

The CALGARY POLICE ASSOCIATION

City budget cuts will “force us to take steps backwards” says John Orr, CPA President

CALGARY, Alberta, Nov. 12, 2020 – On Wednesday, Nov. 4, city councillors in Calgary voted 9 - 5 in favour of a motion to defund the police which could lead to a reduction of \$20 million to an already stretched Calgary Police Service (CPS) budget.

“This reactive positioning causes us great concern and risks making the job we are committed to even more difficult,” said John Orr, President of the Calgary Police Association, the labour organization for Calgary police officers. “We are already stretched thin and our staffing numbers are inadequate to provide the level of service that Calgarians deserve and expect.”

Although the CPA has acknowledged the difficult financial situation the city is in, Orr emphasized that cutting funding for emergency services risks having negative impacts for the safety of Calgarians.

“Police officers everywhere have been under increased scrutiny and as a result, members of our own community have made demands which include increased training, increased use of body-worn cameras, and making police services more diverse through improved recruiting methods,” said Orr. “Cutting the CPS budget will force us to take steps backwards in respect to all of these important and worthy initiatives and risks a regression in the progress already made.”

The [Calgary Police Commission Citizen Satisfaction Report](#), dated September of this year provides survey data confirming the Calgary police have maintained a 93% citizen satisfaction rating or higher for the past ten years. In the same survey, when asked for agreement with the statement that CPS was adequately staffed, only 21% of respondents agreed, while 42% moderately agreed and 38% disagreed.

The city’s own statistical report dated August 11 of this year also recorded a high proportion of citizen support for increased funding for policing: “The analysis indicates that the top services in which to invest more over the next three years are 9-1-1, Calgary Police Service...” according to an analysis on page 10 of the [2020 Citizen Perspectives Survey Report](#).

“The evidence now shows that we have the support of the majority of Calgarians, yet there are always identified areas for improvement. We implore the elected officials of Calgary to listen to the people who have made their views clear,” said Orr. “They want the resources necessary to support the police in providing them with the service they need and the protection and improvements they deserve.”

John Orr
President, Calgary Police Association
on behalf of the Board of Directors