

To the City of Montreal elected officials:

I am a resident of Montreal in the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal urging you to divest from the SPVM as the budget is currently being re-evaluated. The operational budget for the SPVM comprises nearly 11% of the annual budget for the City of Montreal. These funds should be reallocated to improving the infrastructure of our city and investing in the wellbeing of our communities.

While the SPVM is meant to protect Montrealers and maintain peace and security, our city is made unsafe by the willingness to finance racial profiling and excessive force. The SPVM, like all police departments in North America, has a long history of killing innocent, unarmed black people and it is imperative that our city leadership do their part to ensure it never happens again.

I call upon our elected officials to start divesting from the inherently violent institution that is the SPVM. I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

- To never again vote to increase the SPVM's budget. It has been proven time and time again that police reforms, including body cameras, do not reach the intended goals of reducing police violence.
- To propose and implement a SPVM budget cut of, at the absolute minimum, \$300 million in accordance with the City of Montreal's operating budget shortfall projections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To prioritize the expansion of community-led health and safety initiatives, community oversight committees for police officers, independently investigate and prosecute officers who violate the law and basic human rights, and to redirect more funding toward infrastructure, affordable housing and other programs that better the quality of life for Montrealers.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe; rather, it directly threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities, such as Black communities, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ2S+ communities, homeless people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, and people experiencing poverty.

Instead of investing in the police, our city must prioritize alternatives like education, increased mental health services, affordable 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.

I urge you to very seriously consider the demands in this email & those of many others.

Thank you for taking the time to think critically about this issue.

Yours sincerely,
Anna Klevatt