

We have been working with Ottawa Police Community Units since the late 80s, early 90s. Ottawa police were always there to provide safety and help whenever it was required at our community center and the mosque located at the east end of Ottawa. We have also been working closely with the diversity unit from the day it was established. The diversity unit was the one who helped greatly in establishing the trust between the police and communities.

Ride-sharing programs, the role of frontline staff during the pandemic, and the involvement of these officers with the youth helped a great deal in establishing good relationships between youth and the police services.

Recent incidents in North America, including the death of Abdirahman Abdi in Ottawa, have highlighted some of the existing issues related to systemic racism in police services. This has given individuals and communities the opportunity to call for reducing the budget for policing services.

Yes, we believe systemic racism does, unfortunately, exist in the police force, but we do also believe defunding the police services will not help in resolving these issues. We believe that the goals to get rid of racism and control the crimes can only be achieved by providing adequate funding with proper training to the force.

Defunding the Ottawa police would weaken the force, especially the diversity unit that is much required to work closely with all the minority communities to establish trust between the police and these communities. Now it is time to provide essential funding to not only properly train the police officers on how to effectively deal with the minorities but also to once forever get rid of the systemic racism from the Ottawa Police.

Thanks

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