Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Committee of the Whole (2022 Plan and Budget Development)

* Addendum Agenda

Closed Session 1:00 p.m.

Open Session following Closed Session (Approximately 1:15 p.m.)

Meeting to be held electronically

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

1. Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”
4. Motion to go into Closed Session

That a closed meeting of the Committee of the Whole (2022 Plan and Budget Development) be held on Monday, November 29, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. electronically, in accordance with Section 239 of the “Municipal Act, 2001,” for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

   a) To receive information that is subject to solicitor-client privilege

5. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

* 6. Briefing on Encampment

* 6.1 Correspondence Received

8. **Presentation:** Dr. Karin Schnarr, Board Member, Waterloo Regional Police Services Board; Chief Bryan Larkin, Waterloo Regional Police Service; Kirsten Hand, Director, Finance and Assets, Waterloo Regional Police Service, re: Waterloo Regional Police Service 2022 Budget

9. **Other Business**

10. **Next Meetings:**

   - Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
   - Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Public Input Meeting #3
   - Wednesday, December 15, 3:30 p.m. – Final Budget Day

11. **Adjourn**
To: Chair Helen Jowett and Members of the Budget Committee

From: Jeff Schelling, Regional Solicitor, Director of Legal Services

Subject: “Police Services Act” Provisions Regarding Council Approval of Police Services Board Operating and Capital Estimates

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the authority of Regional Council in its consideration of the proposed 2022 budget that will be submitted by the Police Services Board to Council for its approval.

As of the date of writing this memo, the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.15, as amended, (the “Act”) is in force and effect. Successor legislation, the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, (Bill 68) has received Royal Assent but this successor legislation has not been proclaimed in force.¹

Subsection 4(1) of the Act requires every municipality to provide “adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs.”

¹ It is noted that this Bill 68 contains provisions substantially similar to those in the Act relating to the municipality’s jurisdiction to approve or disapprove the police services board’s budget globally and not with respect specific items. Bill 68 includes certain changes to provide for consideration of “various ways that the board can discharge [its] obligation” to provide adequate and effective policing – including use of contracted policing services – and also includes changes to the dispute resolution process to provide for conciliation and/or arbitration in the event of dispute between the municipality and the board regarding the proposed budget.
Subsection 31(1) of the Act requires the municipality’s police services board to be responsible for “the provision of adequate and effective police services” including the responsibility to “generally determine, after consultation with the chief of police, objectives and priorities with respect to police services in the municipality.”

Subsection 4(3) of the Act requires a municipality to be responsible for “providing all the infrastructure and administration necessary for providing such services, including vehicles, boats, equipment, communication devices, buildings and supplies.”

Section 39 of the Act provides as follows:

**Estimates**

(1) The board shall submit operating and capital estimates to the municipal council that will show, separately, the amounts that will be required,

   (a) to maintain the police force and provide it with equipment and facilities; and
   
   (b) to pay the expenses of the board’s operation other than the remuneration of board members.

**Same**

(2) The format of the estimates, the period that they cover and the timetable for their submission shall be as determined by the council.

**Budget**

(3) Upon reviewing the estimates, the council shall establish an overall budget for the board for the purposes described in clauses (1) (a) and (b) and, in doing so, the council is not bound to adopt the estimates submitted by the board.

**Same**

(4) In establishing an overall budget for the board, the council does not have the authority to approve or disapprove specific items in the estimates.

**Commission hearing in case of dispute**

(5) If the board is not satisfied that the budget established for it by the council is sufficient to maintain an adequate number of police officers or other employees of the police force or to provide the police force with adequate equipment or facilities, the board may request that the Commission determine the question and the Commission, shall, after a hearing, do so.

