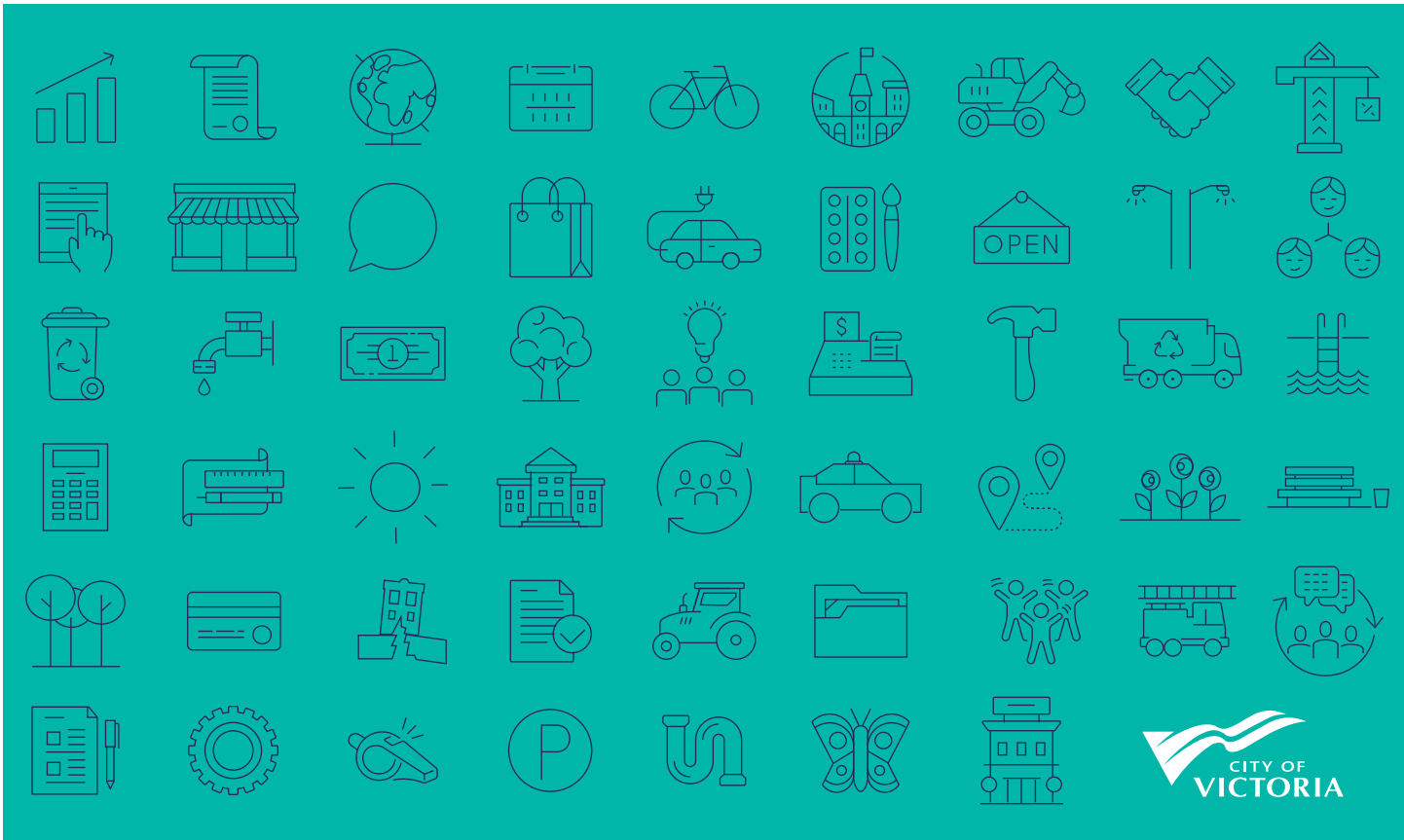


2021

ATTACHMENT C

Written Budget Feedback



Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:52 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am aghast that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Yours sincerely

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From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:11 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor)
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Sent: January 10, 2021 10:02 PM
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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Sent: January 10, 2021 9:09 PM
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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Sent: January 10, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good evening,

I write to you in response to the Draft 2021–2025 Financial Plan. Specifically, I wish to convey my opposition to a proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department budget. For the betterment of our city, please freeze the VicPD budget and allocate funding towards community-level supports instead.

We have to be even more strategic with the use of our resources during COVID-19. VicPD already accounts for nearly a quarter of the City's operating budget. What I see right now are people who need programs and services to improve well-being. Policing does not and cannot help; rather, as we have seen around the world (even in Canada), policing actually causes harm to targeted groups, including BIPOC folks and people experiencing poverty.

As a born-and-raised citizen of Victoria, I have seen my community grow and change for over 33 years. I am fortunate enough to own a home only blocks away from the house in Fairfield where I grew up. Major issues facing our most vulnerable remain the same: a lack of shelter, food, amenities, harm reduction, adequate living wages, and social programs. This is a time when we need to re-invent the way we support each other and find new ways to thrive. Continuing to allocate such a large percentage of our budget to law enforcement will not achieve progress.

I implore you to look to community-based initiatives for ways to enact positive, meaningful change.

Sincerely
Personal information

This communication (and any attachments) is directed in confidence to the addressee(s) listed above, and may not otherwise be distributed, copied or used. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me by reply e-mail or by telephone and delete this communication (and any attachments) without making a copy.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

To introduce myself a little bit, my name **Personal information** I have been living in Victoria since the summer of 2016. I studied at Camosun College, and I currently work for Island Health. I love to make art, read novels, have good conversations, and learn about local plants and animals. I spend a lot of time reflecting on the world around me, and my place in it. I consider myself an engaged citizen. I believe this beautiful city is capable of so much, and it saddens me to see it succumb to the weight of unimaginative problem-solving, hypocrisy, and perpetuating old and harmful patterns.

With that in mind, I am writing today with deep concern, and to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase to the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Rather, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that the city's limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled and disappointed that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function, especially given Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020. In that statement, Mayor Helps said, "For those of us with privilege, we need to step up as allies and condemn racism in all its forms." Continuing to inflate the VicPD's budget, against the will and advice of so many of your constituents whom you claim to represent, and to whom you claim to want to listen, is not stepping up as an ally. Failing to invest in the growth and development of community programs that address and combat housing issues, colonial violence, and the overdose crisis, is not stepping up as an ally. Condemning racism in a statement, and providing zero material follow-through, is not stepping up as an ally.

I believe a budget increase of 0% for VicPD is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**

- The City of Victoria’s 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps’ statement from June 3, 2020 also proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. And if creating a welcoming community is one of Victoria’s priorities, I must point out that an increased police presence is not welcoming. The highest number of police officers per capita in the country is not welcoming.

A vibrant community with well-funded programs that are open to everyone and that improve the lives of community members, and bolsters those who have historically been ignored -- that is welcoming. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Cheers,

Personal information

She/Her/Hers

I have the pleasure of living and working on the traditional and unceded territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ Nations.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
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transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 6:47 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

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Sent: January 10, 2021 6:37 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** resident of Victoria proper. I am a 25 year old student at the University of Victoria and have grown up in Victoria. In large part due to my white complexion and housed status, I have been privileged to avoid negative interactions and behaviour at the hands of the Victoria Police. I have, however, witnessed firsthand police brutality during the peaceful protests in early 2020 in support of the Wet'suwet'en, where 30 armed police officers forcefully arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources. I also witnessed the forceful arrest of Indigenous youth during a peaceful sit-in at the BC legislature in support of Wet'suwet'en. On social media, across Canada and of course in the United States, there were multiple examples of police brutality against BIPOC communities and sparked weeks of unrest in the name of Black Lives Matter. It was made painfully clear that the police force was created to uphold white supremacy and colonization. It was NOT created for public safety for all. If 2020 taught us anything at all, it is that there needs to be alternatives to this unjust system that centres safety for all community members.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 6:27 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Personal information
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Greetings,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the 2021/22 Draft Financial Plan.

Premise of the budget: The City's entire financial plan is a colonial premise rooted in the assumption that settlers have jurisdiction over stolen Lkwungen lands and the authority to decide what to do with those lands and how to divvy up benefits accruing from use of those lands. My participation in the process is to express objection to the City's plans, not to affirm colonial presence or entitlement to make decisions about Lkwungen Territory.

Consultation process: While COVID has limited in-person options, the City's process this year is so narrow that it is completely inaccessible to many residents. Email, an online survey that requires registration, and a webcast town hall are all largely inaccessible to people with very low incomes (especially in these times when public computer access is severely restricted), people who are not fluent in English, people who are sheltering in parks without a reliable way to keep devices charged or safe, and people with cognitive or learning disabilities. These methods of getting input also aren't accessible to Victoria residents who are institutionalized and don't have access to technology in the time of the public input period. When consultation is done in this way, it is not a sincere creative effort to listen to communities and it facilitates privileging certain populations. My participation in the process is to express objection to the City's plans, not to affirm any legitimacy to this consultation process.

Defining parameters: [Movement Generation](#) explains that "eco" comes from the greek word "oikos", meaning 'home'; and that economy therefore most accurately means "home" + "management". In their words:

Economy means management of home. How we organize our relationships in a place, ideally, to take care of the place and each other. But "management of home" can be good or bad, depending on how you do it and to what ends. The purpose of our economy could be turning land, life and labor into property for a few, or returning land, life and labor into a balanced web of stable relationships. Economy does not mean money, or exchange or financial markets, or trading or Gross Domestic Product. These are simply elements or tools of specific economies. Economies ("how we manage our home") can be measured in many ways: How healthy are the soil, people, water, animals? How much wealth is generated? Who owns the wealth? What

even constitutes wealth? Is it money? Well-being? Happiness?

The City's budget is absent of any consideration of relationships and implications. For example there is no consideration in the Draft Financial Plan of how City revenue is obtained and whether that money comes from ethical sources. Relying on wealth derived from stolen land, exploited labour, or damage to the environment keeps us stuck in violent relationships with the earth and each other.

REVENUE

Land is not settler property: Most of the City's revenue comes from taxing settlers' use of Lkwungen land. By calling this “property tax”, the City is entrenching colonial ideas of land as property -- and settler property at that -- rather than this place being a living, organic place that is the home of many beings. As a starting point, a real land tax would acknowledge that the City is on Lkwungen Territory, and would actively work with Lkwungen communities on how to decolonize and begin to engage in respectful relationship. The Draft Financial Plan doesn't consider Lkwungen ways of making decisions or ensuring that any benefits derived from settlers' use of Lkwungen resources (including lands, waters, knowledge, etc.) are returned to Lkwungen people.

Keeping wealth in settler land-holder hands: It's contradictory to commit to 'Make Victoria More Affordable' while limiting the annual land tax increase to a maximum of the rate of inflation + 1%. By protecting settler land-holders from a reasonable land tax increase, Council is making 'victoria' less affordable to the most economically precarious people. Addressing affordability is great, but limiting property tax only benefits people wealthy enough to own land. This year's property tax increase is 1.75% which according to the budget summary works out to an annual increase of “\$44 for an average household and \$124 for a typical business” -- minor amounts that will make little difference to people who are wealthy enough to own land, but that if increased could significantly improve real affordability measures like return of stolen lands, rent banks, community-controlled housing, urban agriculture, etc.

EXPENDITURES

The budget doesn't align with community needs or the City's Strategic Plan.

- The Draft Financial Plan identifies the City's priorities as local area land use planning, supporting businesses, affordable housing, active transportation, climate change, and emergency preparedness. According to the Goal Statement on page 13, by 2022 “We will be known globally for our climate leadership practices, multi-modal transportation options, innovative approaches to affordable housing, and for meaningful reconciliation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on whose homelands our city was built.”

- However, none of these aspirations are substantively resourced. Instead, the City continues to prioritize surveillance, criminalization, and punishment, proposing more than 25% of the operating budget -- \$64.5 million -- be used for the VicPD, bylaw enforcement, and security guards.
- The decision to once again prioritize policing over people's needs has a double impact on marginalized people, who are targeted by policing through racial / social profiling, and also because of societal injustice face the most barriers in meeting basic survival needs.

Council talks about “Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations” but there’s no financial commitment to either one.

- The City's current Strategic Plan includes a commitment to “deeper and more engagement with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations”, “recognition of Indigenous sovereignty”, and “more Indigenous involvement and inclusion in all aspects of civic life”. But the Draft Financial Plan isn’t moving towards any of these aspirations.
- Recognition of Indigenous sovereignty means acknowledging that this is Lkwungen land and that authority to determine what happens to these territories rests with Lkwungen people, not any layer of colonial government. It is not recognizing Indigenous sovereignty to continue to control Indigenous territories and distribution of benefits from use of those territories.
- The Draft Financial Plan doesn't even resource Indigenous positions for the Indigenous relations activities set out in the Strategic Plan (repeated in the Draft Financial Plan). There aren't budget line items for the 2020 Strategic Plan commitments to establish an Indigenous Relations function and to pursue co-governance of MEEGAN and shoreline areas, the 2021 commitments of appointing Indigenous Elders in Residence and continuing co-governance explorations, or the 10 actions relating to Indigenous community relationships that are identified for 2022. The only two mentions of Indigenous relations in the actual budget are \$86,850 for the Witness Reconciliation Program, which drops to ~\$31,000 per year in 2022/23, and an Indigenous artist-in-residence program (which is identified as 2019-21, so no City commitment to continue).
- The current orientation of funds is insufficient to engage in the significant transformation needed to dismantle the colonial relationships and power structures that are the current foundation of the City of 'victoria'. There is huge momentum behind current settler abusive, violent relationships to Lekwungen people and their territories. It will take very significant investment to change that, to actually enact decolonization, reconciliation, and reparations for harms done.

The Draft Financial Plan decreases funding for affordable housing.

- The Draft Financial Plan states a commitment to “allocate additional City revenue to affordable housing” (page 44) **but the proposed budget does the opposite**, decreasing the annual allocation for the housing reserve -- dropping from \$900,000 in 2020/21 to \$650,000 per year in 2021/22 and the

four fiscal years after that. It's even more of a decrease in 2021/22 if you take into account the \$152,500 of the \$208,228 allocated to the Late Night Task Force (policing downtown) that in 2020/21 was reallocated to emergency housing -- the plan for 2021-22 has this special policing force once again at full budget, now increased to \$231,650 per year (page 136).

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- Affordable housing has been the general public's #1 issue for several years according to the annual local [Vital Signs survey](#), for good reason. According to 2016 Census data (which excludes people who are homeless), five years ago 9,065 households -- 21% of 'victoria' households -- were living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, with 4,050 households in 'victoria' identified as "in extreme core housing need" (living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, and with an income so low that more than 50% of income would need to be spent to get adequate housing). Affordability and vacancy rates are even worse now.
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- While it's great that the City is funding staff work on policies to try to stem the loss of affordable units, there also needs to be a tangible plan around increasing affordable housing stock, far beyond Council's current goal of 100 units per year towards the pre-existing backlog (with the additional new units only enough to keep up with projected population growth). This housing plan needs to be determined with local nations so it doesn't further entrench settler control of Lkwungen lands, and Indigenous housing needs are met first.
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- Housing strategies identified in the Draft Financial Plan assume housing and land will remain commodities (e.g., emphasizing private development by settler property owners and institutions) instead of exploring models to return stolen lands and enter into agreements with Lekwungen people about how to create and manage housing on their lands in ways that respect their authority over their territories and prioritize ensuring that Indigenous people on these territories have safe, culturally respectful, and affordable places to live. This colonial and capitalist approach to lands and housing are not the right direction for sustainable planning and community development. All community and local area planning processes -- including housing policy processes -- must start from a foundation of recognizing that settlers on stolen lands do not have entitlement to determine the future of these territories, and emphasize decolonization and other transformative measures.

