

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