Of particular significance above is Subsection 39(4) of the Act, which provides that Council does not have authority to approve or disapprove specific items in the budget estimates submitted by the Police Services Board. Rather, Council may only approve or disapprove the entirety of the overall budget for the Board, or some lesser or greater
global budget amount. In the event that the Board is not satisfied that this overall budget amount is sufficient for it to meet its obligations to maintain an adequate number of police officers and other staff as well as adequate equipment and facilities, then the Board may request that the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, a provincial independent quasi-judicial tribunal, conduct a hearing, with an opportunity for evidence to be presented by both the Municipality and the Board, and render a decision on the Board’s budget including any particular proposed expenditures that are in dispute. The Municipality and the Board are then bound by the Commission’s decision.
From: Courtney Moddle
Sent: November 28, 2021 9:40 PM
To: egionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca; Karen Redman <KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Berry Vrbanovic <BVrbanovic@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Elizabeth Clarke <ElClarke@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Tom Galloway <TGalloway@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Michael Harris <MHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Geoff Lorentz <GLOrentz@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Kathryn McGarry <mcgarryk@cambridge.ca>; Helen Jowett <HJowett@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Karl Kiefer <KKiefer@regionofwaterloo.ca>; mayor@waterloo.ca; Jim Erb <JErb@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Sean Strickland <SStrickland@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Sandy Shantz <SShantz@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Les Armstrong <LesArmstrong@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Sue Foxton <SFoxton@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Joe Nowak <JoNowak@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Karl.Kiefer@wrps.on.ca; karen.redman@wrps.on.ca; Sandy.Shantz@wrps.on.ca; tony.giovinazzo@wrps.on.ca; Ian.McLean@wrps.on.ca; Karin.Schnarr@wrps.on.ca; Bryan Larkin <bryan.larkin@wrps.on.ca>; Bruce Lauckner <BLauckner@regionofwaterloo.ca>

Subject: Re: Charles St / Stirling Encampment Removal

Dear Regional Council members,

I was upset and disappointed to see pictures of a local encampment being cleared by bulldozing the area and destroying people's possessions on November 26th. These are our neighbours, valuable members of our community who deserve dignity and respect. In our region, housing unaffordability is rapidly increasing and the problem of homelessness will only get worse. I know that the solutions aren't easy, but our neighbours deserve compassion and humane solutions. This community cannot claim to be caring or innovative when the people we should care about are treated this way.

In light of these recent events, it is clear that ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. This includes rejecting the WRPS budget increase proposal and demanding a 0% increase in the WRPS budget while allocating the equivalent of the WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy.

Courtney Moddle
Hello,

I hope you've received a number of emails regarding this and that I am adding to the pile.

Just...unconscionable. The destruction and lack of compassion on display this past Friday (November 26, 2021) is disheartening and not reflective of the community I want to support.

On top of what happened, there are plans for money to increase policing? I implore you to read the room and listen to diverse voices. Any opinion other than "reallocate the funds to community services" is going to come from a very specific demographic. You know it. I know it. It's just baffling that the community (especially what ReAllocateWR proposes) speaks up and seems to be ignored.

Are we not a progressive and forward thinking community? Do we not want to be leaders in the province when larger populations are slow to act? Let's be the nimble and ambitious leaders we can be.

Please consider rejecting the WRPS budget increase and reallocate those funds to support affordable housing for those in need. It's just...blatantly obvious. Do you want good publicity and to make positive change while you're in these esteemed positions of power? Take a chance and make the decisions that will serve people. That's what you're supposed to do: think about humans and help them shape our region into a prosperous and supportive space.

Please include my letter in the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting so it can be included in the official record.

And just...be better than this. Own up to the responsibility that rests on your shoulders. Even if you're not personally to blame for what happened on the 26th, be personally responsible for the solution.

I believe in you. Don't let us down.

Andrew Kolb
Dear Regional Council members,

It was with huge disappointment that I learned about the destruction of the Charles Street encampment on Friday, November 26, 2021. The violence of bringing in heavy machinery; giving residents minimal warning; and destroying all of their possessions (which are essential for keeping them safe while living on the streets) is deplorable!

I am deeply ashamed to live in a city where this is considered a solution for our community members who are experiencing homelessness.

There is enough money in the region to make sure that everyone living rough has access to dignified housing, but not only is it not considered a priority by our policy makers, we are spending money actively displacing vulnerable people.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Do better,

Johanna Whitson
Dear Regional Council members,

I am disgusted and ashamed at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the belongings of the individuals experiencing homelessness.

I live on Stirling Avenue, within two blocks of that site; these people are my neighbours. I was proud to join the protest at that intersection earlier today, but so very disappointed that there was such a reason to protest.

We’re spending $700,000 on a bunker that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home and the House of Friendship is without a shelter space to use, while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

The ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community.

- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget.

- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model.

- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
• Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Best,

Anne Blayney
City of Kitchener Regional Councillors,

I don't expect responses from any of you on the matter but I did want to just take 5 minutes to express my disappointment seeing the Charles St. / Stirling encampment removal. I've read the articles on the matter and seen the Mayor's response about a review, but I find it hard to believe that this is somehow a one-time irregularity that the Mayor wasn't aware of. This is pretty par for the course for municipal governance as I understand it, but you can choose to do better moving forward.

I understand the Region has to balance a number of conflicting interests when it comes to encampments, from the unhoused, to local residents or advocates, but this Region wants to pride itself on being progressive and forward thinking, and bulldozing the homeless doesn't look like that. We pride ourselves on "barn-raising", and have proven innovative concepts like A Better Tent City can work here, but can't seem to find the willpower or cash to upscale and actually end homelessness in this city. I think I know of somewhere some money can be found.

The above is entirely my words and opinion, but below I simply reiterate the calls made by ReallocateWR and Samantha Estoesta regarding the 2022 Budget:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
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- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Regards,
Andrew Rutland
Resident, City of Kitchener
Dear Regional Council members,

I am appalled and horrified by what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings. So closely after receiving the updated Point in Time Count of the Region showing that in 2016, 333 community members were counted as houseless. In 2021 the updated data is OVER 1000. You place barrier after barrier and harm after harm in COMMUNITY member's ways to a decent life not even allowing them to meet basic needs let along a fruitful and joyful one.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

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- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,
Samantha Estoesta & Abi Willms
Dear Regional Council members,

To say I am heartbroken about what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021 will be a gross understatement. I am beyond disgusted and ashamed. At the height of discussing the housing issue, and the real and devastating impact of homelessness…and, on the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, on the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home is a testament to where our priorities lie. How could we afford all our other budget line items, like $12.4 million for WRPS…but cannot care for the most vulnerable and marginalized us of??

I am tired of hearing people say we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this to its own. Sadly, it would seem that your approach addressing this homelessness crisis/pandemic seem to be born out of charity, where you casually ask "should we prioritize homelessness?" If we really treated housing as a fundamental human right, we'll be asking very different questions.

I am asking Regional Council to:

- I agree the Region should invest in public safety. However, safety is not policing. To many in our Region, safety is shelter, it is food, it is warmth. Therefore, I am asking that the Region allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Really disappointed & ashamed,
Paul Okoye
Good evening, Councillors,

You may remember me from the Public Input budget meeting earlier this week, where Elizabeth and I asked you to say no to the police budget increase, in favour of investing in preventative measures.

I was shocked and disgusted, today, to learn about the destruction of the camp at Charles St and Stirling. After everything we heard at the public input meeting about the need for additional housing and the importance of supporting people through preventative measures, I am shocked that anyone would authorize this.

[Link to article]

I understand that the residents of the camp were given some warning, but as we heard at the public input meeting, affordable housing is all but unavailable in Waterloo Region, so it does not seem that they had anywhere else to go. Even if they did have somewhere else to go, surely there is a more dignifying, ethical, and humane way to evict people than to run a bulldozer over all their worldly possessions.

I think this incident is yet another reminder of the need for more and better housing services in Waterloo. So, I call on you to say no to the excessive police budget and use that money to support housing initiatives like A Better Tent City.

I want to join my voice with that of the mayor of Waterloo and so many others in asking you...
to investigate why this happened and ensure that better approaches are taken in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.
Rachel
--
Rachel Jones (she/her)
Social Development Studies student
University of Waterloo
Hello,

I am in agreement that we, as citizens of the Waterloo Regions, witnessed an event that one might consider disgusting and indeed was shameful. On Friday, November 26, 2021, the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn-raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

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~ Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

~ Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2S/LGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities, and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

If we do not care for the most vulnerable in our community, then what kind of society are we promoting? One of caring only for the more privileged?

We cannot afford to ignore the plight of fellow human beings, plights that have been exacerbated by the decisions of councils that promote militarized violence, lack of...
compassion, lack of caring for each other.

We can do better.

Sincerely, Ann Marie
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

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Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,

TD, resident of WR
Dear Regional Council members,

Today, Friday, November 26, 2021, on the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles St and Stirling Ave, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings. I am infuriated and horrified. I am assuming none of you have struggled with meeting your basic needs; worried about losing your home due to lack of finances. You must use your privilege and position to demand better and create supports for the marginalized in our community; not destroy the little they have. This is beyond humanity.

