differently. I know there are cases at high levels that need investigators, but the citizens are being handled with harm and these issues need to be addressed and moved towards change.

I have to raise my 5 year old nephew to be "careful of the police because some of the hold bias against his skin". Even though I personally know some officers whom do not share this bias, the general consensus rules and it is no coincidence that something that was created to capture runaway slaves (my understanding of the origin of police) is now being used in the same way as minorities still populate jails at higher rates, Internationally.

The police do not need more money right now. The Ottawa Rape Victim Crisis Centre does. Community housing and shelters do. The system is failing Black and Indigenous Peoples and this should be addressed to move towards the overdue change of a failing system filled with oppression, bias, prejudice and racism.

Reallocate the money and do not allow people who are not willing to openly address the long standing issue of systemic racism out if their positions of power!

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Written Submission #17- Sam Boswell

November 23, 2020

Please do not approve an increase in the Ottawa Police budget, especially during a time when social services are struggling. Especially during a pandemic.

Please vote against this budget and divert these funds to housing, transit, Ottawa Public Health, mental health services, addiction support, and more. Use this money to help people not hurt them.

And, aside from everything else, we do not need militarized police in our neighborhoods. I don't want to see officers in flak jackets, carrying weapons, responding to complaints about children playing in the streets. We need community resources, not soldiers.

And these soldiers are racist. Again and again, we see them treating BIPOC folks with disrespect. We see things like what happened Friday night, where police betrayed peaceful protestors after only two days of protesting...after letting rightwing extremists occupy the cenotaph for months.

Please, let's take Ottawa's police in a different direction...say no to giving them more money and let's use that budget for good instead of hate and violence.

As Glen Ford at Black Agenda Report (BAR) says eloquently:

"That's why we at BAR support community control of the police – the institutionalization of grassroots people's power to shape and oversee the mechanisms of their own security and end forever the armed occupation of our communities by hostile forces."

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/06/26/yes-defund-cops-and-put-them-under-community-control>

He's American but the same applies here, in Ottawa...give us our neighborhoods back and let's try a more progressive approach.

Thanks.

Sam

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Written Submission #18- Nadia Hanak

November 23, 2020

Thank you for taking the time to hear our voices today.

I am here today to speak to the upcoming OPS budget.

Not only should we not be further investing in our Policing but we should be defunding and reallocating that money to the social services this city needs. Investing in these services is preventative care that addresses the root cause of the challenges our city is facing. This also includes investigating the white supremacist culture that exists systemically within our Ottawa Police forces.

Mental illness is not a crime. Let me repeat that - mental illness is not a crime. And yet Ottawa Police Officers are treating it as one. As a result black, indigenous and people of colour are being murdered by Ottawa Police and police around the world.

The city already has a lack of funding for persons experiencing mental illness, Homelessness and poverty in our city. We are in the middle of a pandemic - all three of the issues will get worse. And yet we see policing them as the solve. We see violence as the solve.

Ottawa Police Services Board I urge you to not invest more money towards the violence and murder of BIPOC peoples. I urge you to reallocate money from the current budget towards services that will HELP those in need, rather than punish.

Furthermore, our police are not trained in mental health appropriately. Are we not setting them up to failure and setting people up to be violently attacked. Mental health professionals and social services have years of experience and training and therefore should be the ones attending to these calls.

I want to speak to the Oakley assault gloves worn by my Daniel Montison. Those gloves were banned by the Canadian Military Reserves units as they were considered unnecessary force. These were banned by the MILITARY. And yet Ottawa Police and other officers have been silent regarding the use of them by a fellow officer.

Police services in Ottawa has a toxic culture of white supremacy and disdain towards people of mental illness. Until that culture is changed - Ottawa Police Services should not receive additional funding. That money should instead be used to support services that actively serve our communities in a compassionate way that respects the dignity of all people.

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When it comes to the choice you make - increasing funding will increase violence and disdain towards Black, indigenous and people of colour, people living with mental illness and homelessness. Their blood and trauma will be on your hands.

Is this what you want to be known for? Is this the legacy you want? I hope not.

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DRAFT

Written Submission #19- Mae Mason

November 23, 2020

Hello my name is Mae Mason and my pronouns are they/them.

I would first like to stand by the 10 demands set forward by the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition, KZ Land Protectors, and Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition and all the delegates who have demanded a budget freeze on Zoom today.

Next I would like to focus on the pressure that exists on these organizations and their supporters to present overwhelming evidence and unilateral support in order to be taken seriously. This is especially true for Black, Indigenous and people of colour. For decades data and compassion ground our cause, our numbers are growing, our voices are too consistent and loud to ignore. So Police Service Board, I ask you this: What grounds your cause? What justifies your belief that the Ottawa Police Services deserves a \$13.2 million increase? I have heard Chair Diane Deans speak to a meeting with 500 constituents who have demanded for more policing in their communities. Have they provided the same degree of data, historical context, and anecdotal substantiation in order to give grounds for these demands?

