

**From:** [Kez Vicario-Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Kez Vicario-Robinson](#)  
**Subject:** Refund the Community – No more Police Budget surpluses  
**Date:** November 26, 2023 12:00:05 AM

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

Hello there!

I am a 26 year old nonbinary person who's lived in Kitchener my whole life, and I have worked with and accessed countless services in the region.

This is something to seriously consider. I put my trust in you that you will read every word of this (despite receiving more than just my email with this exact text).

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,

-Kez Vicario-Robinson (they/them)