I am an adoptive parent to a child who was previously homeless. A child who's birth family struggles with mental health & addiction challenges that lead to being unhoused. By no fault of their own - rather, the byproduct of system failures and insufficient supports - they ended up in this situation. My daughter ended up in this situation. And while I am grateful that my daughter is now safe, I cannot help but think these tents could have been her home in other circumstances. That this could easily have been her birth family's home. I am horrified, heartbroken, and infuriated that this is the region's response to the unhoused in our city. That the lives of people like my daughter and her birth family are deemed disposable; trash.

These are people... people who have almost nothing, and you have just taken the little they have away. Bulldozed their homes away. Literally. These are PEOPLE who have been failed and mistreated and actively dismissed at every level; people who need SUPPORT not bulldozers. I am heartbroken that anyone thinks this is okay. Angry that you as our leaders have not only allowed this to happen, but initiated it. We must do better. YOU must do better.

We are in a pandemic and a housing crisis. There are no shelter spaces locally. Housing costs are beyond reach. Pandemic supports have ended and winter has arrived. We must demand improved funding from our provincial & federal counterparts. Regionally, we must reallocate police budgets to on the ground, upstream supports (especially housing, basic income, mental health & addiction, and disability supports) for those who need them.

I truly do not understand the inhumanity in the decision to remove these people's homes in this manner, at this time. I am disgusted and ashamed at what took place today.

Teresa McQuillin
Re: Charles St / Stirling Encampment Removal

Dear Regional Council members,

I am absolutely horrified at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, responding to the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment of homeless people at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the people’s belongings.

It’s now snowing and below zero. What are these homeless people supposed to do now? I would have attended the demonstration today but it was too cold. Canada is too cold for homeless people to live outside in the winter. Rents are too high, which is why people are becoming homeless, and local shelters are already full, which is why these people were camping outside.

This is not the action of a caring and inclusive community. Destroying the shelter and possessions of these homeless people is kicking people when they’re down and making them even more vulnerable and marginalized than they already were.

The best, most cost-effective solution to homelessness is to house homeless people. Various studies have shown this in other cities.

Specifically, I want to see the following changes to the Waterloo region budget:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in partnership with the Indigenous community;
- Reject the Waterloo Regional Police Service budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget;
- Immediately fulfill the region’s commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model;
- Allocate the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy, which should include the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space;
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official
record.
Yours sincerely
Yvonne Aburrow

CC:
  regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca,
  KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca,
  BVUrbanovic@regionofwaterloo.ca,
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Yvonne
  www.yvonneaburrow.com
Located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Hodinohsho:ni, and Attawandaron
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending $700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this. It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

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- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.
Its mind boggling how completely out of touch and heartless this decision and current Region Council is.

I am absolutely appalled,

Stacey Sage
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

A real solution must be realized so that affordable housing is possible for all residents of our Region,

Barbara Williams
Dear Regional Council members,

I am disgusted, angry and heartbroken at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021 in Kitchener. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue. And if that wasn’t frightening enough for the people living there, a decision was made to humiliate them further by bulldozing all of their belongings. Shame.

We’re spending $700,000.00 on a bunker that is unusable. How many people could we house with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS board approved the abhorrent $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how out of touch the Region is and how little they care about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfil its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other
communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.
Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and angry,

Diane Pinkerton
Kitchener, ON
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
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- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,

Justine Rogers

Waterloo
Dear Regional Council members,

I agree with Samantha Esteosa's indictment of Regional Council. Like her, I am "beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness's belongings."

As a past member of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council and past Chair of Supportive Housing of Waterloo, I have been a part of positive solutions to social problems. Homelessness undermines physical and mental health and wellness. Far more egregious, however, is the violent removal of people from their temporary encampment and the destruction of what little processions they have.

Since the removal of the Executive Director and reorganization of the Crime Prevention Council, I have been increasingly dismayed at the direction taken by the Region. Under the leadership of Chair Redman and Chief Larkin we see the increase in the police budget and increased police action against citizens. This trend is worrying in light of the continued underfunding of mental health and affordable housing in the Region.

I agree with and support the calls for action proposed by ReAllocateWR for the 2022 budget. I have listed these below:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Cull
Dear Community Leader,

I writing today to share how upset I am at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings. This is unacceptable.

