

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