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REGION OF PEEL
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From: Chris Fonseca <Chris.Fonseca@mississauga.ca>
Sent: June 8, 2020 10:09 AM
To: ZZG-RegionalClerk <zzg-regionalclerk@peelregion.ca>
Cc: MC <MC@mississauga.ca>
Subject: Item or discussion at Regional Council - Call to Action

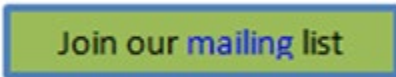
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We have been receiving many form e-mails regarding the topic below that I would like to ensure is on Regional Council for discussion on Thursday.

Respectfully,

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I am writing to you today to express my outrage regarding the **2020 Peel Police budget of \$458.3 million** for the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, who are part of the **Region of Peel (an increase of 5.3% from 2019)**. This astronomical police budget costs the taxpayer more than firefighters, paramedics, transit, long-term care, and public and affordable housing combined (**\$414.4 million between the Peel, Mississauga, and Brampton budgets**). Following the death of D'Andre Campbell from Brampton earlier this year, as well as the recent horrific death of a young Black and Indigenous woman Regis Korchinski-Paquet from Toronto, I call upon our elected officials to ensure a transparent investigation into D'Andre Campbell, and all other instances of police misconduct in Peel Region, including and especially abuses toward students

by the police stationed in Peel schools. We would also like to remember the life of Jermaine Carby, who we lost in 2014 at the hands of Peel Regional Police in Brampton. No justice came out of this police killing and we implore you to ensure this never happens again.

I also call upon Peel Region to start divesting from the systematically violent Peel Police Service immediately.

I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

1. To **never again** vote to increase the Peel Regional Police budget.
2. To propose and implement a PRP budget cut of, at the absolute minimum, **\$91 million or 20% of the Peel Regional Police Budget** – as we struggle to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic: Mississauga reports a \$59.1 million shortfall, and Brampton reports a a \$44.7 million shortfall.
3. To prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Peel Regional Police.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change. On June 3, both the Mayors of Mississauga and Brampton called for Peel Regional Police to start wearing body cameras. But we have seen that investing in body cameras, civilian reviews or de-escalation and implicit bias training [doesn't work](#). What we need in Peel is leadership that can initiate a reduction in the immense police violence that targets our most marginalized people, toward the eventual abolition of police and prisons. In order to do this, I call on you and the Regional Council to **reduce funding in these ways**:

- Withhold pensions and don't rehire cops involved in excessive force cases.
- Require cops to be liable for misconduct settlements.
- Reduce the size of the police force, and stop sending armed/uniformed cops on mental health-related calls.
- Decrease capital investments geared toward advanced information technology for police, many of which are used to unlawfully surveil residents.
- Eliminate all police contracts with Peel District School Board and Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board schools (for more information, see [here](#)).

An increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities (BIPOC, the LGBTQ2S+ community, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc). Instead of investing in policing, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, mutual aid, social workers, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. **These initiatives must support our most vulnerable communities and centre the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and people of colour in Peel.** We should look to and learn from organizations like [Black Lives Matter Toronto](#), [Black Legal Action Centre](#), [Toronto Police Accountability Coalition](#), [PASAN](#), [Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project](#), [Maggie's](#), [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#), and so many more.

Our city can lead the way in defining public safety through community not cops, where Black, Indigenous and people of colour are free from police oppression. I am asking you to create a better future for all residents of Peel by divesting from harmful policing and investing in life-aff