

Hello! I'm a resident of Montréal based in Little Italy. I wanted to take a moment to follow up on the question of defunding police services in the pre-budget survey. I strongly believe our community would be healthier and safer without SPVM intervention, and feel that the city should be taking steps to gradually divest the SPVM budget and transition it towards forms of community-based care and intervention services. These include:

- funding for daytime and overnight homeless shelters
- funding community health services which encompass immediate medical needs, mental health, and social support services
 - ex: mobile clinics such as those used to administer COVID testing
 - establishing "Community Health Workers" based in neighborhoods who develop longterm relationships with their community and are trained in a Social Determinants of Health framework (inspired by this program in New Mexico: <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/pchb/ochw/>)
 - creating policy + structures which would direct 911 calls involving emotional distress and welfare checks to medical workers trained in mental health interventions and support
- funding public transportation stipends or waivers for low-income residents
- investing in food security infrastructure, including community gardens and food banks
- investing in cooperative housing projects and low-income or public housing in all neighborhoods of the city, with attention to proximity to transit lines and public services
- expanding public library services to include things like tool libraries, technology access + training (ie, computer programming, arts + design softwares, basic computer literacy programs--inspired by Halifax public library revamp); expanded locations + expanding BaNQ's digital library to accommodate increases in digital lending
- creating paid apprenticeships within a variety of the city's cultural, administrative, and other service sectors which would allow lower-income residents to receive on-site training and professional development in a variety of career paths
 - Specifically a number of paid apprenticeship positions within the planning and public health departments which would allow residents of every neighborhood in Montréal to develop expertise and to participate actively in city planning decisions and policy creation
- Funding more free French classes at community centers and at all hours to support language skills for new arrivals, immigrants, and low income residents

All of these recommendations are based in my belief that alleviating the causes of poverty and social inequity lead to police forces becoming obsolete. We do not

need the SPVM, but to build a strong and healthy community in our city through equitable access to healthcare, food, housing, and education.

regards,
Cecilia McKinnon