

From: [Christina Amaral](#)
To: [Public Submissions](#)
Subject: [EXT] Comments for Mid Cycle One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets (November 23, 2020)
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 3:41:40 PM

•What do you want to do?:

Submit a comment

•Public hearing item:

Mid Cycle One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets

•Date of meeting:

November 23, 2020

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. A concerned Calgary resident, I believe that reallocating funds away from the police budget and toward other programs is in the best interest of our community. How could the budget be reallocated?

- Example 1 (new program): Traffic law.* August Vollmer, often called the "father of modern policing" in the U.S., opposed the idea of police enforcing traffic law. Berkeley, California, has proposed a new civilian group to take this responsibility, with the intent of creating a more inclusive approach to traffic safety. Calgary could consider implementing a similar program.
- Example 2 (existing programs): Strengthening 211 / Distress Centre / Crisis Diversion Team
- Other examples suggested by Project Calgary

Please consider this request:

1) The police must reallocate at least 5% of their budget - Council must direct the Calgary Police Service to reallocate at least 5% of their current 2020 budget to communities, as approved by Council on November 3.

2) The police must keep their promise to reallocate their existing 2020 budget - The Calgary Police Service must keep their promise to reallocate a portion of their current \$401 million budget, and not simply forgo future budget increases.

3) The police must tell us how they spend our money - The Calgary Police Service must be more transparent and release their itemized line-by-line budget.

*Resources:

- <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/policing-the-open-road/>
- <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674980860>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/15/berkeley-police-california-unarmed-civilians-traffic-stops>

From: [Kate Jacobson](#)
To: [Public Submissions](#)
Subject: [EXT] Submission re: November 23, 2020 - Mid-Cycle Adjustments to the One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 9:58:07 PM

Good evening,

I was asked by Councilor Farrel to submit my presentation to city council from this morning, November 23, 2020 - Mid-Cycle Adjustments to the One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets. The full details of the submission are as follows.

My name is Kate Jacobson, and I live and work in Calgary. I am here today to ask council to reaffirm their commitment to reducing the budget of the Calgary police service. It is my understanding that On November 3, 2020, Council voted to consider reallocation of 5% of the Calgary Police Service (CPS) budget to fund a new Community Safety Investment Framework. Four days later on November 7, 2020, the CPS tried to reduce its commitment to reallocation of the police budget to only 1.25%. The Calgary Police Service must keep their promise to reallocate a portion of their current \$401 million budget, and not simply forgo future budget increases. I am also asking for the Calgary Police Service must be more transparent and release their itemized line-by-line budget.

I currently live and work in NE Calgary, but when I lived downtown until a couple months ago, I often worked late at night, and would commute home by transit. Many nights on the train, or on the streets by my apartment, I would interact with neighbours of mine who were clearly experiencing distress. Many of these neighbours were unhoused. Many of them used drugs or other substances. Many were racialized. Many of them were frightened, distressed or unwell. I am telling you this because many times I wanted to help my neighbours, but I knew I could never call the police. I knew that because the police are violent and they escalate situations, particularly with Black and Indigenous people. Perhaps most importantly, I knew if I called the police, they would not help my neighbours. Maybe one of them would get arrested on an outstanding warrant or, frightened, would lash out and be hurt.

I can't tell you how often I wished I could call someone who could have given my neighbours somewhere to live, permanently. Someone I could call where they could get the mental health help or the intensive psychological medical care they needed. Or how often I wished that they were able to ride the train or the bus, where it is out of the elements and you have somewhere to sit down, for free, instead of increasing the likelihood of the often racist and carceral interactions between transit cops and passengers over fares. Many of the work done by the police — traffic calming, deescalation, wellness checks — could be done by city workers, health workers or peer support workers, instead of the police, who are armed, and who have the arbitrary power to arrest and detain people, and who have a proven track record of using this power disproportionately against Black people, Indigenous people, people of colour, the unhoused and the poor.

