

**From:** [Greg Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Regional Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Refund the Community – No more Police Budget surpluses  
**Date:** November 27, 2023 11:38:38 AM

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**\*\*EXTERNAL ALERT\*\* This email originated from outside the Region of Waterloo.**

I would like the comments attached to the November 29th Strategic Planning and Budget Public Input Meeting addendum agenda as part of the public record. I have been a delegate regarding Waterloo Regional Police Service's operating budget. In addition, I'd like to point out WRPS lost a fleeing murder suspect, (the officer had a head on collision with a passing pick-up truck) then offered a \$50,000 reward for any information two years later...

Panic shots that were initially attempted murder charges which are now grounds for Sergeant Dorling to sue the SIU for 2.5 million dollars... I'm sure the On Duty Difference Maker Award the Police Services Board hooked him up with will help with the lawsuit against the oversight body (which only pursues 3% of complaints against officers).

The coroner's inquest into the death of Beau Baker ruled his death a suicide (despite the previous coroner ruling it a homicide. The coroner won't even respond to questions about providing a copy of the decision from the review of the initial determination not to hold an inquest. [220 recommendations were made in 2014 after a coroners inquest into 3 fatal matters involving police response to mental health. This was the coroner who died suddenly, delaying Beau's inquest](#) [OHRC praises jury recommendations in Jardine-Douglas, Klibingaitis and Eligon inquest, calls for action | Ontario Human Rights Commission](#)

At least the officer who emptied their magazine in response to Beau's call to police while in mental health crisis was denied the request to testify anonymously (while training other officers in use of force and completing his Diversity Inclusion courses)

The Crown Attorney argues that it's not in the public's interest to pursue perjury charges against police officers. I could only assume this is because WRPS expenditures are affected by litigation... My cases were unsuccessful, but more has been spent silencing a former officer/whistleblower, Kelly Donovan.

Trudeau made a total salary of \$365,200, combining the MP and base PM salaries. Chief Larkin's salary was \$330,811.23.

Waterloo Regional Police Service got a 7.49 per cent increase over the \$169 million operating budget given in 2019.. almost 50 per cent more than the budget increase from 2018 to 2019, and more than double the average increase from 2014 to 2018. Waterloo region council just approved the police service's \$195.8M budget (10million more than last year). \$48.9 million was allocated towards converting the old court house to the new cop shop BUT THEY STILL CAN'T ANSWER CALLS TO FRONT DESK. There is no reason to increase the WRPS budget to \$228 million. Construction is over.

On Mon, Nov 27, 2023, 10:15 AM Regional Clerk, <[RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)> wrote:

Good morning Greg,

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments! Would you like these comments to be

attached to the Nov. 29 Strategic Planning and Budget Public Input Meeting addendum agenda as part of the public record? This would include both your name and comments as part of the public record.

Alternatively, if you only wish for members of Council to see your comments, we can forward your comments directly to Councillors.

Please let me know how you would like us to proceed. Thanks!

**Lindsay Mewhiney** (she/her)

Legislative Services Assistant

Region of Waterloo

150 Frederick Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Kitchener, ON | N2G 4J3

Email: [lmewhiney@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:lmewhiney@regionofwaterloo.ca)

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**From:** Greg Thornton <[gregthornton.personal@gmail.com](mailto:gregthornton.personal@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** November 25, 2023 7:06 PM

**To:** Greg Thornton <[gregthornton.personal@gmail.com](mailto:gregthornton.personal@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Refund the Community – No more Police Budget surpluses

**\*\*EXTERNAL ALERT\*\* This email originated from outside the Region of Waterloo.**

Good evening,

I am writing you to provide feedback to the Region of Waterloo's Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, as a contribution to the feedback that the committee is considering at its November 29 public input meeting. Specifically, I would like to express my concern over the fact that Waterloo Regional Police Services has had surpluses totalling \$9.3M in just three years, while community organizations are starved of funding. By consistently overfunding the police, Regional Council has missed opportunities to use that funding to provide more people in our region with access to life-affirming supports and services, while also reducing the number of calls for service to police.

There are numerous opportunities for Council to use these surpluses to improve quality of life in the Region by increasing housing, mental health supports, access to harm reduction

services, public health and preventative healthcare strategies, gender-based and sexual assault support services, transit, and food subsidies. Because services are more cost-effective than the police, this is the only fiscally responsible approach.

On November 7, Regional Council defeated Councillor Huinink's motion to refund half of future police budget surpluses to fund community services. Without a mechanism to reclaim future police budget surpluses, Council's only way to prevent overfunding the police is to avoid surpluses by proactively reducing the size of future police budgets. I call on you to reduce the size of the 2024 police budget to retroactively recoup the past \$9.3M in overfunding, and to prevent further overfunding in 2024, and to redirect those funds toward preventive services.

Sincerely,

Greg Thornton

55-35 Linden Ave.

Kitchener On,  
N2G4T6