Council continues to set aside money in financial reserves instead of acknowledging the current emergency for people sheltering outside, and using those funds to offer everyone safe and adequate indoor sheltering.

- According to the Draft Financial Plan, as of December 31, 2020 the Victoria Housing Reserve was expected to have an unallocated balance of \$2,582,942 sitting dormant instead of being used for emergency housing. In 2021/22 there is a proposed allocation of \$3,517,740 for transfer to a

contingency reserve account for unspecified emergencies (pages 547-548) -- **enough to provide 244 people living outside with \$1,200/month towards rent, for a full year.**

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- In the meantime Council continues to ignore its human rights obligations set out in the United Nations [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#), with a total of \$0 allocated in 2021/22 for basic infrastructure proximate to where people are sheltering.
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- Of course some level of savings are prudent and necessary, but when new money is set aside for 'emergencies' while there is an active emergency for unhoused people, that implies "your well-being is not enough of an emergency...we're going to put money aside for a situation impacting wealthy people". It's particularly baffling that the City is keeping Housing Reserve money dormant instead of using it to build emergency housing.

Parks need to be re-conceived not only as recreation spaces for housed people but also as survival spaces for unhoused people.

- Until there is safe, affordable, and adequate housing for everyone, resources need to be committed to working collaboratively with people who are sheltering outside to create infrastructure in locations where people are sheltering that meets survival needs, in compliance with the United Nations [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#).
- The City should include in the 2021/22 Draft Financial Plan funds to rapidly assess [Protocol](#) compliance issues and to address all areas where the City is out of compliance. ***This is an emergency in a dual public health crisis, and emergency reserves are appropriate to use for this purpose.***
- It is extremely important to have public spaces where people can gather, socialize, rest, enjoy nature, etc. And, for some people who do not have private spaces where these things can also happen, public spaces are, additionally, spaces of survival. When recreational wants of housed people conflict with unhoused people's survival needs, survival needs must take priority -- even in COVID times where housed people feel more reliant on outdoor public spaces for socializing and recreation. Consistent with the [Protocol](#), maintenance of parks and other public spaces should not be used as a rationale to police and displace people who are sheltering outside.
- The City currently has a hostile working relationship with people who shelter outside that is premised on the City using its power to surveill, harass, and displace people. This could shift to a respectful working relationship where the City works with people who are sheltering outside to find out what kind of spaces would improve safety, shelter, and access to necessities such as clean water, bathrooms, showers, and safe food storage/cooking facilities. City facilities could be readily adapted

for these purposes and by engaging in this in a respectful, collaborative manner the City could also be well positioned to work on broader community initiatives such as reduction of discrimination against people who are living in poverty.

Council has not followed through on its stated commitments regarding alternatives to policing.

- After years of community campaigning to divest from policing and invest in communities, at the June 25, 2020 meeting Council directed staff to report back on how to develop a framework for an accessible, culturally safe, and appropriate alternative response model -- in time for consideration as part of Council's 2021 budget deliberations. Council also instructed staff to as part of this process hold a virtual community town hall and provide a range of opportunities for individuals and communities to engage, with "strong representation of those disproportionately harmed within the current system namely black, Indigenous, and POC communities, TNB2s people, persons with lived and living experience (PWLLE) of poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, or substance use".
- Neither the framework for the model nor the robust community engagement have happened in time for the public consultation process on the Draft Financial Plan. Instead, according to Mayor Lisa Helps' January 3, 2021 [blog post](#), Island Health and the VicPD are working together to create a response team for mental health calls -- though this team is also not mentioned in the VicPD budget so it's unclear what is contemplated. The City's role going forward is not clear.
- As the primary funder of the VicPD, the City has a responsibility to divest from policing and invest in communities. As was conveyed to Council years ago, and has been repeated since, the right role of government in this is to resource communities most impacted by policing to determine what would be a more appropriate investment of public funds. It's essential that [alternatives to police be designed and run by communities, not government](#); and that any alternative be non-coercive (unlike police-embedded Island Health teams). Replacing police-only response with police-embedded response is still supporting a policing response.
- The Community Wellness Peer-Informed Task Force (CWPITF) hasn't finished its work, but has no budget for 2021/22. The CWPITF, comprised of people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness, mental health struggles, and struggles around substance use, was created to make recommendations to Council for a Community Wellness Strategy. The CWPITF is supposed to continue until Council has adopted a Community Wellness Strategy, but because of COVID that hasn't happened yet. While there are issues with how Council created this group (particularly the framing of people who are unhoused, using substances, and having mental health struggle as a problem population needing response), it is a way that people have been able to identify for Council the problems with a police-oriented response. Why is Council not resourcing the completion of the CWPITF's work?

Instead of divesting from policing and investing in communities, the City is increasing policing-based approaches by upping VicPD and Bylaw resources.

- In the 2019-20 fiscal year Bylaw had 10 FTEs, in 2020-21 this was increased to 17 FTEs (a 70% increase) and the plan for 2021-22 maintains this increase. The proposed VicPD operating budget increases by

over 1.47%, with a whopping \$61,193,160 to VicPD operations and a further \$1,546,000 proposed for VicPD capital costs. ***At a bare minimum, the VicPD budget should not further increase, Bylaw's staffing should revert to 2019/20 levels, and tangible plans should be set out for a process to divest from policing and invest in communities.***

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- From an ethical perspective, it is troubling that the City is prioritizing spending millions of dollars for rule compliance rather than investing in community well-being. Policing approaches do not make our communities safer, they make them less safe for people who are racially and socially profiled. Policing doesn't build social cohesion, meet people's survival needs, or address tensions relating to injustices and inequities. As evidenced by the past 30 years, social problems can't be solved through investing in "law and order" approaches and infrastructure.
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- Police spending far exceeds other municipal spending and needs to be reined in. According to Statistics Canada between 1985 and 2013 police expenditures in Canada almost doubled, even accounting for inflation. From 2009-2019 the VicPD received a cumulative total of \$12,840,711 in new funding, with the City's portion being a cumulative 31.59% increase (compared to a 12.1% inflation increase in the same period), and its budget expanded again in 2020/21. After so many years of expanding police funding it is not appropriate that the police budget continue to expand again this year. The five-year financial plan is even worse, with a 6% increase in the VicPD operating budget projected for 2022/23 and then increases above the rate of inflation in the following three years.
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- The Draft Financial Plan mentions that as part of the City's adopted Strategic Plan regarding "Good governance and civic engagement", there is a commitment to "exercise fiscal responsibility in policing expenditures" (p. 16). Continuing to increase the VicPD budget is not fiscally responsible, particularly in a year where many departments have had to freeze or decrease spending to reflect decreased City revenue due to COVID.
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- In particular the City should set out a tangible plan to divest from funding police as a response to health and social issues, which currently comprise a very significant portion of the police portfolio (in 2014 the VicPD Chief estimated 75-80% of calls related to homelessness, mental health, and/or substance use; an October 2017 memo from the VicPD to the Police Board identified that 19% of incidents responded to by VicPD have a mental health component). According to a recent [media analysis](#) of police data, the VicPD recommends more charges for drug possession than any other municipal force in southwestern 'bc'; in 2019 the VicPD recommended possession charges nearly four times more often than the 'vancouver' police department (despite covering an area 1/6 the size of that covered by the VanPD). The City should commit to decriminalizing all health and social issues and use

funds divested from policing these issues to invest in meeting real and urgent community health and social needs.

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- While Council can't control how the VicPD operationalizes its funding -- including how it manages its workforce -- Councillors can refuse to fund specific line items and can direct the Police Board to come back with a lower budget. Particular line items for consideration:
 - **COVID decreases:** In COVID times, there should be drastic reduction in lines for VicPD travel and conference attendance, the Late Night program, and policing of large events. At the current predicted rate of COVID vaccine rollout, there is no reason to think any of these lines will be needed in 2021/22.
 - **Stop increasing police PR:** The proposed VicPD budget for 2021/22 includes a \$192,055 (9.30%) increase to the VicPD Community Engagement Division. This comes primarily from the public relations unit, including a 50% salary increase, 26% benefits, and 26% increase to IT repairs and maintenance. It is not appropriate to increase funds for VicPD promoting itself.
 - **Police overtime is out of control and needs to be curtailed:** Overtime has more than doubled in just three years, with 36 units in the VicPD making a collective ask for \$2,962,090 overtime in 2021/22 (\$2,833,750 for officer overtime and \$128,340 in civilian overtime). According to a [2019 Victoria News story](#), the VicPD spent an average of \$1.2 million on overtime per year from 2014-2018. This abrupt increase is not projected by the VicPD to be a temporary blip -- their five-year projection assumes overtime will continue to increase above the rate of inflation. In March 2020 VicPD Chief Del Manak [blamed four years of rising mass protests](#) for increased overtime costs, but that's not supported by the VicPD budget; only three of the 36 units that have overtime budgeted for 2021/22 are identified as having a role at protests, and their combined overtime budgets are \$115,620 (4% of the total overtime). Whatever the causes, overtime can't be supported at this rate.
 - **More patrol means more risk for racially and socially profiled people:** The proposed budget includes a \$808,384 (4.13%) increase to the VicPD Patrol Division, including a projection of \$905,000 in overtime -- a \$103,000 (13%) increase from 2020/21. Increased police patrols have a particular impact on Indigenous and Black people who are unsheltered, who are both racially and socially profiled but don't have private space to escape "proactive patrols" (page 603) and other police surveillance and harassment.
 - **Increased policing of vulnerable people increases risks:** The Behavioral Assessment & Management Unit has the mandate to target those "deemed highest risk to offend and/or most vulnerable to be victimized" (page 701). Its budget is proposed to increase by \$130,001 (22.3%) in 2021/22, with salary and benefit changes consistent with

addition of an officer to the unit. This is particularly worrisome in its potential to increase police presence in the lives of low-income Indigenous women, sex workers, people who are sheltering outside, people with disabilities, 2spirit / trans / non-binary people, and others who live at the intersections of oppression. Forcing police presence on people at risk of victimization is re-traumatizing and has the potential to result in increased risk of arrest for people who are both vulnerable to victimization and also engaged in illegal survival economics, e.g., drug sales, theft, etc. Decisions about who is at highest risk to offend is also highly subjective and supports increased racial and social profiling.

- **Clarification needed on Financial Crimes Unit increase:** The FCU has significant proposed budget increases including a 51% increase in core salary (not overtime), 54% increase in benefits, and 400% increase in conferences/travel. It's not clear from the description on page 691 whether this unit only investigates major white-collar financial scams or also could jeopardize people with low incomes who may partially rely on check kiting or other similar kinds of low-level fraud for financial survival.

- **Police do not belong in schools:** The proposed budget includes \$384,730 in 2021/21 for police in schools, with a five-year plan to increase by 2.5% per year. Putting police back into schools after the hiatus from 2018-2020 [threatens the safety of youth who are racially and socially profiled, particularly Indigenous and Black youth](#). The use of police to deliver presentations on substance use also contributes to shame, stigma, and criminalization of people who use illicit drugs.

- Along similar lines, the City should revert to 2019/20 Bylaw staffing levels and freeze the Bylaw budget -- as the increase in 2020/21 was primarily to address increased Bylaw monitoring and enforcement regarding outdoor sheltering. Public funds should particularly not be allocated to support enforcement of bylaws against sheltering outside, or chattel bylaws that prevent homeless people from being able to safely leave their belongings in public spaces. This criminalizes and punishes people for being homeless.
 - **24/7 sheltering = 24/7 interference in people's lives:** The Parks Regulation Bylaw has for years been a source of profound misery for people sheltering outside. While the decision to temporarily allow 24/7 sheltering in COVID times has meant relief from the stresses of daily displacement, it has also come with 24/7 interference in people's lives.

 - **Like police, Bylaw are enforcement officers not outreach workers.** People living outside need supplies and supports. Bylaw officers can't take that role; their job is to watch people to see if they are breaking City rules, and if so enforce the rules through pressure and coercion (euphemistically called "education"). If the City wants to have outreach workers who can act as a liaison with the City, this needs to happen outside of the Bylaw division and have no enforcement role.

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 - **Bylaw officers are harassing people living outside:** People living in parks and other green spaces have reported -- and bystanders have witnessed -- extensive harassment by Bylaw officers, including individuals being roused early in the morning for non-

consensual “welfare checks”, having to repeatedly move all of their belongings regardless of weather, having belongings seized or destroyed by Bylaw even after officers were told belongings had not been abandoned, having community-built infrastructure dismantled even while negotiations were underway with City representatives for permits, Bylaw officers standing near sheltering sites making offensive comments about people living in those sites, and Bylaw officers do repeated walk-throughs of sites where people are living.

- **Increased Bylaw presence also increases VicPD presence:** Supporting increased Bylaw enforcement also increases policing and criminalization, as Bylaw officers often request VicPD accompaniment.

SUMMARY

The Draft Financial Plan continues a toxic, colonial approach that continues to steal land and wealth from Lekwungen people, fails to meet the most serious survival needs, and spends an extraordinary amount of money on surveillance and punishment of a small but highly marginalized group of people -- those sheltering outside. I call on Council to radically reconfigure the budget to align with its own Strategic Priorities, and to begin to set out a process for transitioning from our current highly dysfunctional (and unsustainable) economy to relations with home and resources that are based on care, consent, and respect.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:53 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Victoria,

Hello, my name **Personal information** resident of Victoria, British Columbia. I am writing to you in regards to the proposed 2021 municipal budget.

I am deeply distressed by the proposal to increase the policing budget for the City of Victoria in 2021. Other cities across North America are looking to reduce their reliance on law enforcement and Victoria should follow that example and significantly defund the police department.

Policing is profoundly expensive and doesn't actually reduce crime or keep us safe. In many cases, policing actually makes racialized or other marginalized people less safe. The exorbitant amount that the city spends on policing should be diverted to programs that actually reduce crime.

Public safety is important to me, but safety is better served by community care and better funding for marginalized communities than by the police. Spending close to a quarter of the municipal budget on policing is a waste of taxpayer money with little to no tangible benefit.

I am asking you to significantly defund the Victoria Police Department and reinvest the money in programs that will actually reduce crime and keep Victorians safe.

Thank you for your time,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen until meaningful community engagement takes place to determine how funds should be redistributed in communities.

