

To the Toronto Police Services Board:

I am joining in with the voices of countless others in the city *urging* you to consider a cut to the Police budget as a solution to the \$1.35 billion deficit we currently face.

How can you justify keeping the disproportionately high \$1.1 billion TPS budget intact, when that means potentially cutting budgets to such vital and lifesaving resources as transit, child care, and services for unhoused people in our city?

There are so many creative solutions that many Torontonians can imagine outside of cutting these essential community services. It seems so obvious to me and many others that the first step is to allocate *greater* funding to these community resources. In doing so, we build a network of preventative resources that keep people housed, healthy, fed, and connected to specific resources to help them thrive in Toronto, thus reducing the need for police surveillance and spending.

You have the choice in this moment to do something revolutionary and create a city where people are actually safe and healthy. There is no denying that we are experiencing a crisis of anti-Black racism in our city and, particularly, in our police force. If you choose to keep the TPS budget at its current inflated rate at the detriment of community services, you will not only continue to lose the faith of countless citizens in Toronto, but also put many more lives in danger. Please think compassionately and take this unique opportunity to build a city where the *citizens* have a say in what safety means, not just the police and politicians.

Many cities are cutting their police budgets, and now is our turn. Cut the TPS budget by at least 50% and allocate those monies to community services. There is no time to delay; make this commitment now.

Thank you,

Dorothea Paas