

From: Mamta SM
Sent: November 21, 2021 9:23 PM
Subject: Nov 22 Meeting - Comments

Hello,

I would like to submit comments for tomorrow's Ottawa Police Services Board meeting.

As an Ottawa resident, I am in agreement with and encouraging the board to listen to the many other residents and organizations that have called for a freeze in the Ottawa police budget, which the board committed to last year.

For the past year and a half, the board has heard from dozens of residents that have come out to every meeting to discuss this topic and advocate for a better quality of life for many of Ottawa's most vulnerable residents. This cannot be achieved through more funding towards the police, and these funds should be invested instead into community-based social services and projects that are proven to decrease conflict and harm in our communities.

OPS receives the most funding out of all essential services in the City of Ottawa and as we are still in a global pandemic, these funds would be better spent towards Ottawa Public Health or towards affordable housing, something that was declared an emergency in early 2020. As many of you would agree, violence has no place in our communities but we need to address the root causes as to why this violence occurs, which community-based initiatives can do. The OPS is a reactive force that does not address those root causes, which has been relayed to the board by numerous delegates.

I am also supporting the calls to action from the Ottawa Black Diaspora Coalition and CPEP (These can be found [here](#)). These organizations and many others have been explicit in describing how particularly Black and Indigenous people but also other racialized residents of Ottawa do not feel safe nor protected by OPS. Their voices matter and their demands need to be listened to.

On November 22, I encourage board members to vote no to this budget increase which would be an actual step towards addressing and ending racism and violence in our society and creating a better future for the City of Ottawa.

Regards,
Mamta M