I was absolutely horrified last year when 30 armed police officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth, one by one, at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum after a peaceful sit in. Seeing VicPD close the curtains at the BC Legislature so they could arrest 5 peaceful Indigenous youth with no onlookers gave me nightmares, and filled me with a fear I cannot put into words. It was traumatic to watch VicPD drag my friends, these 5 Indigenous youth with good hearts and inherent rights, into police vans after hours of not knowing where they were or whether they were safe. I was disgusted that the city allocated an additional \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park, and embarrassed that the city even considered that as an option. These disturbing events and the trauma they caused, along with the explosion of international support to defund the police and address systemic police violence against Black and Indigenous people gives me hope that the city of Victoria will stop pouring money into this inherently violent institution and start addressing the real and social determinants of crime, which begins with making sure people's basic needs are met - not increasing police budgets.

I am appalled that the city of Victoria continually allocates a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Personal information

University of Victoria

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

I acknowledge with respect the Communities and Nations in whose territories I work and live as an uninvited visitor: the Lekwungen (Chekonein, Chilcowitch, Swengwhung, Kosampsom, Whyomilth, Teechamitsa, Kakyakaan, Songhees, Esquimalt) and W̱SÁNEĆ (S̱TÁUTW/Tsawout, W̱JOLÉLP/Tsartlip, BOKEĆEN/Pauquachin, W̱SIKEM/Tseycum) Peoples.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback V. Important Sender
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived in Victoria for the last ~10 years. I have worked in customer service, the tech sector, salons, and been a student. I've voted in every election, celebrated all over town, attended rallies to support our community and environment, and volunteered for Our Place and countless other fundraisers and initiatives in town. Victoria is my home, and I love it. Which is why I write to you today to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I've seen the VicPD haul teenage bodies from the parliament buildings for peaceful protests. I've cried tears of rage and horror, seeing the casual cruelties they've unleashed upon vulnerable people.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD’s budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD’s budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City’s Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps’ [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 3:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing with my feedback regarding the 2021 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria, with specific opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget.

With a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria due to COVID-19, the decision to increase the police budget by 1.5% such that it constitutes 23% of the City's total operational budget is fiscally irresponsible. The City's Draft Budget allocates \$60.7 million of the City's \$256 million budget to the VicPD. For comparison, only \$23.7 million has been allocated for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. In addition, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43% from 2019-2020 and the City's Consolidated Financial plan commits to more yearly increases for a total allocation of over \$250 million over the next four years. As a response to fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are freezing or even decreasing their police budgets. This includes our neighbours in the City of Vancouver - on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh people - who recently voted to freeze 2021 police funding. I am calling on Victoria's elected officials to follow suit and commit to a 0% increase to the VicPD's 2021 budget.

In addition to the fiscal considerations of increasing the police budget, I also urge you to consider the social ramifications of increasing police funding. In response to protests in the US and worldwide following the killings of George Floyd and others by police, Mayor Helps' issued a [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) stating that "we need to step up as allies and condemn racism in all its forms" and that "[c]ondemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." As a city and as a community we need to support our most marginalized neighbours (BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+ folks, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc) and funding a force that continues to criminalize the most vulnerable and underserved will not create a community of well-being. In witnessing the VicPD's interference with the BIPOC artists' "More Justice More Peace" mural, it is clear to me that the VicPD are not engaged in recognizing the harm that law enforcement has caused and continues to cause to BIPOC. How can the VicPD keep our community safe when they refuse to engage genuinely and empathetically in "those hard conversations" around racism within the police force and to "truly listen when people share their experiences of racism in Victoria" (Helps, *Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism*)?

To be clear: increased police presence does not keep us safe. I am calling for a reallocation of city funds from policing into programs and services that are proven to support the well-being of all community members such as community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

With care,

they/them

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; lana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen (or decreased) so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% or a budget decrease is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze or decrease the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. All members of my family are members of those most targeted. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; adrian.dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Policing budget over unaddressed community health issues
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- There is a high prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) across BC that is unaddressed. My research demonstrates that HCV is a mitigating circumstance in the overdose epidemic.
- Hepatitis C is a significant factor in behavioural aspects that lead to reactive policing rather than proactive services which would be significant in reducing impulsive behaviour and the need for policing interventions which can be fatal.
- Local research suggests that people with late stage hepatitis B or C infections are not included in palliative care services and are, in effect, kicked to the curb due to lack of resources. (See *Death is a Social Justice Issue* or *Too Little Too Late*.)
- VicPD spends between \$1.35 to \$1.5 million on Administration of Justice charges with added costs incurred by the Crown Council. The federal government has advised against these types of warrants since 2015, Repeated FOI requests for data have been refused by VicPD suggesting a deliberate obfuscation of the practice going back to 2016. These charges have also been called out by members of police forces (SORCe.ca) as contributing nothing to the recidivism as they often are the consequences of poor organization skills, extreme poverty, mental illness and untreated health conditions such as the neurocognitive issues that result of a poorly demarcated health care system that is not meeting the WHO goals of HCV elimination by 2030. This type of service requires added knowledge translation and the reallocation of more resources for basic health care services.
- VicPD's ACT team is a closed shop. As a community member, and as a peer support volunteer and researcher for health services networks, I had tried to get on the ACT volunteer list as a student in practicum. Crisis intervention skills training is in constant demand for VicPD officers whereas other members of the community could contribute significantly to this capacity and capacity building. The effect on policing costs should be obvious, but the added cost reductions to health services should not be dismissed.
- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.

- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- - COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- - As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- - According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- - The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- - The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- - Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Recently, I was upset with the interference of the VicPD in the BIPOC artist mural calling for more justice and more peace. Silencing marginalized voices rather than listening to their valid concerns and making space for conversations about the police contribution to violence against Black and Brown bodies and lives directly upholds the systemic racism endemic in policing across the country. The mural did not incite any violence against the VicPD. "ACAB" is not directed at any one cop in particular, but at the system of policing that has taken away traditional governance of Indigenous peoples, forced Indigenous nations on to reserves and policed their behaviour, surveillance and incarceration of Black and Brown bodies at a rate that exceeds any other population in the country, among many other atrocities committed against Black and Brown bodies that threaten their safety.

I was disgusted that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park. The lack of mental health, housing, and basic human needs provided to unhoused communities is appalling. There are many examples of cities across the country and in the US that have supported community models that are far more effective than policing in reducing deaths from the ongoing opioid crisis and decreasing what is defined as crime while creating a space of community care. [There are many options](#) demonstrated in cities across Turtle Island to replace police in situations where they are not adequately trained and exacerbate crises.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Personal information

She / Her
Unceded Lək̓ʷəŋən & W̱SÁNEĆ Homelands
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Feedback for the 2021 Draft Budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am sending this email to specifically call for a freeze to the VicPD budget. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

My name **Personal information** been living in Victoria for the past 4 years. I was born and raised on Vancouver Island. I have worked in Victoria within the tourism, customer service, real estate and arts & culture sectors since 2007 and take pride in being a part of the community that is the Greater Victoria Region. I have attended Camosun College and access many services that this city offers including, but not limited to: the public library, transit, parks and recreational facilities and various health and community services.

I have been upset by the amount of increased police presence (and action) throughout the city during a global pandemic, as well as during a time when the general public are loudly voicing concerns toward indigenous and black communities and the need to value their lives. It was unnecessary that the VicPD needed to interfere in the IBPOC artists' mural calling for more justice and more peace, as this only reflected the lack of support the City wished to show for this cause. It was disturbing that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities. It saddens and frustrates me that the City of Victoria feels that during a global pandemic, as people are facing unemployment and serious health risks, it is necessary to put more money towards policing and not towards helping our communities.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, the VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

I am emailing to say that I am appalled at the proposition to increase funding for the Victoria police service by \$880,320. I think this money could make a huge difference if spent on community services for unhoused people and securing housing! People have been calling for defunding the police because we do not feel the police keep us safe! Community keeps people safe, we need to be investing in community services not state sanctioned violence! The fact that you are planning to raise property taxes on homes and business to increase police operations just does not make any sense! This year has been very difficult for most people financially and instead of supporting the community you are taking money away from the community to invest in a sector that is structurally racist and classist and does more to divide and harm the community than help.

I sincerely hope you reconsider,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived, worked and attended school in Victoria for the past five years. My name **Personal information** the privilege of saying that I have felt safe in this city and on this land while I have lived here.

This past year, however, my views on the way the city is run has been changed dramatically. I no longer feel safe knowing that this city relies on colonial conceptions of safety; surveillance. I was a participant at the demonstrations run at the Legislative Buildings in solidarity with the Indigenous youth and Wet'suwet'en peoples. This also means that I was a witness to police violence inflicted upon the 5 Indigenous youth who were arrested after a peaceful sit in. I did not feel safe when friends of mine were volunteering at Meegan (Beacon Hill Park) were showing the rest of the world what solidarity and community care looks like with the community supplies tent, only to be criminalized for the compassion they were showing to the houseless people in our community. I won't feel safe knowing that our city is less concerned with the input of the largest portion of its population (renters, 60%) than satisfying the needs of property owners and those concerned with Victoria's image to wealthy tourists (and what can they even contribute in a post-COVID reality?).

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Engagement; Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As you plan the upcoming budget, you can reduce the largest single item on the budget, not just to save money, but to improve quality of life in the city.

The police budget should not be increased, and in fact, it should be cut. The police budget is about 23% of the entire budget, which is massive because the second largest item is only 11%.

The police budget should be cut because it is not good value for money spent. Policing is a response to the symptoms of social issues, and money spent dealing with the causes of social issues would cost less and be more effective. Spending more money on policing is like hiring more firefighters because we can't afford smoke detectors.

The police budget should be cut, and some of the money saved should be spent on supportive social programs that deal with the root causes of issues that police have historically been tasked to deal with.

Thanks for your consideration

Personal information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Victoria BC 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hi there!

Just shooting you a quick email to say that **I definitely do not support increasing the police budget** by 1.5%. To be frank, it's a joke that Victoria has more police per 100,000 citizens than larger cities such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Edmonton (to name just a few).

Not only do I believe that the budget for the police department should not be increased, I believe that the city should commit to defunding the police department. Having lived in Victoria nearly my entire life, I was disgusted to see the violence and mistreatment at the hands of the police towards indigenous youth who were defending the rights to their land in January 2020. I was also outraged to see the defacing of the #blacklivesmatter mural in bastion square. Lastly, the fact that the city reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities in Topaz Park rather than engaging in conversations with these communities to determine how this money could have been used to directly support their needs *again* is an outright joke. Perhaps in divesting from the police the city can invest in educating city counsellors on design justice. Maybe then everyone will be able to get a clue as to how to go about helping communities they are not a part of.

Thank you for your time in reading this email.

Sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca ; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca ; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca ; Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca ; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca ; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

1. COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
2. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
3. According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
4. The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
5. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 1. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
1. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I hope this e-mail finds everybody safe during these stressful times. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I ask that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically marginalized, underfunded and ignored. If you wish to enact meaningful change and look after the people, this is a much surer way to do so.

It is disturbing that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and as we have tragically seen, puts their lives at risk.

If there is a true desire to make spaces safer for marginalized communities, if you truly want to do more than give lip service, instead of investing more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

Thank you for all the work you have done in creating a budget plan. However I do want to register a suggestion. I am questioning the priority of the doing the changes in the roadway at Douglas and Dallas in the 2021 budget. I think there is a more urgent and crucial need to shore up the bank below Dallas Road near Government which is badly eroding. Perhaps the money could be spent there instead because those cliffs are very important to maintain.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget decision of 5% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

As someone who has worked closely with unhoused communities for the past 15 years I can assure you that investments in affordable housing and community supports do far more to create change for vulnerable communities than increased policing. Truly, as someone who has worked in these communities in professional roles, I have seen first-hand the violence and harm that is inflicted in poor, vulnerable and racialized communities at the hands of police, specifically the Victoria Police Department. Over the years, VicPD has worked hard to re-brand themselves as essential workers and tried to assert their need to provide services along the lines of outreach and community mental health support. This approach does not work, and in fact, only further entraps folks in cycles of criminalization and poverty through increased surveillance and contact with police. Further, Victoria PD in particular has engaged in incredibly harmful and stigmatizing propaganda that frames people living with mental illness as dangerous to our communities in an attempt to maintain their relevance and act as though they are the only solution to the difficulties that we are facing.

As someone who is low-income myself, I have witnessed housing in Victoria increasingly become less and less affordable each year. Many of us who are housed and employed are simply one paycheque or renovation away from becoming unhoused ourselves. This precarity is absolutely unsustainable and detrimental to the long-term health of our community and city. It has been tragic to watch the housing crisis in Victoria expand year after year, and at the same time to witness VicPD continually eat up a lion's share of the budget while the city wrings its hands about affordable housing. Now is the time to re-prioritize and to finally give our communities and most vulnerable citizens the care and support they so deserve.

At a time when calls to defund the police have never been louder, the City of Victoria has an incredible opportunity to be a voice and beacon of change. I call on the City of Victoria, the Ministers of Public Safety, the Police Boards and the Provincial Government to immediately freeze the Victoria Police Department budget and make immediate investments in community services and affordable housing.

Sincerely,
Personal information

Registered Social Worker
resident, city of 'victoria'
on the unceded & illegally occupied territories of the Lkwungen people

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

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unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your time

Personal information

Pronouns: They/Theirs

I acknowledge that I am an uninvited settler on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territories of the Lkwungen-speaking people, now known as the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ First Nations and acknowledge that it is through colonization that I live, work, learn, and create on these lands. I am working on understanding what my presence on these lands means and do the work I need to do in order to move towards decolonization and reconciliation

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
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transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--

Personal information

Stage Manager, Technician, Technical Designer

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived in Greater Victoria since 2010 and downtown Victoria since 2013. I work in James Bay and spend most of my time--and income--in downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods. I use and am grateful for many of the great services and spaces the City of Victoria provides. As a pedestrian, I am especially grateful for recent traffic calming and active transportation measures in my neighbourhood, Harris Green.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding the VicPD budget be frozen so limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am distraught by how Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including New Westminster and the City of Vancouver, which recently [voted to freeze](#) police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%.
- **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it oppresses and harasses our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. I have also been disturbed by the way the VicPD has treated Indigenous youth demonstrating for their rights and the way the department publicly attacked BIPOC youth for a public art piece, discounting their lived experiences.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
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Personal information

Sent from my iPhone

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

2020 has been an eye opening year for all of us. I am a hairstylist here in Victoria BC for the last 6 years. I noticed that recently the vicpd had purchased a large tank-like vehicle and made me interested in the spending decisions. Also there is an increasing homelessness problem that doesn't seem to be getting much attention or funding for solutions.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

I oppose the proposal to remove the paving between Mile 0 and the soccer field in Beacon Hill Park.

My reasons are due to both budgetary and heritage conservation considerations. The budgetary side is that benefit is not worth the cost.

But also, that stretch of road is a reminder of the racetrack that pre-dated the park itself and was one of the main reasons that Beacon Hill Park was created. I like seeing that little stretch of curved road. We should put up an interpretive sign for it, not eliminate it.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
NAME or ALIAS

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:58 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good evening,

I'm writing to you from the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt people, as a resident of this city for the past twenty years.

