

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