

Victoria McKean

From: Carina Foran [REDACTED]
Sent: February-22-26 1:54 PM
To: Council
Subject: Opposition to VicPD budget increase

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Hello,

I am an Esquimalt resident, under VicPD jurisdiction, residing on 812 Old Esquimalt Rd. I am opposed to any increase to the budget for the Victoria Police Department, including the hiring of 25 more officers.

As a home owner I am opposed to the city increasing property taxes in order to meet the ballooning demands of VicPD. I want my property taxes to go toward social programs, food security, and affordable housing initiatives, not towards hiring more police officers, because I know that community is what keeps us safe, not cops.

I am appalled by the City of Victoria's focus on the police as the solution to making Victoria "safer." Police and bylaw continue to harass and traumatize people sheltering on the streets and in parks. We need to invest in alternatives to the police that address the root causes of homelessness and crime, such as giving people a warm place to sleep or a safe place to use drugs.

As a parent of a young person, I am concerned how the City of Victoria and Province of BC continue to ignore the evidence surrounding school liaison officers and continue to fund these programs and the police more broadly. Multiple organizations opposed continuing the program, including the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Human Rights Commissioner, stating that they make schools unsafe for Black and Indigenous students or are not evidence-based. Our students don't need police officers. They need more teachers, special education supports, and after-school programming.

I know that many people are concerned about public safety in Victoria, and I am too. But, I also know that more police are not the answer. I urge Mayor and Council to stop capitulating to VicPD's demands. Instead, invest these funds in community programs.

As someone who plans to vote in the 2026 municipal election, I will be paying close attention to your decisions these next few months.

Thank you for your time.

Carina