

**From:** [El Gillies](#)  
**To:** [El Gillies](#)  
**Cc:** [reallocatewr@gmail.com](mailto:reallocatewr@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** No more Police Budget surpluses  
**Date:** November 27, 2023 4:18:30 PM

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

Hi there,

I am writing in regards to the Region of Waterloo's Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, as part of the feedback that the committee is considering at its November 29 public input meeting.

Specifically, I am deeply concerned that Waterloo Regional Police Services has had surpluses totalling \$9.3M in just three years, while community organizations are starved of funding. The lack of social services support is seen most in our community members that are struggling with homelessness, such as the encampment on Victoria and Weber.

By 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.

I feel as though I keep reading about how everyone is trying so hard and is so frustrated with the encampments and how to "deal with them". Here is a golden opportunity for you to actually help mitigate the contributing factors to homelessness and addiction, and break the cycle.

Sincerely,

El Gillies  
(they/he)  
Waterloo