While the WRPS asks for a budget increase, A Better Tent City is unable to find a permanent home, the House of Friendship men's shelter has closed due to lack of location, Land Back Camp still has un-met demands, and overdose deaths are climbing. It has never been clearer that the Region prioritizes the well-off over the vulnerable in this community. Waterloo Region is not the "innovation hub" we claim to be. We are a community that neglects the marginalized. We need to do better.

The ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community

- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget

- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model

- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official
record.

Sincerely,

Zoe Andres

Kitchener, ON
Dear Regional Council members,

I am absolutely horrified at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, responding to the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment of homeless people at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing of the people’s belongings.

It’s now snowing and below zero. What are our unhoused community members supposed to do during the winter? I attended a demonstration today with many other Kitchener and Waterloo Region residents who echo my shock and disapproval. Canada is too cold for humans to live outside in the winter.

Kitchener residents demand that our unhoused community members be treated like the human beings they are. Housing is a human right.

The cost of living, including rent and housing costs, is skyrocketing while folks are losing their jobs in this pandemic. Waterloo Region’s response should not be to increase the police budget while House of Friendship needs to close some of their vital services for the first time in over 80 years.

The best, most cost-effective solution to homelessness is to house our unhoused community members. Various studies have shown this in other cities.

Specifically, I want to see the following changes to the Waterloo region budget:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in partnership with the Indigenous community;
- Reject the Waterloo Regional Police Service budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget;
- Immediately fulfill the region’s commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model;
- Allocate the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy, which should include the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space;
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation
meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

KW Region needs to do better by your community.

Sincerely,

Gavynn McKay
MSW Candidate '22 WLU
NDP KSH Persons With Disabilities Representative
Intern for MPP Laura Mae Lindo

I reside on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral peoples.
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we're a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
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- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,
Justin Buhr
Dear Regional Council members,

I am absolutely horrified at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, responding to the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment of homeless people at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing of the people’s belongings.

It’s now snowing and below zero. What are our unhoused community members supposed to do during the winter? I attended a demonstration today with many other Kitchener and Waterloo Region residents who echo my shock and disapproval. Canada is too cold for humans to live outside in the winter.

Kitchener residents demand that our unhoused community members be treated like the human beings they are. Housing is a human right.

The cost of living, including rent and housing costs, is skyrocketing while folks are losing their jobs in this pandemic. Waterloo Region’s response should not be to increase the police budget while House of Friendship needs to close some of their vital services for the first time in over 80 years.

The best, most cost-effective solution to homelessness is to house our unhoused community members. Various studies have shown this in other cities.

Specifically, I want to see the following changes to the Waterloo region budget:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in partnership with the Indigenous community;
- Reject the Waterloo Regional Police Service budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget;
- Immediately fulfill the region’s commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model;
- Allocate the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy, which should include the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space;
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official
record.

KW Region needs to do better by your community.

Sincerely,

Joan Étude Arrow

I reside on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral peoples.
Dear Regional Council members,

On Friday, November 26, 2021, as temperatures begin to plummet below 0°, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed a small encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue. This not only destroyed a tent that is prohibitively expensive for a person experiencing homelessness, but destroyed other personal belongings, and removed their only shelter from the cold. This has been seen by not only residents of our own city but in the modern age, it quickly spreads and now the Region of Waterloo can have the distinct own of being a vile and unwelcoming space to human life. This should be disturbing, at any point, any individual involved could have spoken out, they chose not to, they were complicit in that harm, this would not have been possible except through the policies and systems that our city has created.

We’re losing shelter spots by the minute, as the rate of homelessness rises, and we fail to act during a housing crisis. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS looks set to receive a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how the Region prioritizes punishing a minority of individuals over the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. These policies would prevent crimes, help those in need, and create a community to be proud of. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to fulfill these commitment:

1. Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget, and use those funds for upstream services and plans to reduce the crime rate, and provide aid through the various methods below

2. Invest in the development of an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal

3. Fulfill the commitment of $250,000 to facilitate conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model

4. Invest into a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
5. Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Exhausted and ashamed,

Jean-Luc Desroches, Resident of Ward 9,

Kitchener, ON
Dear Regional Council, CAO Lauckner, PSB members, and Chief Larkin,

I am sure you have seen by now the video I took at the Charles/Stirling encampment earlier today, November 26, 2021. If not, I am embedding it here for your convenience https://twitter.com/ReallocateW/status/1464325169317658638?s=20

As soon as I heard the WRPS and Region were evicting people from their homes and destroying their property, I immediately went there to witness what was taking place. What I saw was incredibly inhumane and shameful.

