Hello Toronto Police Services Board,

Thank you for facilitating these on-goings talks between citizens and members of the Toronto Police Force. I believe that communication between the two is crucial for Toronto to become, and remain safe for all inhabitants.

I, and other citizens, are calling for the dramatic defunding of the Toronto Police not only because of the injustices that brew under the veil of wealth, but now, because of the current pandemic, all facets of Toronto life are being impacted by the total hoarding of funds that the Police seem to take.

In an article published on May 22 by the Toronto Star (<https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2020/05/22/mayor-john-tory-outlines-devastating-cuts-required-if-other-governments-dont-bail-toronto-out.html>), Mayor John Tory outlined cuts that the city would face after the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The TTC, an already sub-par service, would face a half-a-billion-dollar reduction: a service that is used daily by most, if not all Torontonians. The police do not serve most, if not all Torontonians everyday in the same way—how will I get to school without my local bus?

The TDSB, a place where I’m sure most of your officers attended, is facing a quarter-billion-dollar cut along with the elimination essential programs and courses. I'm worried my brother will be unable to learn in his third year of high school—a fundamental one.

Community centers and libraries, places where I was able to grow and explore my interests as a child, will be shut down—how will I be able to access the books or resources I need?

I understand that the Toronto Police work to serve and protect our communities, but what are these communities without their necessary outlets? I believe that transit, learning, community and safety can all coexist in the same space without one having to be prioritize over the others.

Thank you again,

Lark Huska

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