



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL POLICE SERVICE BOARD

10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

peelpoliceboard.ca 905-458-1340

November 28, 2024

RECEIVED

November 29, 2024

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Dear Chair Iannicca and Members of Regional Council,

I am writing to you in response to the motion at Regional Council requesting that the Peel Police Service Board review and reconsider the proposed 2025 budget.

On behalf of the Board and Chief Duraiappah, I must respond with clarity and resolve: the proposed 2025 budget cannot be reduced without jeopardizing immediate public safety in Peel Region or the Board's statutory mandate under the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)* to ensure adequate and effective policing. The proposed budget is not simply a financial plan—it is a strategic response to the escalating public safety concerns in Peel. It represents the minimum investment necessary to meet the critical and evolving needs of our community.

The Board fully acknowledges the financial pressures facing residents and taxpayers, and understand the concerns expressed during Council's deliberations. However, public safety is not a negotiable service; it is a legal obligation. Under the CSPA, the Board is mandated to provide Peel Regional Police with the resources required to address both immediate and emerging threats to community safety. Reducing the proposed budget as requested by Regional Council would critically compromise our ability to fulfill this mandate, affecting the safety and well-being of Peel's residents.

This budget reflects a year-long, evidence-based process informed by data, operational priorities, and a comprehensive understanding of Peel's unique public safety challenges. The Finance Committee of the Board, in close collaboration with the Chief and Peel Regional Police, evaluated operational needs in detail. This included addressing rapid population growth, historic understaffing, increasing crime rates, and the rising complexity of incidents involving organized crime, intimate partner violence, and mental health crises. These are not abstract threats—they are pressing realities, and the 2025 budget was constructed to directly address these challenges.

Significant progress has already been made as a result of the investments approved in the 2024 budget. For instance, wait times for 911 calls have seen a dramatic improvement, decreasing by 78%, with over 81% of emergency calls now answered within 20 seconds. This ensures that Peel residents in crisis are able to access assistance faster than ever before. Similarly, the investments in our Commercial Auto Crimes Unit have increased stolen vehicle recovery rates

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

by 47%, and the reduction in auto thefts in 2024 has resulted in a \$60 million reduction in stolen vehicle losses for our community. These results underscore the direct impact of our investments on public safety and illustrate how continued funding is essential for sustained progress.

The proposed 2025 budget also builds on these successes by addressing a number of urgent priorities. It includes enhanced resources to combat violent crime, with 87% more illegal firearms seized this year and a significant increase in joint-force operations targeting organized crime. It expands critical mental health supports, with programs like the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team reducing Mental Health Act apprehensions by 70% while freeing up thousands of hours for frontline officers to respond to other priority calls. Moreover, it addresses the ongoing staffing shortages that hinder our ability to respond to calls effectively and proactively engage with the community.

The Board also wishes to correct misinformation circulating in media reports suggesting that Regional Council has “no options” in the budget process. Under the CSPA, Council does have the authority to review and request modifications to the police budget. However, these modifications must still allow the Board to meet its legal obligation to ensure adequate and effective policing. Any reduction that compromises this standard would not only fail to meet the requirements of the Act but also put the safety of Peel’s residents at risk.

Reducing the budget simply means fewer front-line officers being hired in 2025, which would undermine critical initiatives, from addressing gender-based violence and intimate partner violence to advancing road safety and community policing. It would compromise our ability to meet legislative standards and erode the progress we have made in restoring public trust and confidence. The decisions made today will shape Peel’s ability to respond to current and future safety challenges, and any reduction to the proposed budget would have far-reaching and sustained consequences.

We stand by the proposed 2025 budget as the only viable path forward to ensure the safety and security of Peel Region. We urge Regional Council to recognize the critical importance of this investment in public safety and to work collaboratively with the Board to uphold our shared commitment to protecting the residents of Peel. Public safety is not discretionary, and it must remain our highest priority.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Boughton
Chair, Finance Committee
Peel Police Service Board

November 28, 2024

Delivered by email

**Legislative
Services**

Office of the
Regional Clerk

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Brampton, ON
L6T 4B9
tel: 905-791-7800

peelregion.ca

Robert Serpe
Executive Director
Peel Police Service Board
10 Peel Centre Drive,
Brampton, ON
L6T 4B9

Dear Robert:

RE: Motion Regarding the Proposed Peel Regional Police Budget

On behalf of Regional Council your attention is drawn to the following resolution, which was approved at the November 28, 2024 Regional Council Budget Meeting:

Whereas the 2025 Peel Regional Police budget constitutes over 50 per cent of the annual budget of the Region of Peel and is proposed to increase by \$144.1 million (23.3 per cent) from their 2024 budget, which represents a net tax levy increase of 9.3 per cent and an overall property tax increase of 4.1 per cent;

And whereas, in the Region of Peel 2025 Budget, 75 per cent of the proposed 5.5 per cent residential property tax increase is to fund the Peel Regional Police budget;

And whereas, the Region of Peel 2025 Budget proposed property tax increase is the highest in many years at the Region of Peel and is not sustainable or affordable for property taxpayers during very difficult economic times, where housing, food, and other living costs are escalating; seniors and other residents are struggling to stay housed; food insecurity and food bank use is increasing; and our shelter system is at capacity;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel request that Peel Regional Police review and reconsider its proposed 2025 Budget request, with the goal of decreasing the budget to reduce the property tax impact.

Thank you,



Aretha Adams,
Regional Clerk

Encl. Copy of Resolution regarding the proposed Peel Regional Police Budget

C: Councillor Butt
Councillor Horneck

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**Office of the
Regional Clerk**

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Brampton, ON
L6T 4B9
tel: 905-791-7800

peelregion.ca

**Resolution
Regional Council Budget**

Agenda Number: 11.1.
Date: November 28, 2024

Moved by Councillor Butt
Seconded by Councillor Horneck

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Therefore be it resolved, that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel request that Peel Regional Police review and reconsider its proposed 2025 Budget request, with the goal of decreasing the budget to reduce the property tax impact.