

COMMUNICATION: *Email dated March 26, 2022, from Danielle Vinson*

Dear members of the Police Services Board,

First, I want to say that I think it is undemocratic to hold in-person only meetings. This is preventing members of the community who are concerned about COVID or at an increased risk for COVID from speaking up, which is not ethical. City council held a hybrid meeting, and the OPSB should do the same.

Second, like many others, I am calling to reallocate police funding to community services. The city of Ottawa underfunds community services and continues to increase the OPS budget.

However, OPS do not keep us safe. The police enabled the far-right, neo-nazi occupation to go on for several weeks. They even posted statements on behalf of convoy organizers on their twitter. These "protestors" were violent, racist, anti-semitic, homophobic, ableist, etc. They caused physical, emotional, and economic harm to Ottawa residents, all while the police facilitated this.

Meanwhile, when Indigenous and Black and allied protestors peacefully occupied one intersection, protesting the increase in police budget for the safety of the community, they were quickly removed, arrested, and their sacred items were treated with disrespect.

This stark contrast demonstrates who the police are here for, and it's not for community members. The OPS does not keep us safe. The OPS should not be getting any more budget increases. Their funds should be reallocated towards community services that actually help our communities.

Thank you,

Danielle Vinson