I believe it is high time the powers that be become accountable for their budget increase requests. Officer Sloly keeps reiterating the notion that OPS exists for the safety and protection of all Ottawans.

Therefore, transparency must be enacted through the presentation of concrete evidence that specifically displays success in the protection of BIPOC, addicted, housing insecure, women, 2SLGBTQUIA+, and all other community members made vulnerable by **systems of power**. We often talk of systems of oppression and I echo the sentiments, facts, knowledge and passion of the constituents who spoke on these systems so far. In my remarks I would like to bring to your attention **systems of power**.

As a queer, non-binary, AFAB individual, systems of oppression have impacted much of my life but as a white person, systems of power have greatly benefitted me. What most of the board does not seem to understand is we cannot have the protections and privileges the white supremacist systems of power afford us without these same systems enacting oppression on Black, Indigenous and people of colour. The same police service that made me feel safe, secure, and empowered as a white person in the past, harm BIPOC communities.

Moving from Nepean to Vanier in the beginning of 2019 I remember thinking - a police station is near by, that means I'll be safe. Though I have since thankfully been educated as a Gender Studies Major through BIPOC professors and through BIPOC Instagram action pages that this sentiment cannot be shared by all people here in Ottawa. For many, OPS Others, brutalizes, intimidates, and kills. I cannot hold the privilege of trusting and relying on the police as a white person without exploiting the safety of Black, Indigenous and people of colour.

Policing in North America has a racist history and as Audre Lorde said "**the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house**". Tools of the colonial agenda will never bring about reconciliation or justice. I demand that the Police Services Board freeze the 2021 budget. You are either actively anti-racist or a tool of colonial white supremacy - there is no in between.

Mae Mason

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Written Submission #20: Template email received by OPSB members many times in the lead-up to budget deliberations

Dear Diane Deans, OPSB Member/City Councillor (Gloucester-Southgate Ward),

Dear Ottawa City Councillors,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my complete lack of faith in the Ottawa Police Services Board (the Board) and my outrage at their decision to vote in favour of a 13.2 million dollar increase in the Ottawa Police Services (OPS) budget for the coming year..

On a personal level, I have a complete lack of faith in the Ottawa Police Service, as they continue to demonstrate; (1) an unwillingness to hear the concerns of Indigenous, Black and marginalized communities living in Ottawa and (2) intransigence in the face of our demands for a safer city. Most recently, this indifference was demonstrated in the arrests of several Black and Indigenous activists at a peaceful protest which took place November 19, 2020. Despite policing's stated purpose to keep our communities safe, the presence of the OPS makes many racialized members of our community feel fear and anxiety.

The OPSB vote to increase the OPS budget is disturbing, particularly in a context where thousands of Ottawa residents have expressed their support for calls to defund the police. On December 9, Ottawa City Council will table the OPS budget for consideration and approval. On that date, I encourage you to vote against the OPSB budget increase. OPS does not deliver adequate or effective policing to racialized communities, especially for Indigenous, Black, and otherwise marginalized folks that are most affected by the violence and the injustices perpetrated by policing. In the remainder of this letter, I outline the reasons that I encourage you to vote against OPS budget increase and demand the Board commits to defunding the OPS.

The Ottawa Police Service Receives More Funding than Other Essential Services
Much of the funding currently afforded to the OPS could be redistributed through initiatives which have been proven to keep our communities safer. For example, the OPS' total annual operating budget is \$358 million. In contrast, Ottawa Public Health only receives seventy-four million in annual funding (source). This disparity is completely unacceptable, particularly in the context of a global pandemic. Funding that would otherwise go to policing through this budget increase could be reallocated to

Ottawa Public Health and other social supports in order to improve the public health and safety of Ottawa-Residents during COVID-19.

The Ottawa Police Services Presence Incites Fear in Our Communities

Over the past few years, we have lost several beloved members of our community to police violence. To honor the lives of Abridrahman Abdi, Greg Ritchie, Anthony Aust, and the countless other people of color who have died at the hands of OPS, Indigenous and Black protestors organized and took part in the #Chiinawendiwen/#WeAreRelated protest on 19 November 2020. If it were not for police violence, the loved ones we have lost would still be alive and thriving.

In day to day interactions with the OPS, racialized folks live in fear of dying a similar death to those that have been faced by so many members of our communities at the hands of police. Investment in policing has lived consequences in the everyday lives of racialized people and claiming neutrality on this issue is tantamount to upholding a system which has been historically reliant on violence against people who are Indigenous, Black, and racialized.

It follows that this issue is a matter of personal importance to me as it has an immediate impact on the ability of myself and members of my community to move safely throughout the city. Racialized communities in Ottawa are acutely affected by police violence and will not sit quietly as institutions which enact violence on our communities are funded more than those that ensure community health and wellbeing. It is not lost on me or my community that this vote to uphold an inherently violent policing system is being held on land stolen from the Algonquin people using police and state sanctioned violence. I hope you will consider this as you cast your vote on this issue.