The city has systematically disinvested resources from programs with the potential to be anti-racist and decarceral and social, and have instead chosen to fund programs like the police, which have a proven track record of committing violence against poor, homeless and racialized Calgarians. I know there are services that exist that address the root causes I have mentioned, but when you look at the budget made and passed by this city council, and I truly believe that budgets are moral documents that show us the real priorities of any government,

and you see the amount that is put towards funding the police and punishing people vs the amount that is put into making a strong society where no one gets left behind, we see a city that abets racism by continuing to fund an organization that is one of the main enforcers of it through things disproportionate enforcing of petty crimes like jaywalking and speeding against racialized Calgarians and criminalizing racialized children through the school resource officer program.

When people with lived experience with homelessness in Portland were asked who they would prefer to show up to crisis situations instead of the police, they asked for a wide array of social services — mental health professionals, nurses, psychologists and other health workers, social workers, peer support workers. It is true that the police are called to respond to real problems in our society, but it is equally true that the police are unable to solve these problems, and that their very presence in situations of crisis often escalates the situation. Using the police to solve problems caused by years of austerity overseen and managed by this city council and many others is a gross abdication of your responsibility, and proves to me that the City is more interested in punishing and locking up people, particularly Black and Indigenous people, as opposed to creating a society that is good, one where we take care of each other, support each other, and look out for each other.

It is in the interest of taking steps towards creating such a society that I am calling on the City Council of Calgary to reaffirm its decision to reallocate 5% of the Calgary police budget. This will begin to address the root causes of the problems that the police are asked to address, as well as decreasing policing, which the variety of public submissions to this consultation have shown, is little more than an instrument of terror, hardship and trauma for racialized Calgarians. Part of defunding the police, which I believe is a moral imperative for municipalities to take on, is creating a society where the police are obsolete. This is something that the city can do through defunding the police and investing in the programs and services that build a strong society where we don't need the police. Thank you for your time.

Thank you very much!

Kate

Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

In accordance with sections 43 through 45 of Procedure Bylaw 35M2017, the information provided may be included in the written record for Council and Council Committee meetings which are publicly available through www.calgary.ca/ph. Comments that are disrespectful or do not contain required information may not be included.

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Personal information provided in submissions relating to matters before Council or Council Committees is collected under the authority of Bylaw 35M2017 and Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act of Alberta, and/or the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 230 and 636, for the purpose of receiving public participation in municipal decision-making. Your name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. If you have questions regarding the collection and use of your personal information, please contact City Clerk's Legislative Coordinator at 403-268-5861, or City Clerk's Office, 700 Macleod Trail S.E., P.O. Box 2100, Postal Station 'M' 8007, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5.

- ✓ I have read and understand that my name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. My email address will not be included in the public record.

First name (required) Kelly

Last name (required) Gingrich

What do you want to do? (required) Submit a comment

Public hearing item (required - max 75 characters) We are tired of property tax increases and would like them stopped.

Date of meeting Nov 23, 2020

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters) We are tired of property tax increases! Please stop.

From: [Lorel Leal](#)
To: [Public Submissions](#)
Subject: [EXT] November 23 2020 council meeting
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 4:03:45 PM

To Mayor Nenshi and city of Calgary Council,

First of all, the method by which to submit or to speak in this meeting has been very difficult. Not impressed. As someone who pays thousands of dollars in income taxes that pay for your services, this should not have been this hard to do.

In regards to defending the police, I am 100% opposed. Removing funding to our police will only hurt our poor neighborhoods. They are already the places of the highest crime rates and this will only further damage the people who live there. Shame on you for thinking this is any kind of solution.

In regards to electric charging stations for electric cars, again I am 100% opposed. The cost benefit ratio is very out of balance in a city that is struggling to pay bills and stay alive right now.

Mayor Nenshi, based on the decisions you're making and pushing for our city, I am hard-pressed to believe that you remember living in the northeast. I don't know if someone is pressuring you to make these calls, but these decisions do not benefit the majority of Calgarians and therefore should not be passed. Period. If you genuinely thought these were good ideas for the city of Calgary in these dire times, you're less intelligent than I've given you credit for.

Lorel Leal