I'd like to share my observations and thoughts with you regarding the proposed 2021 City of Victoria budget. The first pertains to the Police budget and its tone deafness to the current trends in social consciousness. All of the City of Victoria's strategic priorities are better served by funding programmes at the community level. None are well served by increasing police presence. In fact, many priorities are undermined by involving the police. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's that prevention is key. Increased police presence does not keep us safe.

The Strategic Plan Goals of the Vic PD department (City of Victoria Draft Financial Plan 2021, p. 581) list "FIGHT crime" before "PREVENT crime". It is a shame to see that the Patrol Division budget is nearly five times the budget of the Community Services Unit and nearly 10 times the budget of the Community Engagement Unit.

I'd also like to note that the overtime spending for the Patrol Unit was over \$1,000,000 in 2019. In 2020, the budget was \$800,000, though we don't have the total amount spent yet. The 2021 budget for overtime is up by 12.5%. I urge you to reflect on whether or not this overtime was absolutely necessary.

I attended the demonstration in support of the Wet'suwet'en and watched online as countless police attended a non-violent demonstration. I saw more police present at that event than I have seen at many a New Year's Eve event where thousands of drunk and rowdy people are in attendance. I would urge the Victoria Police to spend more money on cultural education led by Indigenous and BIPOC people and to reflect on whether they are responding proportionately to the actual level of threat.

I urge you to focus on **Prevention over Policing**.

The second pertains to budget items that do not appear to reflect reality, namely conference and travel costs. By my quick calculations, the 2021 budget includes nearly half a million dollars in conference and travel costs. This seems ridiculous in a time when non-essential travel has been limited by the Provincial Health Officer and when everyone is using web-based meeting software. Indeed, conference attendance has increased across the board because more people are able to attend due to the fact that they no longer need to spend money on travel.

I thought that perhaps the spending on conferences and travel had decreased in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, but many departments showed an increase from 2019. It does seem that half a million dollars might be better spent on more urgent public needs.

To tie these two issues together, I observe that in the Police budget specifically the proposed Conference/Travel budget for the following groups has increased: Public Affairs (p.592) up by 25%; Community Programs (p.596) up by 20%; Finance, Purchasing and Supplies (p.609) up by 50%.

I do not believe the increase in these aspects of the budget are warranted. I urge you to reflect on these requests. Instead of increasing the police budget, consider funding community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural

programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:57 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 BUDGET

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

0% INCREASE. Taxpayers are tired of increases.

You are elected or employed to run the City please adjust the budget. Can't get a NIL increase? Then a solution is to fire you.

SOLUTIONS? Well, perhaps reduce the Transfer to Reserves.

FOLLOW UP. I don't think you will accept my thoughts so I don't expect to hear from you.

GOOD LUCK.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:45 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I was born and raised in this city, and for the majority of my life was blissfully unaware of the privilege I carry in being white, middle class, and cis-gender. Through the educative work of countless activists, I am now aware that many people in our community have reasons to feel unsafe in the increased presence of police officers' whose lingering purpose is still to uphold the colonial ideals founded in white supremacy. People are tired of performative allyship and empty statements. VicPD cannot have its budget increased if we still aim to move away from these oppressive practices. Consider the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback: Calling to freeze the Vic PD Budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin

meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helms' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 6:56 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** been a settler on WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen-speaking territories for approximately 3 years. During this time, I have witnessed many inexcusable actions by the Victoria Police Department. For example, the arresting and subsequent hours-long detention of 5 Indigenous youth after a peaceful sit in. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

Personal information

From:

Sent:

To: Engagement

Subject: 2021 budget priorities

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

1) clean up grafitti

2) repave/fix potholes in streets

3) clean up Beacon Hill Park

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S9.

Rob Gordon

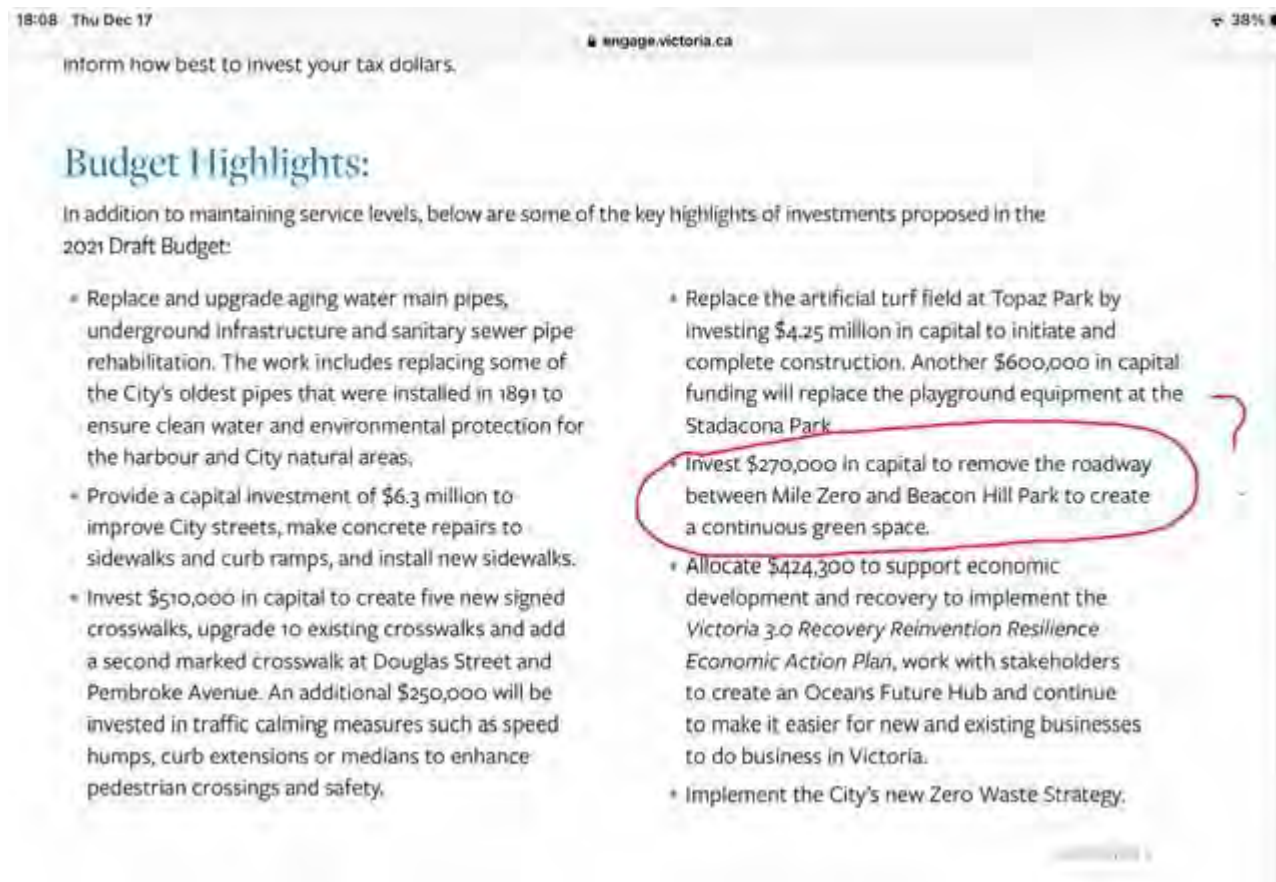
From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Re: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:12 [Personal information](#)

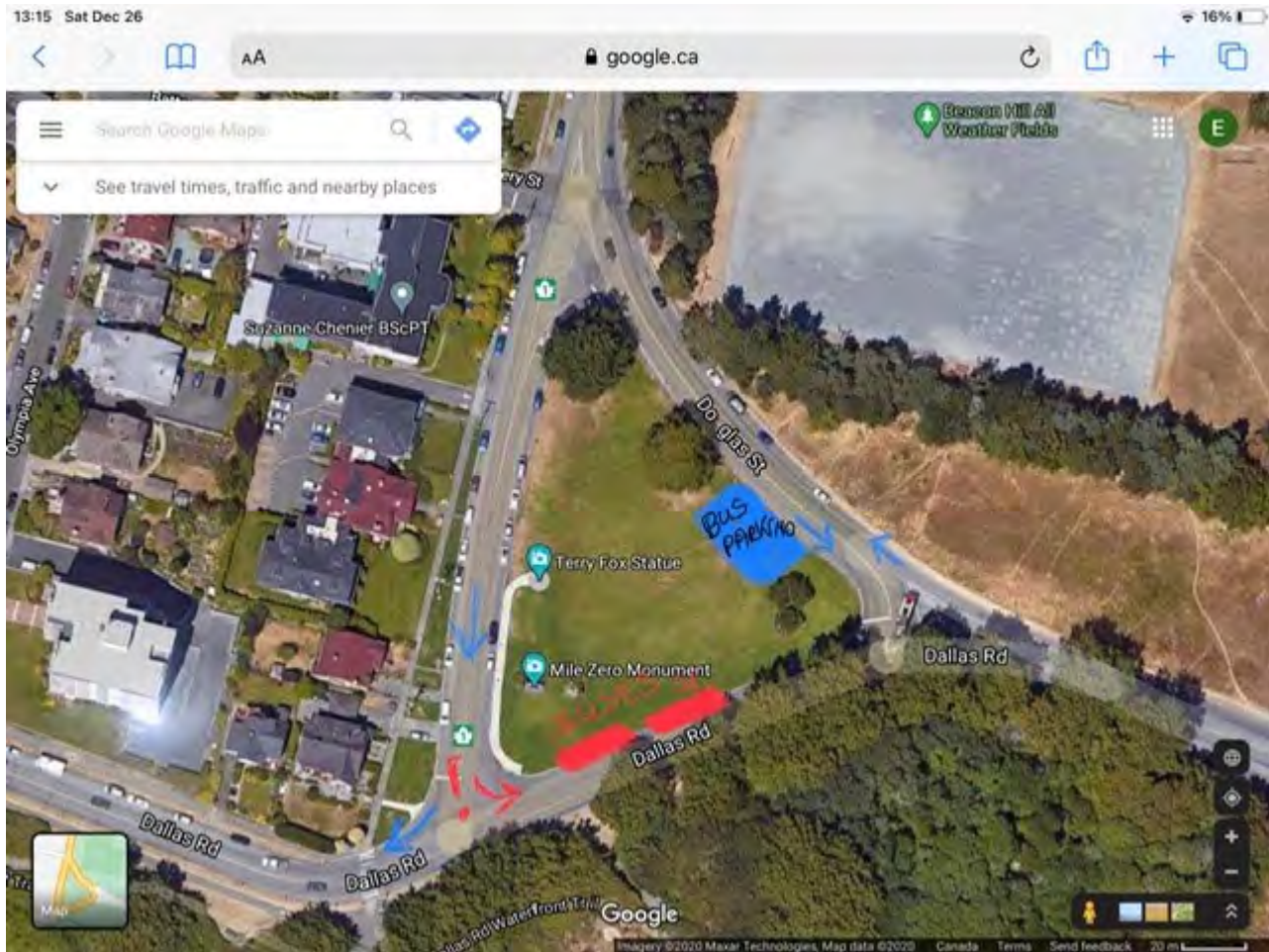
wrote:

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you to bring to your attention, a project that I read in the City's budget highlights. You can see it in the photo below circled in red. I will explain my concerns below the first photo.



As you can see in the second photo below, is a satellite map of the area in question. At the moment on both parts of Douglas there's two way traffic and it works pretty well except for the traffic going towards the ocean on Douglas - the side next to the buildings- needing to turn left which face very poor visibility.



Another problem is the tourist buses that used to park on Douglas before but which now park on Dallas, as noted on the map in red, which further reduce visibility.

If the city closes down the part of Douglas which is the curve around Beacon Hill Park, I have the following questions:

1. How would this in any way increase the green space in any significant and meaningful manner, when we already have a whole park and a lot of green areas along the ocean?
2. In what way would it be beneficial for traffic?
3. In what way would it be of any benefit to anyone to justify the expenditure?

In my humble opinion if this goes through it will:

1. Reduce good traffic flow existing today. Most cars and bicycles coming from the East on Dallas that want to go downtown turn on that curve! That is the most natural way for traffic to flow to downtown.
2. Increase traffic on the side of Douglas next to the buildings, all of which are multi residential serving about 85 residents. With less than 20 functional parking spaces in the back of one of those buildings, the need for street parking is imperative. How will a two way traffic with tourist buses to boot work there? That means that to help traffic flow the street parking along the green

will have to end. That means even less parking available!

3. It will increase traffic congestion, increase accident risk for those turning left on Dallas as the traffic on Dallas will increase since the Douglas curve will be blocked.

I propose instead that:

1. The Douglas road - curve along the park- remain open and functional as is.
2. That the part of Douglas - along the buildings - becomes one-way only, that is downwards to the ocean and with only right turn.
3. That a new parking area for the buses is created instead - marked in blue on the map - that will allow maximum two buses to park there for a maximum of 30'.
4. That no buses are allowed to park where they now do, in the area marked red on the map.

Thank you for your attention!

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

My input relates to the proposal of a 1.5% increase to the 2021 Victoria Police Budget; as a citizen of Victoria, BC, I ask that there be a decrease (or freeze) on the current police budget.

Thank you,

Personal information

James Bay, V8V 1E6

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear City of Victoria staff and Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide my feedback on the 2021 draft budget. I understand that budgeting for 2021 is a challenging task with the significant decrease in revenue experienced by the city as a result of COVID-19. These challenges will require that you make more fiscally responsible decisions, especially in working with a 0% tax increase.

With this said, I am concerned to see a proposed increase of 1.5% to the VicPD budget, when other areas of the city's budget are being cut (e.g., planning, engineering and public works etc.). I recognize that this is a small increase compared to previous years, but the continuous increases to the police budget every year are very alarming, given what we know about how police disproportionately target Victoria's most marginalized community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and put their lives at risk.

In the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and defund police forces across the country, **I do not support an increase to the VicPD budget and call you to take the [City of Vancouver's lead by freezing the 2021 budget](#) at 2020 levels**, while you continue to work with community on ways to direct funding to preventative, culturally-appropriate, compassionate and community-based alternatives for dealing with mental health, substance use and poverty. I also urge you to ensure that **any work done to develop alternatives to policing DO NOT include the VicPD**. I am aware they are becoming involved in the development of an alternative response model, and I want to warn you that any VicPD involvement in such an endeavor will alienate the community you need to make any alternative initiative successful and actually do what it is meant to do.

I recognize that, as a result of the pandemic, mental health, substance use and poverty have become more visible in our city and there are certain residents that feel that police presence is needed to improve public safety. First of all, this is not a good reason to increase the police budget when **we already have more police per capita than another other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people**. Secondly, responding to these challenges with an increased police presence is a reactive band-aid solution to broader systemic issues that require our immediate attention. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of Indigenous, Black and folks of colour in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for EVERYONE by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. I

am calling on you to do as much as you can do **to build more affordable housing, especially for those who are deemed "very low income", or at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.** I am calling on you to take meaningful steps towards supporting those in our community who need our compassion, more than ever.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Lekwungen Territory

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello

I sent a question this morning and have since learned that the full budget document (which is not accessible) does include the Accessibility Reserve. I find it rather ironic that the only accessible document does not include information that would be most relevant to persons with disabilities. If the summary is to only give some information, then I would request that the full document also be made available in an accessible format. Please withdraw my earlier question and include the following question instead.