Police Disinvestment is Taking Place Across North America

The Ottawa Police Service Board's has argued that defunding the police is not a viable option. However, major North American cities like New York, Seattle, San Francisco, Baltimore, Portland, Oregon, Philadelphia, Harford, Oklahoma, and Salt Lake City [1] have already charted the path for major police disinvestment. There is no need to reinvent the wheel here, by looking to the bold steps taken by other North American cities and considering the unique and localized needs of Ottawa residents disinvestment from policing in Ottawa is evidently both possible and necessary.

Collective Agreements with Police Unions Must Not Come Before Democracy

Despite the OPSB's argument that collective agreements with police unions create a

contractual obligation to increase the police budget, there is no legal foundation for this claim. I feel that it was irresponsible of the OPSB to negotiate an 11-million-dollar wage increase before the funding for such a wage increase had been secured through a council approved budget. OPSB's argument that your vote to increase the police budget is necessary to meet collective agreement obligations is effectively forcing your hand on this vote. I feel that this fundamentally undermines the voting process which appears to be predetermined by the necessity of meeting collective bargaining commitments. The OPSB's argument in this regard is anti-democratic in principle and I cannot support a vote for increasing the police budget on these grounds.

Police Funding Should Not Be Increased in the Face of Gross Professional Misconduct

As a parent and as a resident of this city I was incredibly upset to hear about the allegations of workplace harassment amongst Ottawa Police Services' Officers. The excess of public funds afforded to Rubin Tomlinson's (LLP)[2], investigation of the asexual harassment within the Ottawa Police Service is appalling. While I recognize that workplace sexual harassment is a serious issue, I am deeply concerned with the increasing presence of OPS officers in our communities where major power differentials exist between racialized residents and OPS officers. The fact that officers cannot restrain themselves from sexually harassing each other is not an appropriate reason to pour public funding into the continued growth of policing when policing itself has proven to produce risk and harm for racialized people in my community.

Community Demands

In considering your stance on this issue, I would encourage councilmembers to think about the appalling and violent tactics recently used by the Ottawa Police to dismantle peaceful community efforts to support Black and Indigenous lives. Instead of approving a 13.2 million dollar funding increase for the OPS council should review the issues listed below and consider whether increasing police funding would really make our community safer:

1. The tragic implications of police violence for the family members and community of Anthony Aust, who was killed in a "no-knock" police arrest in October of 2020[3].
2. The death of Abdirahman Abdi and years of advocacy by the Justice for Abdirahman Abdi Coalition towards accountability for his murder;
3. The lives of Indigenous people, like Greg Ritchie, an Ojibway man who was shot and killed by the Ottawa Police 2019[4].

4. Over 100 community members who participated in the Defund Ottawa Police Photo Campaign organized by the Criminalization and Punishment Education Project;
5. Several Ottawa Police Services Board meetings where, cumulatively, more than 100 Ottawa community members called for defunding of the police[5];
6. More than 156 submissions calling for police defunding, made to the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan[6].

On December 9th, council has the opportunity say 'no' to a ballooning police budget that would further widen the net of surveillance and policing in faced by racialized communities in Ottawa. Regardless of the results of this vote, people in this city who are Black, Indigenous, and racialized will continue to struggle for liberation from oppressive and violent policing systems. I hope that you will take some time to reflect on past civil rights movements and vote on the right side of history – against the expansion of policing in our city. In examining alternatives to approving this budget, Council should consider the crafting of an Alternative Municipal Budget[7], an initiative which has been endorsed by Horizon Ottawa, City for All Women Initiative (CAWI), Ottawa Transit Riders, Courage Ottawa, Free Transit Ottawa, Child Care Now Ottawa, Justice for Abdirahman Coalition, Healthy Transportation Coalition Ottawa, as well as several other community groups.

In summation, I would encourage you to vote against the expansion of a system which I have personally experienced as violent, racist, and detrimental to the safety of my community.

Respectfully,

References:

- [1] <https://www.blackenterprise.com/more-than-a-dozen-cities-are-defunding-their-police-departments/>
- [2] <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?FeedId=027e4532-b9a7-41cc-a991-fa1e92df653a?lang=en&newsId=6154fa1e-81fb-4dc9-9338-88266a491fe3>
- [3] <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-man-plunges-death-police-1.5757442>
- [4] <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-fatal-police-shooting-family-1.5000285>

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- [5] https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/dozens-share-disappointment-with-ottawa-police-budget-at-hearing-1.5795618?fbclid=IwAR3Ar4LXd_4EZ-em825uqyIL1Jq0-IWgqWC0ygnP2WWrIEiBnrD3vcr0nG0
- [6] https://engage.ottawa.ca/Community-Safety-Well-Being-Plan?tool=story_telling_tool#tool_tab
- [7] https://mcusercontent.com/d74005846bef8cd39c3346d23/files/340904a2-cc49-46f3-bc85-2d2d456be6a3/Alternative_Budget_Report_FINAL_NOV_02_2020.pdf

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