

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Anna Greenwood-Lee and I am the chair of the board of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good. The Alliance brings together 31 members organisations representing over 35 000 Calgarians from all walks of life.

Our main message for you today is to pass the budget, as presented by administration, without looking for further cuts. We commend the effort administration has obviously put into finding budget reductions that do the least harm to the most vulnerable. We heard Ms Male loud and clear this morning saying there is no room in this budget for further cuts.

The alliance has looked through the budget, We see how this budget has done things like take out inflation and move capital to operating for things like affordable housing. This budget, as presented, cuts pretty close to the bone. Do not, this week, go looking for further cuts.

We'd also like to comment on the police budget. WE would encourage you to move away from this false dichotomy between funding and defunding and work with one another, and with the Calgary Police to make sure that the right services respond to the right calls at the right time. We have had meetings with the Calgary Police and have been impressed with their willingness to explore alternative models and remind you that they themselves suggested that \$8 million of their budget be reallocated to alternative call response models.

We are aware that administration will be presenting a suggested framework for how to re-allocate funds address gaps in crisis and outreach services. For there are indeed gaps in crisis and outreach services. The PACT teams need to be available 24.7. The DOAP team needs to be properly funded. And there are all sorts of situations where Calgarians are in crisis and need help but don't necessarily need an armed officer.

As an example, not long ago, I got a call from a parishioner. She hadn't heard from her son, who suffered from addiction issues, in a few days. She called the police to do a welfare check and when they called to say they were coming over; she knew he was dead. She called me to come and be with her while the police came to her house to deliver this devastating news. WE sat in her living room, the cruiser pulled up out front, the neighbors stuck their heads out of their doors, the police came in. No they couldn't take off their boots, no they couldn't turn off their radios, no they didn't want to sit down. yes they were big and bulky and awkward and, frankly, not all that useful. Standing in their living room with guns and radios telling a senior citizen that her only son was dead. This is one of the many examples of where we need to look at alternative service models. It's expensive and inappropriate to send armed officers to these types of calls. WE can do better.

The Alliance has also been in conversation with the Calgary police about the importance of expanding the indigenous liaison program. It's ridiculous that we ask Constable Chamberlain to do this job all on his own. He needs a team like they have in Edmonton.

In short, you have work to do city council Don't waste any time on this false dichotomy between funding and defunding. Don't waste any time looking for further cuts. Work together and Figure out how to optimize the dollars that are being spent by getting Calgarians the right services at the right time.

