



**FORM TITLE**

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- 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) **M**

Last name (required) **Brandt**

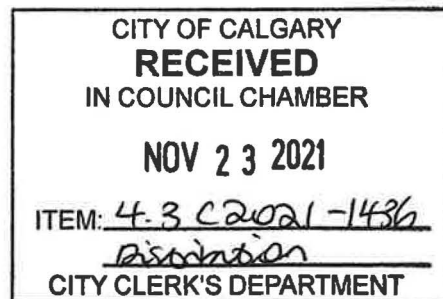
What do you want to do? (required) **Submit a comment**

Public hearing item (required - max 75 characters) **Budget**

Date of meeting

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

**Move police budget to social services agencies. Don't let police argue they can run them. They are a hammer and everything is a nail to them. Fund affordable housing. Stop the suburban sprawl. Do good, and then do it again.**





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First name (required) Allison

Last name (required) Prime

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

Public hearing item (required - max 75 characters) 2022 Adjustments to the 2019-2022 One Calgary Service Plans and Budgets

Date of meeting Nov 23, 2021

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)  
Dear Councillors,  
I am in full support of the attached letter from Parents Against Policing. I am opposed to the requested increase to the CPS budget for the reasons outlined in the letter and insist that you do not approve this \$6.08 million increase to their 2022 operating budget. "Turn down the increase in funding for CPS and turn up the volume on a city that embraces transformative justice."  
Allison Prime

Dear Councillors,

We are writing to you to insist that you do not approve the request from CPS for a \$6.08 million increase to their 2022 operating budget.

They argue that this is \$4 million less than what they forewent in response to the pandemic's economic impacts, but I would argue that the initial approval of that \$10 million was a mistake. With a brand new mayor and a mostly-new council, this is a perfect time to embrace transformative justice\* in Calgary, and this means stepping back from a police-based approach to safety and harm reduction.

The CPS cites anti-racism efforts as among their reasons for needing more funds. This is backwards. If they need financing for their anti-racist training, they can listen to the requests of community (including in their own report from their Anti-Racism Action Committee) to divert funds to other professionals, namely those with distinct training in mental health and addictions. Given that another purported use for the increase in funds is to prevent burnout and fatigue in their staff, granting the power of responsiveness to other personnel outside of the CPS should come as a relief. The CPS has spent enough in creating the appearance of working on anti-racism. Now it is time for them to walk the walk and start redistributing their finances to professionals who don't carry guns on their hips.

The plea that CPS makes includes an explanation for why alternative crisis response models cannot happen more quickly, but this assumes that the CPS is in the "driver's seat" when it comes to implementation. We have to stop seeing the Police as experts when it comes to so-called crime, given that they so readily criminalize people and situations in which no crime is occurring. If any of you have ever interacted with the DOAP team, the Bear Clan Patrol or any of the other harm reduction or mutual aid organizations on the street, you are well aware that the true experts are not ready to handcuff anyone.

We are facing a crisis right now in which many people are suffering and for which we need creative solutions. When thinking about reducing our dependence on CPS, "Some people may ask, "Does this mean that I can never call the cops if my life is in serious danger?" Abolition does not center that question. Instead, abolition challenges us to ask "Why do we have no other well-resourced options?" and pushes us to creatively consider how we can grow, build, and try other avenues to reduce harm." (Mariame Kaba, [We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice](#))

And finally, in the words of Leslyn Joseph, candidate for ward 10 in the recent election: "The decisions we make for our city are a choice between habits and fears of the past, and the demands and opportunities of the future. There are moments in history when the whole fate and future of cities can be decided by a single decision. For Calgary, this was such a time. Time for new ideas, a new team, a new drive for equality of opportunities: a time to create new opportunities for Calgarians, time for a new vision of what we can achieve in this generation for our city and the ward in which we live."

Time to create a new future, councillors. Turn down the increase in funding for CPS and turn up the volume on a city that embraces transformative justice.

#### Parents Against Policing

\*According to Philly Stands Up!, Transformative Justice is a way of practicing alternative justice that acknowledges individual experiences and identities and works to actively resist the state's criminal injustice system. Transformative Justice recognizes that oppression is at the root of all forms of harm, abuse and assault. As a practice, it therefore aims to address and confront those oppressions on all levels and treats this concept as an integral part to accountability and healing.



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First name (required) **Bill**

Last name (required) **Lafeave**

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

Public hearing item (required - max: 75 characters) **Cfd budget**

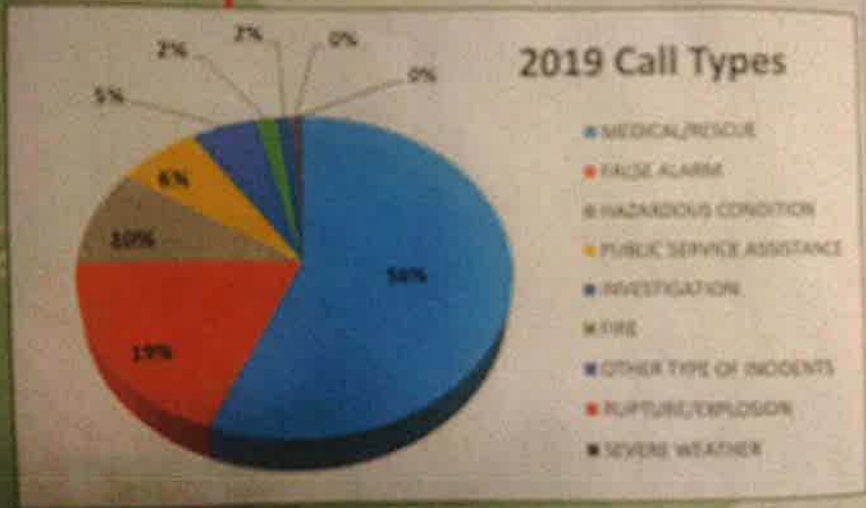
Date of meeting **Nov 24, 2021**

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Cfd call volume is 54~% medical calls to "help" EMS on their calls is voluntary, cfd is pushing for budget increase they use that 54% to justify and increase in their budget so in fact we the tax payers do pay twice for the same service( province ahs and coc cfd) If they stopped responding to these "voluntary" calls that would free up a massive amount of resources and stop wear and tear on large fire trucks etc..they would have much more time to respond to fires etc. The average time cfd is on medical calls is 5 mins or cancelled in route..

