



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

February 23, 2023

Mayor & Council
City of Victoria

Via Email

Dear Mayor and Council:

We are in receipt of Deputy City Manager Thompson's letter of February 14, 2023 wherein she advised that City Council passed the following motion on February 6, 2023:

"That staff develop a new 2023 draft budget that caps the property tax increase at inflation (6.96%) and that the Police Board develop a new draft budget at the same rate."

The City requested that the Police Board consider this motion which results in a maximum of \$4.345 million for VicPD's target net budget increase for 2023.

The Police Board met on February 21, 2023 and reviewed this request. Although the Board acknowledges the difficult choices Council has to make during this inflationary period, the Board is still of the position that the budget it has presented is one that meets the legislative requirements under the *Police Act* to provide adequate and effective policing to the City and Township. Therefore, the Board is not prepared to amend the budget as requested by Council.

We recognize that Council has the right under the Sec. 27 of the *Police Act* not to approve an item(s) in the budget; however, choosing these items is a difficult decision for Council to make independently as the impact of doing so may not be obvious. For the Board to remove items would conflict with our legislative requirement to provide adequate and effective policing; therefore, the Board will not preemptively make any adjustments. Should Council choose to pursue their right to remove budget line items, please accept the Board's offer to work together to identify areas within the budget that, if reduced, would have the least direct operational impact.

In the meantime, the Board respectfully requests that City Council reconsider passing the police budget as presented.

Sincerely,

Doug Crowder
Chair, Finance Committee

c. Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager & CFO