I am a screen reader user who has a seeing disability. The accessible summary document does not include information regarding the Accessibility Reserve. I have been told that the full document does include this information and a sighted peer has informed me that only \$17,000 of the 1.5 million reserve is to be transferred out in 2021. Many accessibility concerns raised by the Accessibility Working Group in the past five and a half years were deferred to the Accessibility Framework. Given that the Accessibility Framework and Short Term Action Plan was adopted in November 2020, I am concerned that so little of the reserve funds are to be used in 2021. What accessibility improvements does the \$17,000 include? Have departments included accessibility improvements identified in the Action Plan in their operating budgets and therefore do not plan to use reserve funds? If so, please explain what these are as I cannot access the information.

Please acknowledge receipt of this message and that my questions will be asked.

Regards

Personal information

V8T 2J5

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a resident of Victoria, BC and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

For the last 5 years I was living out of province completing my degree in International Development, Gender Studies, and Indigenous Studies. As such, much of my academic study centered around critical analysis of various forms of systemic oppression, particularly racism, gender-based violence, and colonial violence. The Vic PD has upheld and reinforced these axes of oppression time and time again. Just in the last year, I was horrified when over 30 armed VicPD officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in January 2020; outraged when the VicPD arrested 5 Indigenous youth after a peaceful sit in, and detained them for hours. I was appalled by the recent interference of the VicPD in IBPOC artists' mural calling for more justice and more peace in our community. Any one of these instances of blatant racism, and abuses of force and power are unacceptable, and this pattern of behaviour is far from new or noteworthy.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This is my question for the Budget Town Hall on January 13

On October 1 2020, Council approved an Accessibility Framework, Short Term Action Plan and an Accessibility and Inclusion Policy.

The Policy states,

- Through the annual financial planning process, staff will identify resources required to advance accessibility actions, including potential trade-offs address priorities for Council consideration.**
- Capital planning will incorporate equity considerations as long-term investments to support accessibility and inclusion.**
- Annual service planning by all City departments will include the priorities and initiatives adopted in the Council approved Short Term Action Plan pending availability of financial resources.**

Yet, I am unable to find any of this in the draft Financial Plan. There are no budget requests for the items in the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan or description of capital projects to address longstanding physical barriers.

Question: How is Council to make decisions about priority and trade-offs, according to the Policy, when it is not being asked to make decisions on funding the work in the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan, in which every item is said to be subject to availability of resources?

I am also submitting what will fit in the form on the 2021 Budget engagement page. I could submit a 3 minute video or speak for 3 minutes, and yet the limit of 400 words for submitting a question is much more restricted. When I read my question, it takes 28 seconds. Why the disparity? It feels inequitable. The question will not make much sense to residents without the background I included above.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:43 AM
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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my total dismay at the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.** Most importantly, **we need to be equipping communities with the resources to provide for their own safety and wellbeing, not throwing money at a police department with a track record of unsolicited violence and harassment of racialized minorities, the unhoused, and those living with mental illnesses.**

In 2017, Michael Regis of the UVIC School of Public Administration published a report titled [**Policing in Greater Victoria: A Study in Addressing the Gaps in Engaging Greater Victoria's Diverse Communities.**](#) It has been consistently ignored by the Police Board despite containing incredibly troubling evidence of blatant police misconduct, and worse. Here are some excerpts:

- ***Profiling and over-surveillance were consistent themes within the findings of Muslim, Aboriginal and African-Caribbean groups of this project. They indicated that African-Caribbean residents feel that they are unjustly targeted, stopped, ticketed and maltreated by the GVP and are profiled at a greater rate than any other race.... Similarly, the findings indicated that Aboriginal residents of Greater Victoria are regularly profiled by the GVP because of their race and regardless of criminal history. This is highlighted within the literature which indicates that Aboriginal people are stopped by police, overcharged, detained, held without bail and sentenced to jail at a far greater rate than any other racial group in Canada. (p. 70)***
- ***One participant mentioned that her son is regularly targeted and stopped by the Greater Victoria Police even though he is not involved in crime. Her son is scared to leave his home because he hates being pulled over so frequently. He is a construction worker and is regularly stopped as he is walking home from work, even though he has his construction tool belt and work clothes on. She stated that officers are rude to her son and do not offer him a rational reason for being stopped. In another experience, her son was stopped by officers after buying a drink at a corner store. An officer grabbed his drink without asking and smelled it to see if there was alcohol in it. (p. 33)***
- ***A young adult participant shared an experience of going out for ice cream in Victoria with one of her friends late at night. She noted that neither she nor her friend looked rough or suspicious in their appearance. She stated that when walking down the street, the police drove by and looped back around, stopping in the middle of the road near where they were standing. One officer looked over at the participant and asked her for her name while ignoring her friend who is white. The participant disclosed her name and the officer looked at her and responded with a cocky "ok" while slowly driving away. The participant was dismayed that they did not ask her white friend for her name, or disclose why he stopped both of them. She felt that the experience ruined her night and is confused why the***

police of Greater Victoria always think she is up to something sinister. The participant mentioned that she is consistently stopped by the GVP for no apparent reason other than being African-Caribbean. (p. 38)

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." **Action would look like divesting millions from the VicPD and investing in affordable, public housing, for example.** But instead, **I am appalled that the city I have called home my entire life would prefer to invest more money in the police force which has worsened conditions for those living unhoused in this unaffordable city.** The confiscation of personal belongings on Pandora St earlier this year and the removal of crowdfunded showers from Beacon Hill in November were horrific and should have led to consequences for VicPD. However, these events are sadly consistent with the way law enforcement rolls in this city and I am dismayed that municipal government continues to be complicit.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most marginalized community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

VicPD have proved themselves completely incapable of being attuned to inclusive community safety and wellbeing. **Why on earth does VicPD own a militarized vehicle, essentially a tank, which cost \$320,000?** According to the police [statistics made available by the provincial government](#), VicPD in 2019 alone:

- threatened to shoot 119 people;
- threatened 24 people with 'extended range impact weapons';
- shot 12 more people not included in the stats above (including a woman who was shot and killed on Christmas Day by three projectiles in the back of the head and neck);
- threatened to taze at least 41 people;
- tazed 14 more people;
- threatened to pepper spray 10 people;
- pepper sprayed 18 more people;
- threatened 52 people with police dogs and had the dogs bite at least 4 people.

At the very least the VicPD budget should be frozen so that precious municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to much more beneficial community services. **I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate the single biggest piece of the budget pie to the VicPD. From a purely financial perspective, this is preposterous** for numerous reasons, including the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure -- 23% of the City's total operational budget** is absurd
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget,**

allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

Please reflect on this and use your power to create a safer, more inclusive city for all by immediately freezing the VicPD budget and beginning to divest resources from police in favour of productive, nonviolent community services.

Sincerely
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Budget 2021
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Engage Victoria, Mayor and Council, Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board,
Considering the knowledge that Victoria is on unceded territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt nations and that Victoria, British Columbia, and Canada as institutions are founded on colonial control and cultural genocide as determined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there are a few aspects of the 2021 draft budget for the City of Victoria that are highly concerning to me.
First, considering the above and the fact that Victoria has committed to work towards 'reconciliation' and relationships with local nations, I am concerned with the fact that the Draft Financial Plan neglects to substantially address Indigenous sovereignty or engagement with Indigenous nations. While COVID-19 undoubtedly had a drastic impact on the City's finances, the City has a clear responsibility to consider the redistribution of stolen land and wealth by including nation-to-nation engagement as an important part of the 2021 budget.
Additionally, I want to express my deep concern with the proposed 1.5% increase to the VicPD. By increasingly funding the police in each budget, the City is deprioritizing the health and safety of those most vulnerable. Increased funding of police systems and bylaw enforcement is a highly expensive and clearly ineffective way to address homelessness, poverty, substance use, and community mental health concerns. I am asking that there is a freeze to the 2021 VicPD police budget, and further funding allocated towards alternatives to police systems. A city budget, 23% of which goes to policing, is not an equitable budget that is focused on reconciliation and relationships with local nations, but rather one that prioritizes the politics and desires of those with land, money, and power. Please freeze the VicPD police budget.
Finally, I am highly concerned with the fact that the 2021 budget has a decreased budget for affordable housing. As an outreach worker in the field of harm reduction for the past 8 years, two of which have been in Victoria, I have seen first hand the desperate need for access to housing for seniors, Indigenous people, youth, and others who are experiencing homelessness. While housing is often passed off as provincial jurisdiction, the City has an innate responsibility to address this need immediately by allocating a significant portion of its budget to solving the problem, and doing so with guidance from local nations so as to not further colonial control of unceded territory.
By freezing or reducing the VicPD budget, funds could easily be allocated towards affordable housing and community-based support systems. I am asking that we reflect our values in the 2021 budget and instead of investing in further forms of colonial control and criminalization of vulnerable populations, that we freeze the VicPD budget and instead invest in community needs.

Thank you for your time

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Not responsive
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- -COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
-
- -As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
-
- -According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
-
- -The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
-
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 - -In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
-
- -Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: "2021 Draft Budget Feedback"

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello

Firstly I would like to thank the City for providing an accessible version of the budget summary. I was unable however to register to participate in the on line survey as this process was not accessible. I also tried to fill in the form to submit a question for the budget townhall next Wednesday and this was also not accessible so I am submitting my question in this email. Please confirm receipt and that my question will be asked.

Question:

In the budget summary there is a section outlining reserves. The Accessibility Reserve is not mentioned. I would like to know what has happened to this fund. It appears to be no longer in existence. If this is the case, does the City not anticipate any further accessibility spending or has it now been anticipated in annual departmental budgets? How has the \$1,000,000 plus that has been put into this reserve over the past five years been spent? I recall that there was a significant amount left reported during last year's budget process.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 9:57 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Horgan.MLA, John; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Proposed Budget Feedback [NO POLICE INCREASE]
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, may not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear **Elected** Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen and the limited municipal resources be more appropriately allocated to groups that are restorative and uplifting rather than violent and punitive, especially for communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a VicPD budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- **As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.**
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget**

In addition, I believe that the City's Consolidated Financial Plan to increase the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years **should be cancelled**.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use the power entrusted in you by us, your constituents, to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:36 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: POLICE FUNDING

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Instead of increasing the VICPD fund, I believe we should be putting our money and time into helping the homeless population. Having mental health nurses at the frontline would be the most beneficial. A majority of people living on the streets are using because of undiagnosed mental health issues or growing up in a unstable household. Helping rather than hurting those who need it most!

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:30 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As a resident in Victoria for the past 15 years, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget. The VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I am calling for appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to take action.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or [freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operating budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD.**
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and culture, and **\$10.7 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing. **By 2023 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget of 1.5%.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to diversify the City's revenue base.** Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racial violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted communities: people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transitional housing, and support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnership with the community and **increasing the VicPD budget.**

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with the community.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information



ReplyForward

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 7:02 PM
To: Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I have lived in Victoria my whole life and have seen this city grow in numerous ways, giving me hope for the future, however after seeing that the municipal budget to the VicPD is increasing instead of decreasing or staying the same after everything that has happened this year, is more than a little heartbreaking and frankly appalling. As a Canadian and Victorian citizen and just a human being in general I believe that there are better and more productive ways of keeping our world and community safe and just. Giving more support to the police department is not one of those ways, especially in society's current state.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Some heartfelt feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, elected officials, governing people:

Hello, and thanks in advance for your time. You might notice that this resembles lots of emails that come in, that is because I copied & pasted from an activist's instagram. I have made many edits where my personal opinions shine through and hope that you will read this thoroughly. It comes from a sincere place <3

After years of living here, and finally becoming involved with local politics in 2020, I don't like the things I see on instagram. The Vic PD account is scary. Activists are angry, tired & grumpy. It sucks and it's scary for everyone involved.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed increase in the VicPD budget. Freeze it. Lower it. These resources belong to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

Why?

-COVID19.

-Vancouver froze their budget. What are we doing out here? Why?

-We spend more on our hard working cops than anyone else in Canada, if I'm correctly informed. This to me is the main red flag, and what has prompted me to write my first ever politically charged email. The patterns I've identified in budget allocation looks symptomatic of something I've learned about in Let's Know Things, an amazing podcast which increases knowledge and spreads rationality. One episode speaks to how police unions can slowly, almost accidentally or seemingly as a matter of natural course - cost the people more and more as pressure slowly increases. I think a truly brave, knowledgeable, rational government would know what to do here. I have faith that we can agree that safety is the true goal, and that police have a smaller, not larger part than the more 'privileged' among us are willing to admit.

Freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

"Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city."

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, let's fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

Sincerely, lovingly,

Personal information

PS I don't know if it's common to hear back from these kinds of email threads, but I'm listening, and I want to know why we proposed this increase. Please reply to me :)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Geoff Young (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Engagement
Subject: Proposed - Mile O green space
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

January 8th, 2021

Dear Mayor Helps and respected councillors,

I would like to start by saying that I am a proud Victorian, born and raised. I live in James Bay near Dallas Rd. I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in an amazing city and a beautiful neighbourhood. I am writing to you all to bring up an issue that has me troubled. In your Budget Summary for 2021 I noticed bullet point number five;

"Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile O and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space."

I must say, the removal of that road would be ill advised. Here are my reasons:

- 1.) It is my understanding that the section of road you are proposing to remove is part of Circle Drive. If I am not mistaken that was once a race track in the 1800's. Would that not make it historically significant? Are you planning on re-naming that road as it would no longer be circular? In a city rich with history, with an affinity to try and protect and maintain that history, it seems odd you would disregard this portion of Victoria as not being important enough to protect.
- 2.) As a close resident of the area in question, I can say with all honesty that the road you're hoping to remove is by and large the more used road by motorists going north and south on Douglas St. Why is that? For starters, if you're driving south towards Dallas Rd it is much easier and safer to turn left as you have perfect sight lines in both directions. Motorists heading west on Dallas can easily follow the curve of the park and head up north on Douglas, instead of having to turn right at the Mile O sign and drive up the hill. Those who drive that area regularly know that to turn left onto Dallas from the other Douglas Rd is particularly difficult as it is a T intersection with no line of sight for vehicles travelling east on Dallas Rd. It is quite common to see motorists slam on their brakes who are turning left off Douglas because a vehicle comes whipping around that blind corner too fast.
- 3.) One issue that may have been overlooked is the tourist bus industry, who ferry sightseers to Mile O and the Terry Fox Monument regularly in the spring and summer months. Currently buses are able to park along Dallas Rd near Mile O facing west. Buses travelling south on Douglas to Dallas Rd can easily use the left jog of Douglas to safely turn right onto Dallas and park at their designated spot. Upon departure they may continue west along Dallas or they can turn right onto Douglas St and head back north from where they came. Effectively, they are using the roads exactly how it's designed, like a triangle. I ask you, if you remove a portion of that triangle, how do the buses reach their stop? It seems to me there are only two options. The first would be any bus travelling south on Douglas

would have to turn at the Watering Can and connect onto "Circle Drive", pass the petting zoo and the totem pole before exiting on Dallas Rd. Seems simple enough. My only argument is that increasing the volume of buses by hundreds through a park that is supposed to be geared towards pedestrians seems a bit counterproductive. More buses, more noise and more pollution through a park seems wrong. So, the other option I can think of is having the buses heading farther east to Cook St. There they can travel through Cook St Village, past a kid's playground and towards Dallas Rd to turn right. I'm pretty sure the residents of Cook St and Cook St Village would have something to say if hundreds more buses were driving south towards Dallas Rd for the same reasons going through the park is a bad idea. More noise, more pollution. So I ask again, what about the tour buses?

