Having listened to many of the community deputations presented at these recent town halls, consistently presenting calls and rationale for police restructuring and defunding, I've observed certain patterns in engagement from board members and others attending. The deputations that most consistently prompt questions come from those who present as experts on a topic, and offer concrete suggestions.

Though I believe strongly that you should listen to these individuals, I have to ask why this burden is on them to "win you over." Surely a responsibility of any governing board is to perform their due diligence on the bodies they oversee, reaching out proactively for consultation from the communities and individuals they serve. Surely enough voices have been raised to indicate to you that these are issues the public needs you to address, no?

Why not reach out to Black Lives Matter Toronto, Not Another Black Life, SURJ Toronto, OPIRG, or Progress Toronto, and involve them directly in your processes? Why not reallocate existing TPS funds toward hiring consultants from within these organizations and the communities calling for change? Why does it fall to private individuals to donate their thought, time, and expertise to your information gathering? This is work, and I expect you to do it.