How could a decision like this be made, particularly on the coldest day of the year so far? Who is responsible for this decision and how will you ensure that something like this does not happen again? And most importantly, do all of the people who were evicted from their homes have shelter currently? How will the Region make reparations to those whose homes and belongings were destroyed?

The actions by the WRPS and ROW today demonstrate a complete lack of empathy and compassion those who are most marginalized in our community.

It also makes clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

• Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community

• Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget

• Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

I am deeply ashamed of what I witnessed today.

Jessica Hutchison
Re: Charles St / Stirling Encampment Removal

Dear Regional Council members,

Horrified does not begin to describe my family's response to the Friday, November 26, 2021 destruction of an encampment at Charles and Stirling. The Waterloo Regional Police Service, at the Region of Waterloo’s request, committed unspeakable violence on our Region's most vulnerable human beings. They saw fit to bring a BULLDOZER to trash what few possessions these neighbours had. This is a form of terrorism.

What contempt must one have for those living in poverty, for those living with no housing, and for those suffering from mental illness that THIS would be the response. As if the people seeking to survive in a society that considers some of us disposable are to blame for the current economic and cultural demise! SHAME ON ALL OF YOU.

The following synopsis from Samantha Estoestra speaks for our family also:

"We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this".

As a former cook for A Better Tent City, the fact that this Region wants to continue to act like unhoused people are to blame for the crippling poverty and mental health issues often precede or follow losing housing, and the fact that this Region acts like removing these tents will somehow make "the problem" disappear, is appalling to me -- and it is indicative of some seriously regressive, bigotted "bootstraps" thinking.

Where is your humanity?!?

The ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. In support of ReAllocateWR, our family is asking Regional Council to:

Return to top
Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community.

Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget.

Immediately release the $250,000 to which the Region committed to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model.

Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Given the interlocking crises of rising poverty, climate breakdown, and out-of-reach housing and food prices, should we expect to see more violence as this turn towards fascist tendencies indicates? How this Council continues to act with such ignorance and NIMBY classism after the amount of energy from IBPOC community members to educate you over the past three years in particular astounds. It is embarrassing.

Please include our family's letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record. We also request a direct response from Council via email to these five calls to action: 1. When will you implement the requests AllocateWR has made? 2. If NOT implementing one or more of these 5 demands for action, which ones are you not enacting and why not?

Outraged and disgusted -- on behalf of Rowan Carnahan Koberinski, Caedon Carnahan Koberinski, and myself--

Jodi Koberinski, MESSHRC Doctoral Fellow
Department of Geography & Environmental Management
Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo
I acknowledge that I am on the traditional territory of the Neutral Confederacy, Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract (1784), land promised to Six Nations including six miles on each side of the Grand River, which is an occupied territory. I have a responsibility to dismantle racism that I, as a Canadian citizen, have perpetuated and benefited from. I continue to seek understanding and to learn ways to engage decolonizing actions and movements. I commit to learning about the 94 TRC commitments, UNDRIP, and doing what I can to implement them.
Dear Regional Council members,

On Friday, November 26, 2021, the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

This is not the mark of a barn raising community or a caring community. I've experienced homelessness firsthand, and the idea that the region I grew up in would, at any point in the process, opt to help me by deploying police and bulldozers is appalling. That's not support, it's terror.

The statement issued today by the Region indicates that there is a process to support the homeless. I and many other residents of Waterloo Region are deeply curious about where in that process police and bulldozers are called for, and when personally you believe that the right thing to do is bring those to bear.

Homelessness is suffering, and in winter it is deadly. And the Region of Waterloo, in conjunction with the Waterloo Regional Police Service, opted to create more suffering and endanger the lives of our residents. They live here too.

The ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community. Indigenous people are at high risk of being unhoused, and are more likely to suffer at the hands of the police.
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget. As a region focused on innovation, we like to say that constraints breed creativity, so let's encourage WRPS to find solutions that are more creative than bulldozers.
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space. This will save lives this winter. It's veritable herosim.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.
We keep saying we're better than this. We have to be better than this.