4.) Another issue that will arise if that road is removed is parking. There are currently up to 12 parking spots along that stretch of road along the park side. Some spots are used by visitors from time to time who are either visiting the park or someone in the neighbourhood. Some of those spots are used by care workers who work at nearby senior homes, Amica being the closest one. Even the odd camper can be seen parked there for a day or two. Regardless of who is using it, they are much needed spots. In an area that is already sparse of parking, taking away those would put added pressure on the surrounding residents. Those parking spots are very important to those who use them regularly.

5.) At the moment when travelling south on Douglas the road forks at Battery St. One veers left towards Dallas Rd while the other continues straight down towards Dallas Rd past the monuments. At that fork is a large painted median or "island". Delivery trucks who deliver goods and food to Amica, the assisted senior living complex on Douglas use that island to park and unload. They are off the road and do not block line of site to any motorists traveling by. They park there because Amica does not have a commercial parking zone on Douglas, nor on Battery or Niagara St. Amica relies on that median for its deliveries. Removing the road and altering Douglas to be just one straight road would eliminate that median. So where do the delivery trucks park? Sounds like Amica's problem. A problem you will have created for them.

6.) This last point really hits home for me, as it directly affects me. There are currently over 100 people living on the first block of Douglas St in 4 different rental properties, myself being one of them. Right now we enjoy the relative peace and quiet from the traffic that go by these properties. That is in large part due to the fact most traffic takes the other leg of Douglas. That other road, the road you're hoping to remove, truly gives us a reprieve. Taking that away will mean all the traffic will be coming and going out front of our buildings all the time. More noise, more pollution, more traffic. Half will be heading south towards a T intersection that is already very difficult to turn left at. But they won't have a choice. All the other traffic travelling north up Douglas off of Dallas will have to accelerate up the hill, because they won't have a choice. Meanwhile, us residents will have to endure that added traffic and noise because we won't have a choice. It seems a bit unfair.

Now, I am not naive. I am aware that proposed alterations at Mile O have been ongoing well before I was even born. I am aware that the James Bay Neighbourhood Association, led by Marg Gardner, have been working hard for years to make their own alterations come to fruition. All come from a place of good intentions. But in reality, that small stretch of road is truly essential. To remove it so as to create a continuous green space and connect Beacon Hill Park with the Mile O greens, in an area that is already rich in green space, seems a bit near sighted. I understand the need by many to have better accessibility into the park. I feel that with additional sidewalks/paths on Douglas and Dallas on the park side, along with a few more lighted crosswalks could solve a lot of problems and promote traffic calming. It would also be a lot more cost effective than what you are proposing.

I'll finish with this. In your budget summary you state that because of the pandemic funds are much tighter. On that basis alone it seems weird that it is even on the budget for this year? It seems like those funds could be used elsewhere on more pressing projects. Until our economy recovers it seems irresponsible to spend that kind of money at a time like this on a project that in my opinion would create more problems than solve. I am more than happy to speak to anyone within the Engineering and Public Works department, or a council person or even the mayor herself to offer up my 2 cents on what should be done in regards to this project and offer up other solutions on how to connect Beacon Hill Park and Mile O effectively.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I look forward to reply.

Sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Yours sincerely

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: Budget consultation - decrease VicPD's budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Victoria City Council and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As you consider your options for the upcoming municipal budget, please consider freezing or decreasing the VicPD budget. When everyone else in Victoria is struggling and every other municipal department is facing restraint I cannot fathom how you could support a single penny more spent on the already inflated VicPD budget.

VicPD already takes by far the largest portion of the municipal budget - and VicPD already has more officers per capita than any other municipality in the entire country with more than 100,000 people.

COVID-19 is requiring everyone to make financially responsible decisions. VicPD should not be an exception. If Chief Del Manak can't figure out how to manage a budget just like everyone else, he is failing at his job. There are plenty of courses at Camosun College on fiscal management - I would support a one time budget line to help pay for his tuition fees if that would help.

Municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze or decrease the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Sincerely
Personal information

--


Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Let's talk about housing!

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Mayor and Council:

Or rather - based on the paltry sums dedicated to affordable housing, or housing of any kind, that are contained in the draft budget I can only presume that you in fact DON'T want to talk about housing. This is despite the fact that how difficult it is to obtain and retain decent, affordable housing routinely comes in as a top concern in the Victoria Vital Signs report. In fact as you can see in the image below this indicator has been drifting lower each and every year (from page 7 of https://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Victoria-Vital-Signs-Main-Report_FINAL-Aug-24.pdf)

GRADING SUMMARY

- The 2020 overall Quality of Life grade is B.
- Although the five point scale was adjusted to include 13 grades, some increases and decreases may reflect this change in measurement.

Key Issue Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Arts and Culture	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Belonging and Engagement	B-	B-	B	B-	B -	B -	B -
Economy	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-	B-	B-
Environmental Sustainability	B-	B	B	B-	B	B	B
Getting started in our community	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-
Health and Wellness	B	B	B	B-	B-	B-	B-
Housing	C	C	C	C-	C-	C-	C-
Learning	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B
Safety	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sports and Recreation	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Standard of Living	B	C+	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+
Transportation	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+

I would like you to consider the following changes to the draft budget to make more funds available for affordable housing as well as for providing the basic levels of sanitation/hygiene and other services that should be freely on offer to those currently sheltering in our parks due to COVID-19 forcing them out of shelters:

- Do NOT re-allocate the Late Night Task Force money back to the VicPD allocation but rather keep it to address homeless supports (page 136)
- Increase property tax by 3.5% (rather than the 1.75% proposed) and put the additional \$2.5 million this will generate into getting people out of tents into something like tiny homes or Conestoga huts while they wait for more suitable housing to be constructed
- Do not move \$3,517,740 to a contingency reserve account for unspecified emergencies (pages 547-548) but rather use this money to work on providing affordable housing for people throughout Victoria immediately whether by using this money for rent supplements or using other approaches

I would urge you to be bold in these difficult times. What lessons can we learn from other jurisdictions and organizations? For example, Chef Jose Andres of World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org/>) has brought chefs together across America to address COVID (and other disaster) related hunger. He has turned his restaurants into community kitchens. The Red Cedar initiative in Victoria is great but we need to expand on that and see how we can diversify it into other sectors.

I will close with a link to a video of Al, an unhoused person currently sheltering in Beacon Hill park, reciting a poem he wrote about the deplorable state of housing ... in 1998.

Personal information

Personal information

Victoria, BC V8S 4C1

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board Members,

As someone who has lived in Victoria for nearly my entire life, I feel strongly about doing my part to make this city the best it can be for all who live here. As such, I am writing to say that I vehemently oppose any increase in budget to the Victoria Police Department, as proposed in the 2021 Draft Budget.

A 1.5% increase may seem inconsequential, but this money is desperately needed elsewhere, and there is no reason that a department that already gets such a high portion of the total operational budget should be given even more resources. In fact, given the research showing that police in Canada disproportionately kill Black and Indigenous people, police departments should be given MUCH LESS funding (sources: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform-custom/deadly-force>; updated with 2020 data: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/fatalpoliceencounters/>). The numbers in these reports are not accidents or coincidental; they show racism at work. Mayor Helps said on June 3, 2020 that “Each of us must stand up and call out racism of any sort, anywhere, and anytime, each and every time we witness it. We must have those hard conversations. We must truly listen when people share their experiences of racism in Victoria.” If you had done the “listening” and “learning” that you said you would do, you would know that this action, of NOT increasing the police budget, is the absolute least that must be done.

These funds could instead be used (for example) to provide much needed support to the houseless people in Victoria who are so often vulnerable to the police themselves, who are, as well, facing winter weather AND the COVID-19 pandemic. As a society, we stigmatize poverty and use the police to do it. It does not have to be this way.

This money, and future funds designated for the police, could be used for profound change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Personal
information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Sincerely,
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good morning....thank you for the opportunity to again weigh in on your proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. This will be year #3 whereby I have requested a thorough (core) review of city services to ensure (a) we are only delivering on what is needed (b) we are providing services in the most cost effective manner (c) all managers are aggressively looking at ways to ensure budget dollars are not wasted.

Some observations for your consideration which absolutely require a review to allow for my points above to be implemented...

- street sweeping achieves little as parked cars don't allow for curbs to be cleaned. Weeds grow/asphalt breaks/potholes materialize. But yet no one changes that model. Sweeping the centre of any road is wasteful but year after year you continue
- why does a corner near my home have four street signs?. One on each corner! Cannot one post accommodate two signs and that be sufficient. What cost for materials and installation could be saved?
- a recent lament to one of your supervisors (sic) over a 40 minute coffee break of his crew was met with a dismissive attitude.
- why does city crewed work take so long to complete? Witness a 5 month project on Higgins Street several months ago.....a project which would have taken weeks as per a private contractor's estimate. Similar lengthy timeframes on traffic light installs on Cook at Haultain and Cook and Princess. A 2 1/2 day project on my street last year with crews disappearing at 1:30 on a Friday with work still not done
- why do five men pick up my garbage when Saanich has one? I can roll my cans back into the yard but apparently staff have to roll it out....logic please?

So, my questions remain, given the above noted examples of questionable productivity and lack of judgement.....

- what are senior managers paid to do if not examine methods of cost savings
- why does a budget have to begin with any increase? I managed a small Crown Corp for 16 years and had one increase to my budget. Never would I have thought to ask for more each year. And I returned a surplus in all but one of those years. Guess what...we did without. We changed procedures / processes / worked harder.

With 55% of Victorians renting, I guess they don't get a tax bill. I get one every year and am tired of increases without a corresponding increase / improvement / excellence in delivery of services.

Have courage. ... eliminate items like poets and artists, contract out more and get value for dollar, examine everything you do and be serious in making Victoria a great place to live.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts. A reply specific to my comments would be welcomed. Don't reply if its a form letter. :).

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello Mayor, Council, engagement staff and others,

I'm writing to provide input on the city's current budget consultation. I've completed the online consultation, but was disappointed to see that direct consultation on the 1.5% increase to the policing budget was sidestepped by the engagement staff in the consultation process design.

I am therefore taking the time to write to you directly to express my opposition to this proposed increase to the policing budget and to ask you to instead direct that funding to community services that seek to solve the dire poverty, homelessness and suffering we see in our parks and streets, rather than policing it.

Previous years' increases to policing's already-ballooning budget have only resulted in demands for more budget increases, despite the fact that we already spend significantly more on policing than any other major Canadian city. Something is broken here.

Is it responsible to keep throwing more money at this issue, rather than to possibly consider that the policing model in Victoria as it stands is not working? I am not in any way anti-police, but I hope you would all agree that using police as a frontline response to deal with the desperately poor and those struggling with mental health issues is an inefficient use of the unique expertise and skills held by police officers.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Yours in relentless hope for a better tomorrow,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Sent: January 8, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a Victoria resident, I live in Fernwood and love our city.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am asking that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I do not support Victoria's governing bodies continually allocating a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change**

it's incredibly alarming to see the city of planning on increasing the budget of the Victoria police department yet again instead of using those funds that could benefit the citizens of the city who are struggling during these trying times. During 2020 I witnessed my neighbours house be raided by the VicPD during the afternoon

where some kind of smoke bomb/flash bang was used without any warning, causing a massive bang and completely terrifying my partner (a city of victoria employee) who was sleeping preparing for an evening shift as well as completely scaring our neighbours children was a moment where I truly questioned why do we spend so much money on policing in our cities? A total of 3 people were arrested and I think 5 police vehicles and around 10 officers were present most of whom were standing around talking and one being sent to go buy smokes. Also that large military style vehicle that the VicPD purchased (sent to a mental health call on hillside) has got to be one of the most confusion purchases made in the 27 years I have called Victoria my home, this is not a warzone, this is Victoria BC. Please let us focus our money towards helping those who really need it. Victoria restaurants are struggling and could do wonders with some assistance from the local government, but more importantly the relationship between housed and unhoused citizens is becoming very dark and with shelters closed and housing prices being out of control demonizing these folks without offering any resources to them is just adding insult to injury to these people who just need a helping hand instead of having their items thrown away and their temporary homes being intimidated by police. Please let us move past the absurdly large 60 million of the budget for police? saying it out is just so hard. 60 MILLION? and only 23 million for parks? and ONLY 6 million for community development and sustainable planning? what would we be able to accomplish if we allocated 10 million for community development?

please consider a different approach.

best,

Victoria Citizen

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely, **Personal
information**

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Engagement

Please increase budget for downtown an embarrassing mess. More police plus more effort to remove street people who are drug dealers and so addicted they are shooting up in public in front of children ,tourists ,and city taxpayers. A secure treatment facility/ jail is our only hope. We closed Riverview in 1980's and never provided an implementable alternative. Signed Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Yours sincerely,

Personal
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 4:52 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Concerns
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city, which I witnessed at multiple events that I attended this year, including the disgusting treatment of Indigenous Youth at parliament, and the actions of the Vic PD in regards to the mural downtown. Please keep in mind that this unreasonably large budget for the police will quite literally kill people in Victoria.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:39 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

Below is my primary concern in regards to the 2021 Draft Budget.

As an Indigenous person I appreciate the City's priority in commitment to Indigenous relations and reconciliation however I find this focal point to be in harsh contrast with the increased police budget. I have countless first and second hand experience with police endangering indigenous peoples in my life time and I'm only 22. Police and RCMP do not symbolize safety for us, quite the opposite, both historically and in present day they symbolize violence. It is very concerning to me to see so much of the budget going towards police funding. If the city wants to actively work on healing its relationship with the indigenous population it will not be well achieved by increasing police presence. Victoria already has the highest presence of police officers per 100,000 people out of everywhere in Canada and I simply cannot fathom why there would need to be more. Maintaining a safe city is important but there are many ways to do this that do not involve increasing Police.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:52 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. For instance providing needed housing and services for the hundreds of people sleeping outside in tents in parks (and parking lots) across the city each night.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater and greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. A budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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Since the start of the pandemic, Victoria recreation activities have ceased, with Crystal Pool remaining unopened. While the municipality of Oak Bay and other neighbouring municipalities have restarted their recreation programs, which are inaccessible to most low income families without the transportation means to drive long distances to access recreation. Recreation will do for more for community good than policing.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

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Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials,

I have lived in Victoria for 23 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide input on the 2021 Draft Budget.