Maybe cfd can get reimbursement from ahs for responding to these voluntary medical calls which is the provinces responsibility? To be honest ahs can't even fund ems properly so they might just tell cfd to not respond let's be honest..

54% is a large portion of their job and to do for free puts lot of wear and tear on fire trucks, uses up a lot of CFDs staff etc. At the rate medical calls are going up it's not feasible to keep cfd responding for FREE. Think of the taxpayers, no one does something with receiving something in return, they look busier going to these voluntary calls to justify a larger budget...54% is alot of time they could be available to respond to fires etc. Let ems do the medical.







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First name (required)

Eric

Last name (required)

Pianarosa

What do you want to do?  
(required)

Submit a comment

Public hearing item (required -  
max: 75 characters)

Align budgets to climate emergency

Date of meeting

Comments - please refrain from  
providing personal information in  
this field (maximum 2500  
characters)

In light of the climate emergency (is the word emergency urgent enough?) I would like to suggest that a body / position be set to review EVERY dollar of our budget AND every decision that is made to ensure that we are addressing the emergency. For instance,

- in a park on Elbow Dr., a cement platform was poured. Was cement necessary?  
- obviously the fire dept budget... we keep expanding the city and then face huge spends on emergency and roads... we can't continue to do this!

Please, let's actually put dollars and decisions under the lens of the emergency - this will be much cheaper than waiting for the next catastrophe.

## 2022 Adjustments to the 2019 - 2022 One Calgary Service Plans and Budgets

I would first like to congratulate our new Council and express my appreciation for your dedication to public service.

My primary issue that I wish to raise with you is that of accessibility – the capacity for all Calgarians to equitably participate, to their fullest extent, in daily life, with minimal barriers, regardless if they do or do not have a disability.

As one who is completely blind, I know, first-hand, the challenges of navigating the “real world”. And, through years of experience, I do so quite successfully, with the aid of a white cane.

Yet what frustrates me is encountering situations which, with just a little more forethought, would have been totally avoidable.

For example, the past 2 years of sidewalk patios have been nothing short of a disaster for persons, such as myself, with mobility and navigational issues. Being continually detoured onto the road, on unstable ramps, with minimal protection from traffic, has made my usual treks exceedingly difficult. My friends and colleagues that use mobility devices (i.e.: wheelchairs and scooters) have it even worse! Going forward, we must maintain a “clear path of travel” and keep sidewalks free for pedestrian usage by locating patios into the adjacent parking lane. This solution is commonly implemented in other cities; Calgary should do the same.

Snow also presents a significant challenge to pedestrians’ “clear path of travel”, not only to myself – a user of a white cane – but even more so to users of mobility devices. Specifically, a solution to clearing laneway aprons MUST be found. Consider that, even if every property owner clears their public sidewalk of snow, still, when a pedestrian encounters a laneway crossing, the path forward is often impassable to mobility aids and undetectable to users of white canes. This same problem exists at WC ramps at road-crossings. I recognize that the City cannot undertake to clear these. Yet failing to assign responsibility to “somebody” is neglecting the problem. Similarly, responsibility for clearing engineered walkways also must be found.

The needs of Calgary’s disability community have failed to be heard thus far in the Green Line’s public engagement process. The online forums for participation presented technological barriers to participation (i.e.: video conferencing excludes robust engagement with the blind community); further, I am unaware of any disability/accessibility -specific presentations being delivered. Further, Green Line has not reached out to facilitate any discussions with any of Calgary’s disability communities to



understand the unique needs of this varied user-group. Public transit is a critical enabling service to persons with a disability; we **MUST** get it right! Simply delivering Green Line to “legacy building code standards” only guarantees entry-level accessibility. True universal design and accessibility ensures we are delivered a leading-edge transit system - one that does not build in barriers – regardless if they were unintended.

I strongly encourage you to show your support for the nearly ¼ of Calgarians who have a disability and the nearly ½ of persons who know and interact first-hand with someone with a disability. Making our city accessible is not only the “right thing to do”, our economy and individual businesses benefit by ensuring they are accessible, from both an employment and customer perspective.

This support requires accessibility to be an integral part of the City’s culture. Promote this ethic by appropriately resourcing disability and accessibility services; this takes not just “real dollars”, but also requires your ongoing passionate interest to affect and oversee the needed change.

This sounds simple. But how many times do we see sidewalk still built with obstructions in the path of travel? Why do we treat accessibility as an added cost? We would never build a road without proper signage, traffic lights or off-ramps. We must treat accessibility as part of the project, not an add-on that costs more.

I ask you, as Council, to please support resources dedicated to accessibility as you go through your budget deliberations this week. Please ensure that you adequately fund all capital projects and operations so that accessibility is not only considered, but is adopted as a value and implemented consistently in delivering services.

Sincerely,

Peter Quaiattini