In particular, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence and treatment continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

For example, my partner (who is a person of colour) was injured in downtown Victoria a few years ago at about 3:50pm on a weekday. **Personal information**

The only plausible explanation for this unjust treatment by the officer is my partner's skin colour.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your consideration. Please know I love our community and believe there is a need for policing, but there is a greater need for policing reform. The first meaningful step you can take is to listen to the calls from BIPOC and freeze the VicPD budget. Now is not the time for an increase to their budget.

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal

information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information

Sent: January 7, 2021 7:25 PM

To: Engagement

Subject: 2021 CITY BUDGET

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

too many police not enough art (its sad)

- A lifelong victoria resident

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@victoria.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

Further to this, mental health checks, safe injection sites and other issues of the sort should be dealt with by trained professionals in the correct field rather than the VicPD which would allow for their expenditures to lessen.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a Victoria resident and law student writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Over the past 3 years I have seen the VicPD criminalize racialized and Indigenous people, as our homeless population grows and becomes more displaced.

I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Engagement; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am asking that you please consider that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

The history of actions committed by the VicPD is evidence enough that there is corruption within it's system.

Increased policing in unhoused communities threatens people's lives.

It is upsetting to see that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following reasons:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to please **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

The people of Victoria are depending on you, please consider this.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria Police Board,

I am a longtime resident of Victoria (8 years). I love the city of Victoria and I believe that as a responsible citizen it is the duty of both citizens and lawmakers to work towards creating a better future together.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

I was appalled at the treatment of Indigenous youth at the legislature arrests this February. I am continually appalled by the forced relocation of houseless individuals, the destruction of their belongings and removal of community-led showering facilities intended to support their fundamental needs. The City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park, violating their human rights.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

This is the opportunity to repair these damages. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Engagement
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

--

Thank you,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:40 PM
Subject: Opposition to Vic PD Budget Increase
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

(Victoria/Fernwood resident)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback"
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear City of Victoria staff, Elected Officials, and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. I am requesting that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the bare minimum — **reduction being the ideal** — action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divert resources from the Victoria Police Department towards strengthening our community through non-coercive means and institutions.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely, **Personal information**

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As a new resident of Victoria, a UVIC student, and an active member of my community, I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. In the light of this week's events at the US Capitol building, police spending is as under scrutiny as ever more.

I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020, proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback - Dana
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I have seen time after time, the city relocating and gating public spaces to hinder homeless people from taking shelter. Every time the police are called, they are absolutely impractical at solving anything. It's disgusting that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52000 to the VicPD to increase the policing of the homeless around Topaz Park. It's a fruitless tactic that doesn't help local communities nor the unhoused.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,
I've lived in Victoria since 2013, I've been educated here and now live in James Bay. I watched closely as the police forcefully moved people needing to emergency shelter due to covid from place to place to (in my opinion) appease land owners. The treatment I saw and heard from my friends volunteering to support those in need due to covid, absolutely disgusted me. Our community poured in donations of goods and sheltering materials which were thrown out by the police in order to force people to relocate. Police also antagonized some of our most vulnerable individuals that our province swore to protect during covid. I cannot support an increase in funding to the police budget in my municipality, or the continuation of this treatment of our homeless population. I want to see resources for supporting our communities increased. How can we rebuild relationships with each other if we prioritize suppression and policing over our parks, libraries, and community development?

In addition, at the Wetsewetun protests I watched police repeatedly try to escalate peaceful protests and arrest 5 youth advocating for their Indigenous rights in a peaceful sit in. They also reported to the media skewed representations of messages such as "land back" written in chalk paint (which washed off) which gave the impression the protestors were vandals. This portrayal of land rights defenders as violent was reported to people across the country, including my mother who became very worried about me due to these large media articles, despite the organization, and supportive community of the land defenders which the police did not portray.

It's been a year of reckoning about police, how can we ignore the marches and protests for Canadian lives that were lost involving the police? It would be irresponsible to increase the policing budget in light of the year we have had. I would even consider it disrespectful.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**

- The City of Victoria’s 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD’s budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD’s budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City’s Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps’ [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As an indigenous youth in the city of Victoria I am personally and deeply affected by the atrocities of Victoria's police department such as when over 30 armed VicPD officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in January 2020, detaining 5 indigenous youth for over 5 hours without access to their phones or legal representation for attending a peaceful sit in. Not to mention the treatment of Victoria's unhoused population; \$52 000 being allocated to increase policing of unhoused communities does nothing more than perpetuate violence and discrimination. I have personally watched the people in this city grow exhausted and appalled by our local government prioritizing the policing of BIPOCs and unhoused peoples over supporting these marginalized communities.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 DRAFT BUDGET FEEDBACK
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. As a resident who has lived in Victoria for nearly a decade, I have come to believe wholeheartedly that Victoria has entirely too many officers for a city of our size. Why on earth do we need the largest police presence (214/10,000 residence) in a major Canadian city, eclipsing Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Halifax, among others? Our police force is tonedeaf and often abuses their power, which does nothing to improve our city.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

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Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

I have been thoroughly disgusted at how VicPD handles any conflict, from being offended at a mural and demanding an apology from the artists; claiming their entire police force was completely innocent of knowing that "the thin blue line" meant (they have hundreds of staff - does no one know how to google?! Shame on them); forcibly moving and removing our houseless population when citizens are trying to help the houseless so they may live with some dignity. I was appalled at how the police bullied the Indigeounous Youth who were exercising their right to peaceful protest in January 2020. This is not a police force who works to better their community, but rather to enforce white-male supremacy and it has no place in this city.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city **must** prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

Hello, my name is Personal information . I was born in Victoria and have lived in many municipalities here. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
~~information~~

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As a constituent of Victoria for the last decade, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

In my time living here, I have seen a drastic increase in folks who are unable to access the services that they actually require. I have watched friends be handcuffed and taken to the police station when in the middle of a mental health crisis. I have had friends lose their housing and be forced onto the streets. I have seen friends

struggle with addiction and be unable to access support services. Increased policing does not help these people.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.
Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I'm a very concerned Victoria resident writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. This, quite frankly, is insane. **I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:**

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who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Yours sincerely
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** I have been a citizen residing in Victoria for the last 5 years. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 police budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Personal information
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: No police budget increase

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a resident of Victoria. I have lived here off and on for 7 years. Over the last two years, I have become increasingly disappointed in the actions of the Victoria Police Department. It has become increasingly clear to me that the VicPD does not keep the people safe, especially those of us who are already marginalized.

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Sincerely

Personal information

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--

Personal information

*Unceded Coast Salish Territories

*She/her

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a young citizen who has grown up in Victoria and lived here my whole life. I am so proud to call this city my hometown but am sorely disappointed in the recent actions taken by the Vic PD. At the start of the pandemic, I worked to gather donations and resources for the unhoused folks in the downtown core only to see them confiscated and destroyed by the police in an attempt to “clear” the people out. I watched as they arrested Indigenous youth who were peacefully demonstrating against practices that destroy our future. I continuously watch them dismantle any community efforts to help the vulnerable and offer no respect to civilians they are here to “help”. I can assure you that increasing their funding will not be beneficial in any way to the wellbeing and safety of our community. I write this email on behalf of a multitude of people who agree with this statement. The current state of our city shows that having a higher police budget has no effect on the safety of our community, given we currently already have the highest per capita police budget in all of Canada. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

To whom it may concern,

I am a Victoria resident, and have been for all my life. I have watched our city change and grow in capacity. And I am deeply concerned by the proposed budget for 2021 - did we not learn anything from this past year??

We watched as worldwide, police reflected racist attitudes and were used as a way to enact colonial violence upon marginalized people. The Victoria police departments operated in ways this last year that were abhorrent to me, and the city's response to increased needs due to a global pandemic were to *increase* policing rather than address needs that have been harming our community for decades.

The Victoria police enacted violence upon peaceful protests, where Indigenous YOUTH were simply sitting peacefully so that their voices would be taken into consideration. The Victoria police took such offence to a painting that they forced an artist to change what was designed to ask for justice. For peace. Are the egos of our police really so fragile? That we must pander? The Victoria police have been targeting the homeless and addicted population for decades, exacerbating, rather than solving anything.

What is more: Our city has desperately needed addiction support and housing for the homeless for my entire life. Read that again. My ENTIRE life in this city has been marked by the profound need of people that our city has chosen to police rather than protect. If we have money in our budget to allocate, this is where it should go. Community SUPPORT rather than community policing.

If 2020 taught us anything it should be that the services that police are called upon to offer are more often than not, inappropriate to their job title. Instead of accepting that police are overtaxed, fund the services that will take pressure off of them.

I cannot support an increase to the police budget, and would encourage reallocation of funds to sectors in greater need.

Sincerely,
Personal information

born and raised Victoria resident, hoping for a better future for this city

Rob Gordon

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Fw: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

From: **Personal information**

Sent: January 6, 2021 3:26 PM

Subject: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Sincerely,

S. 22

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

(she/her)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** lived, studied, and worked in and around the city of Victoria for the past 5 years. I moved to Victoria from Vancouver and became fond of the sense of community I found in a smaller city. However, as of the recent municipal budget proposal, I feel afraid for the well-being of my community - in particular my BIPOC brothers and sisters in this city.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, the VicPD budget should be frozen so that the limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

In the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and divest police funding, I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies are looking to allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Victoria City Budget - Police Budget Increase

Hi,

I am writing to express that the proposed increase in the police budget is not acceptable. Police are not an effective way to increase the "safety" of a city, however, they are an effective way to commit violence against houseless and marginalized people. I understand that the goal of the police budget is to reduce crime and enforce laws, but this is not the way to do it.

To reduce crime in victoria, we need to provide the people who are committing crimes with adequate access to mental health services and the resources they need to survive, so they do not have any reason to commit crimes.

To reduce the number of houseless people living outside in victoria (and thereby reduce the number of emails city council receives complaining about houseless people),

- We need to fund services which are based around social workers and people who understand and take a non-violent empathy based approach to helping and supporting houseless people.
- We need to fund housing first approaches with low barriers of access to acquiring housing. The recipients need to have the resources to be supported in their mental and physical health, so they can start a journey towards being able to live a self supporting lifestyle indoors in the long term.

Where is the money allocated towards affordable housing, which is listed as a priority in the budget?

Where is the money for extending washroom hours in parks overnight for cleaning, so houseless people and overnight workers can have their basic needs met?

Why is the Victoria housing reserve budget being decreased, while money is being allocated to Vic PD and bylaw officers to increase surveillance and punishment of houseless and marginalized people?

There is an immediate need for the people sheltering outside to have access to housing. The Victoria Housing Reserve has a 2.5 mil balance sitting dormant. Why isn't this money being put to use to provide people living outside with immediate access to housing? I would classify humans, residents of victoria, having to live outside and not have access to their basic needs a housing emergency. In fact, I can't think of what else would be a bigger emergency.

There is no funding alternative to policing specified. Why hasn't city council looked into and gathered input from vulnerable populations and the organizations that work with them into what would benefit them the most? Why isn't the city supporting programs that have been developed out of the research gathered from that work?

Overall, I am very disappointed with the fact that the city is choosing to increase surveillance and enforcement instead of putting money towards helping citizens of victoria who have just as much a right to live here as we do.

Personal information

Resident of Victoria BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:37 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

To whom it may concern,

My name **Personal information** writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:54 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:50 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I was a part of many of the Black Lives Matter rallies and protests in the city. After speaking to various communities within the black communities and many other marginalized communities, I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.) and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a young voter who is writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Councillors
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback — Police budget request

Good evening,

I have attended Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board meetings for nearly three years. In that time I have witnessed a Police Board that is disinterested in criticism of the harms of policing, or in any self-reflection about its role in proposing increased police budgets which directly fund those harms.

It is unacceptable at this point to be unaware of this fact, but if it is a needed reminder, the Victoria Police Department [profiles and surveils](#) Indigenous, Black and Muslim people, and it targets, harasses and harms people who live in poverty and people who use drugs. [Recent research](#) published in the Vancouver Sun, for example, found that VicPD recommends more charges for possession than other police force in southwestern B.C. — far, far more.

In 2019, VicPD [used weapons to threaten at least 248 people](#), including a minimum of 37 people they believed to be in mental health distress. That includes officers threatening to shoot 119 people, including at least 26 people VicPD believed to be in mental health distress. Also in 2019, VicPD used weapons on at least 48 people, including a minimum of 24 people (50%) they believed to be in mental health distress. And on Christmas Day, 2019, VicPD and the emergency response team shot and killed a woman by shooting her three times in the back of her head and neck with ARWEN rounds.

I write to request that City Council at a minimum freeze the Victoria Police Department's 2021 budget to 2020 levels, and preferably cut it far below that level to begin divesting from policing. If you support a planned quarter billion dollars in spending over the next four years on the Victoria Police Department, it means directly supporting continued violence and harm to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Sent: January 6, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 8:29 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Thanks for reading,
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:37 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Ben Isitt (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: Vic Budget

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am writing to strongly urge that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As a concerned Victoria citizen, I stood with the Indigenous land defenders at the beginning of 2020, and protested for Black and Indigenous lives and livelihoods throughout the summer. I was horrified to see the VicPD arrest — and detain for hours — 5 Indigenous youth following a peaceful sit-in at the legislature, and outraged to see the VicPD's recent interference with the IBPOC artists' murals which called for peace and justice. This city can absolutely do better than this, and I want to add my voice to those calling for the freezing of the VicPD's budget, and those voices strongly opposing the budget increase.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: S. 22
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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I have lived in Victoria my entire life, I work as a teacher for the Victoria School District, and I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

-
- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions
- for the 2021 budget cycle.
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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Feedback on the 2021 draft budget

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

they/them

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget in 2021. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that resources can be allocated to communities most in need and communities who are underfunded and ignored.

As a social worker working in Victoria, I have seen how harmful the increased police presence can be on our most vulnerable populations, when what these populations really need is compassion and support – and funding to be allocated towards supportive and preventative programs, rather than punishment. I have seen firsthand how beneficial these supportive programs are for our most vulnerable community members. If funding is allocated to Vic PD, it takes away from these supportive programs, and therefore decreases the quality of life of these community members.

As a social worker, I also take place in community activism and advocacy, and was appalled to witness the police brutality that took place at the legislative building last winter when Indigenous youth were defending their treaty rights and protecting their land. I have felt most unsafe in my 4 years in this city in the presence of its police officers, and fear for the safety and wellbeing of the communities I work alongside to consider increased police presence in the city. I have firsthand witnessed how police presence targets our most vulnerable community members – and how supportive programs protect them.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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Also, if I can speak personally for a moment, I would like to say that I have lived in Victoria all of my life. I have worked full-time downtown in Victoria for 5 years now, and it is devastating to see what happens when community outreach and social/mental health services are underfunded and neglected. I see the symptoms the City of Victoria's neglect every day and I, along with so many other employees of business downtown that I have spoken to, now have had to diffuse unsafe situations with the vulnerable, addicted, and mentally ill population because they are not receiving the treatment and services and housing needed due to gross underfunding.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
H.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I have been horrified consistently at Vic PD's actions and the city's complicity in them, and they do not need nor deserve any extra money from the citizens they terrorise and make unsafe. I ask that you consider who the police protects and who it does not, who do you consider a citizen of 'Victoria' and who do you not?

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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As a young person who has personally dedicated much of my time to volunteering within this city and for this community, including being part of both the City of Victoria [Personal information](#) and the VicPD's Chief [Personal information](#) I am extremely disappointed with this decision to increase the VicPD budget given the recent controversy surrounding the "More Justice More Peace" mural. Previously, I was proud to have been involved with the city and police department as I saw it as an opportunity for me as a female POC to create community change, however, I now realize that this city is not as committed to youth empowerment as I had once thought. The approval of this budget directly conflicts with youth-led and driven community initiatives that the city has committed itself to.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:27 PM
Subject: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

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Yours sincerely,

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Engagement
Subject: 2021 Budget Proposal #5 "Mile O"

Dear councilor:

Here we go again!

It was brought to my attention that in the budget summary for 2021 that point number 5 states;

- Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.

Every few years someone on council, or in the Planning Dept, gets a brilliant idea to do something that will inevitably make life difficult for the 100 permanent residents living in the first block of Douglas St. Once again it's the old idea that "Beacon Hill Park is just not big enough", or some such nonsense, "so let's remove the road section between Dallas and Douglas next to the Mile O greens"; a section of road that is of historical significance, by the way, since it makes up part of Circle Drive which goes around and through the Park and which was famously used as "the horse racing track of the colony" back in the 1800's. I have two old maps, one from 1878 and the other from 1889 which show it very clearly.

Removing that short portion of road will accomplish nothing of any practical value, but it will cause considerable harm to the quality of life of the 100 or so people living in the first block of Douglas, between Dallas and Battery St. Over the years we have had to fight City Hall on more than a few occasions because of this same silly idea and a few others, dealing with our block. For example, some years ago a group of us went to City Hall to meet with Mayor Alan Lowe to ask him to have the cruise tour buses avoid turning left onto Douglas and instead proceed to the next intersection and turn left there, onto the very road that you are thinking of eliminating. One reason we asked for this was because there is a slight uphill grade in the first block of Douglas and the buses (hundreds of them) would accelerate all the way up, spewing their smelly, greasy smoke and making a hell of a racket all the way. It nearly drove us all crazy! Not only that, but if we left our windows open, as people do in the summer, it covered our curtains with soot! Thankfully, Alan Lowe agreed with us and spoke to the tour bus companies about staying off that section of Douglas St and so life went back to being pleasant again. Not only for us and our tenants but for the many, many tourists milling around the Mile O monument and crossing

Dallas Rd to get a closer look at the ocean. Needless to say, we were very grateful to City Hall, even though it was not their problem.

My family of 5^{Personal information}

for 75 years now and we've seen everything you can possibly imagine happen there. We know that spot better than anyone alive, and I tell you that this latest idea is totally unnecessary and a complete waste of money which the city cannot afford. Not to mention the fact that it will deeply affect, negatively, the enjoyment of those 100 people who spend their lives there, day in and day out! We're not tourists just out for a short walk, we live there and go about our daily lives right there, day after day. This matters to us in a big way!

One final point: as very longtime observers (and in our minds "caretakers") of that small bit of Victoria, we do not see people moving from Mile O into the Park going north. Nor vice versa: coming from the Park going south down to the monument. If anything, they move from the monument and across Dallas to look at the ocean. Or across Douglas to take pictures of our buildings, which they seem to find fascinating and beautiful. I happen to agree with them. Mile O has been our pride and joy for 75 years and we have always felt responsible for its care and maintenance. It is why we have always done our absolute best to keep our buildings and grounds as presentable as possible, because they are part of "the Mile O experience" for the tourists.

Please forget this idea of removing that "historical portion of road" in order to join the Mile O greens to the rest of the Park. It's not worth it! And we're getting very tired of fighting against it. Shifting 100 per cent of the traffic onto our block would be a dangerous mistake and detrimental to all of us who live there and love it the way it is.

Personal information

January 6, 2021

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 DRAFT BUDGET FEEDBACK

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca Thornton-Joe
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a graduate student at UVic, a policy analyst, and the [Personal information](#). I have taken part in various protests and demonstrations over my 3 years of living as an uninvited visitor in Lekwungen Territory, many of which have been concerning the lives of folks who experience disproportional harm at the hands of the police and other carceral systems of the state. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:46 AM
Subject: My comments on the Victoria Police Budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a law student at the University of Victoria. I am South Asian and consider myself a racialized person. I live in Saanich but have lived in Victoria since September 2019. It is deeply upsetting that we continue to increase the funding of the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) when there are much better uses of taxpayer's money, particularly addressing the homelessness crisis, opioid epidemic, and lack of support for people afflicted by mental illness.

I have personally been the subject of racist profiling by police officers, at least two times, **Personal information**. Both times deeply troubled me and have undermined my faith in the "justice" system. While this has not happened to me during my time on Vancouver Island, that does not mean it does not happen over here. I have been fortunate enough to learn more about the rights that I have as a Canadian citizen, and the situations in which I must comply with requests from police officers.

Like many others, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

I am happy to discuss further via email.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 9:10 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Importance: High

I strongly object to this: • Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.

It's the first I've heard of it, and like the closing of other roads in the park, is **not** in the best interest of residents who use the park. Please explain the rationale of this plan.

Bus Passes: With regard to the plan to continue purchasing bus passes for youth, please purchase **only** those that are applied for. I recall that they weren't all used in 2020.

Seniors: It is high time that seniors were provided with free bus passes. Most are on limited income. This would support the plan to **go green**, in that it would prevent many vehicle trips. Seniors can't all use bikes.

Strategic Plan for Victoria:

Stop turning this city into a version of Vancouver with all the high rises and ugly poorly conceived residential structures that are being built. There are many other places in the CRD that can handle the increased density. It doesn't all need to happen within the municipality of Victoria.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Yours sincerely

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. I believe that the budget increase will allow the VicPD to continue to effectively and empathetically serve the community including members of the community who are marginalized.

As someone who has had to access their services and saw the understaffing and difficulties faced by law enforcement first hand, I am very pleased to see the budget increase. I believe a budget increase is appropriate at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in an increase in domestic violence and more property crime;
- Victoria's population continues to grow and maintaining a safe community through a properly funded Police Department is increasingly important;
- the VicPD has demonstrated that they serve *all* community members in Victoria, especially marginally housed folks after successfully investigating crime in Centennial Square last summer.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **support the safety of our community and the trust it has in our police department by ensuring the VicPD has the necessary resources to respond to all safety incidents.**

I support the allocation of other funds towards other community safety initiatives, like community outreach programs, mental health services, housing initiatives, harm reduction services, etc.) and eventually defunding the police. However, I believe there needs to be a lengthy period of overlapping services to ensure that when someone calls for help they are certain that it will come.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by increasing the VicPD budget while also meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:45 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** I am a resident of the City of Victoria. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget for 2021. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need, and to communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I have been deeply disturbed by the behaviour displayed by VicPD toward marginalized and radicalized folks, and I do not believe that any budget increase would be appropriate at this time, for the following reasons:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

As a resident of the City of Victoria, I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing more financial resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 4, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

January 3, 2021

Dear councillors:

I was just going over the 2021 Draft Budget Summary when I noticed #5 in the budget highlights.

“Invest \$270,000.00 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.”

You must be kidding, is this some kind of a joke?

Why would you spend money to remove a perfectly good street? All traffic travelling west on Dallas Road uses that street to connect to Douglas on their way downtown. They would be forced to turn at the T intersection at the foot of Douglas and drive in front of the apartment buildings at the end of that block. After years of disruption the owners and residents of those buildings lobbied successfully to get the tour buses to stop using that route. When cruise ships were in town, the noise and exhaust fumes from all the buses going by was almost unbearable. I can only imagine what it would be like if all the traffic from Dallas is forced to use that route all the time day and night.

In order to turn left onto Dallas at the existing curve there is a stop sign and good sight lines in both directions. If you have to turn left at the T intersection at the foot of Douglas the visibility to the west is restricted. With constant traffic it would be a high accident zone.

When was this ill conceived plan approved? I don't remember any public forms or discussion with stakeholders. Just all of a sudden there it is in the budget. There is not a logical reason given, it just states that you want to create a continuous green space. There is already a continuous green space running from Clover point to the Ogden Point Breakwater.

The very first sentence of your 2021 Draft Budget summary states

“The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted cities worldwide and the city of Victoria is no different. We're experiencing significant revenue reductions this year, which is projected to continue in 2021.”

So why in all good conscience are you proposing to spent \$270,000.00 to remove a perfectly good roadway, that will disturb approximately 100 residents and to make the streets far more dangerous? There is crumbling infrastructure all around this city that needs attention. This is an unnecessary waste of limited resources.

Every year our property taxes increase, please focus on spending these taxes on essential projects not frivolous make work projects.

Your truly,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 2, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Street and pedestrian lighting

In your 2021 Budget.

How many streets km do not have proper street and/or pedestrian lighting? Many street lights are not up to the current standards as they were installed many years ago.

Thank You
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 1, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Defund the 2021 VicPD Budget

I am writing to you today to express my absolute outrage regarding the Victoria Police Department 2021 Draft Budget. It is 23% of the total operational budget for the City of Victoria. This astronomical police budget is unacceptable and requires serious action. I call upon our elected officials to start divesting from the inherently violent institution that is the Victoria Police Department immediately.

I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

1. To never again vote to increase the Victoria Police Department budget.
2. To prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Victoria Police Department.
3. To take direction from communities with lived experience of harm caused by policing.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change. What we need in Victoria is leadership that can initiate reform that aims towards the eventual abolition of police and prisons - and, in turn, the immense police violence that targets our most oppressed and repressed people.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our community members made most vulnerable (Black, Indigenous, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc). It is impossible to effectively reform the police to protect the marginalized communities they were designed to target, therefore, we must choose to transition towards abolition.

Instead of investing in the police, our city must prioritize alternatives like child care support, education, comprehensive mental health intervention and social support, peer-based programming, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, access to recreational facilities and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most oppressed and repressed communities, take leadership from, financially compensate and center the experiences of Black and Indigenous peoples in Vancouver.

I urge you all to reach out to redistribute our tax dollars and effect actual change in keeping communities safe by consulting directly with, funding, and otherwise supporting the local organisations that do amazing work helping our community members.

I'm asking that our city is among the first to eradicate the notion that police are necessary for safety and order, and that harmful policing is the only solution to the many issues we face as a community, when in fact the opposite is true. We must create a better future for all, and there is a surplus of evidence and experience to tell us that policing is not the answer and only causes further harm. Defunding the VicPD will save lives and increase the overall health of many intersecting communities in Victoria

As a resident here, this is a top priority for me and I'm asking you to listen to this concern seriously and to do everything in your power to address it. Significant change is possible and significant change is necessary.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 30, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Parks (Public Inquiries)
Cc: Community Planning email inquiries; Victoria Mayor and Council; Engagement
Subject: RE: Franklin Green Pickle Ball court

BUDGET REQUEST:

I would like to request that a budgetary item be added for the proper drainage and resurfacing to the Franklin Green pickle ball court on Mason St.

Franklin Green park pickle ball court is the only fully realized sport specific dimensionally correct pickle ball court in the City of Victoria.

Large roots, worn lines and puddles of water are currently making three times a week play very challenging.

Other courts in the CRD are very busy converted tennis courts or very coveted pre-booked courts. As a very large housing project is scheduled for development at the Wellburns location directly adjacent the costs could be included for the resurfacing and drainage with the possibility of an additional court.

Pickle Ball is the #1. Growing sport in North America

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/what-is-pickleball-unusual-sport-sweeps-across-canada-1.3310626>

<https://www.amazinaces.com/blogs/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-america>

<https://www.pickleballportal.com/blog/pickleball-what-is-why-popular/>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Happy Holidays,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 27, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Draft budget feedback

Hello City of Victoria, Mayor, Council and Staff,

I just took your online budget survey but was disappointed at the lack of detailed questions. It seemed the questionnaire focused more on sorting the citizens in the appropriate demographic categories than on hearing what citizens have to say on the actual line items in the budget. Your survey last year was much more detailed and better designed!

My key feedback on the proposed budget is that **property taxes need to go up more**. As the City itself acknowledged in the budget documents provided, there is a revenue gap due to Covid-19, and many residents and businesses are suffering. This suffering is NOT going to be alleviated by less taxation, rather the reverse! **Let the households that can afford to own real estate in Victoria carry their fair share!** I just learned from another city pdf, about housing, that the median cost of a new two-bedroom condo is over \$800,000, and of a new detached home more than \$1.5 million! Compared to these staggering sums, a median tax increase of \$44 per year is ridiculously small. Ten times that would not be too much!

The City should raise more revenue from taxation, and by securing more grants from senior governments, in order to spend it on the following:

- (a) buying land for, and building, non-market affordable housing - incentivizing co-ops and land trusts (which actually is in your strategic plan)
- (b) incentivizing market affordable housing through public-private partnerships
- (c) urgent construction of housing for the unhoused - why can't we already house the 300 homeless people living outdoors (the number estimated in city documents)?
- (d) incentives and short-term bridging help to businesses - especially in the hospitality industry - that are at risk of closing due to Covid-19, or that are operating at lower capacity, leading to more unemployment
- (e) additional help for seniors and families with children who can't fully meet their nutritional need (expanding the Good Food Box program, for example with matching funds from the City)
- (f) acquiring properties for future non-market housing, and community gardens

Meanwhile, I appreciate your efforts in 2019 when you listened to citizens and reduced the police budget. **Not a penny more should be given to Vic PD above 2019 levels until**

there has been a comprehensive community consultation about public safety and the multiple ways it can be delivered, not just through more police officers and more expensive equipment for them.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Victoria BC
V8T2Y3

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 17, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft budget feedback

Hello City of Victoria City Council,

Thank you for providing this venue for feedback!

An issue which may have inadvertently slipped through the cracks in this year of change, is regarding the issue of our lovely city being build over top of sacred ground.

A significant way to begin the process was initiated with the Beacon Hill Project in 2013, to designate a Special Burial Place for these Ancient Burial Grounds, and as of this moment no forward movement has taken place. The area has been greatly enhanced by the Dallas road construction project and so access to the potential site at existing Cairns at Beacon Hill Park is now greatly facilitated.

An opportunity to give back to the Indiginous whose land we now reside on is at hand, how fabulous it would be to honor them in this way.

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/parks/beacon-hill/first-nations-burial-ground.html>

This article also provides an excellent overview on the larger situation...

<https://www.capitaldaily.ca/news/indigenous-bones-victoria-burial-mounds-songhees-lekwungen-coast-salish-oak-bay>

It is my fervent hope that seemingly forgotten plans might be resurrected in 2021.

Kind regards,

Personal information

Hillside Quadra Community