Jim Tigwell
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community

Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget

Immediately fulfill its committment of $250,000 to facilitate communitum conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model

Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,

Scott Clark
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place on Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals’ belongings.

The Region of Waterloo regularly shares their vision to be a “world class” community. The many universities and technology companies say they’re bringing “innovation” to Waterloo. The Region’s 2021 Vision statement reads:

“We are also committing to an exciting, historic investment in upstream funding to help improve the lives of residents… These investments also ensure we are well-positioned to emerge from the pandemic to build a community that is globally competitive as one of the world’s greatest places to live.”

The Region needs to be honest. When will these investments be made? The actions of Regional By-Law and WRPS officers do not make this a great place to live.

Make no mistake, this community has some great leaders and innovators. They are working to make this a great place to live. And they have presented to the Regional Council numerous times, advocating for resources for initiatives like O:se Kenhionhata:tie (Land Back Camp), The House of Friendship, A Better Tent City, and other mutual aid. It’s heartbreaking to see when The House of Friendship has to temporarily close its emergency shelter. Juxtapose this: a service whose full budget of $15 million helps about 40 thousand people; with a $12 million increase in the WRPS budget to hire about 30 officers.

The razing of the encampment at Charles Street was excruciating to watch. Many regional councillors expressed the same in public statements. The councillors said they weren’t given advanced notice. They should take an increased WRPS budget as a warning: if the Region chooses to send more money to the WRPS, then there will be more encampments razed, because the Region will have no other tools to help people.

Heed this warning, and take up the calls to action by ReAllocateWR. For the 2022 budget I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget

- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model

- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.

- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

I hope you will make the right decision. The voters will be watching,

Tyler B. Hampton
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individual experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

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It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.
Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,

Samantha Estoesta
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place yesterday, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day we have seen yet of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this. PLEASE do something tangible about this.

Yesterday’s events makes it abundantly clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

• Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
• Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
• Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
• Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
• Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed,
Anna Buhr, Kitchener Resident
she/her
Regional Council members,

I am horrified at what took place today at the Charles St. and Stirling Ave Encampment. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’ belongings.

This is just another example of the ridiculous, inhumane choices the region is making. As a citizen I am continuously disgusted and ashamed by what council is endorsing and allowing to happen.

The news of spending $700,000 on an unusable bunker this week is just the cherry on top. How many people could we home with that money? The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the people in this community.

It makes it so clear why the ReallocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReallocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

I am truly horrified and ashamed to be living in a city that treats its residents this way.

Michaela Angemeer
Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings. This, as house of friendship is forced to temporarily close their doors. This, as point in time counts show an exponential increase in unhoused individuals in our community.

This as winter looms.
This as we have watched with horror and judgment as other cities have behaved in this disgusting manner.
This as our those who our community have intentionally neglected and displaced face the most inaccessible housing market we have ever seen.

As someone who has lived downtown for over ten years, and worked with unhoused community members I know that this is a commonplace occurrence. I’ve both witnessed and heard from unhoused individuals countless times of having their camps ransacked, bulldozed, or harassed.

We need safe affordable and appropriate housing options for everyone in our community. Encampments are a result of lack of safe, affordable and appropriate housing. Shelters that cannot accommodate families, partners or pets, or people who sue substances, or people with complex mental health challenges.

There. Is. No. Excuse. For. This.

It is abundantly clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. In support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities, folx using substances, unhoused individuals and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Sincerely,

Alice Maguire
Dear Regional Council members, Police Services Board Members, CAO Lauckner, Chief Larkin and Mayor Vrbanovic,

I am writing with deep concern and disgust at the destruction of the camp and home of those who are living without shelter in our region at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue today (Friday November 26, 2021) enacted by the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request.

This is a heartless act - it strips those who are already struggling to survive from having a place to sleep tonight, is a destruction of their property and homes, and is an act of violence against their humanity and dignity. While doing this at any time would be appalling, to choose to do so on the coldest day so far of this season and an the heels of the closing of the House of Friendship is nothing short of cruel.

Despite the recent claims of KW as being a "world class city" and being committed to "antiracist" and "upstream approaches," actions like this demonstrate the lack of understanding and true commitment to acting like a city that cares for all members of our community, particularly those who have already been made most vulnerable.

Further, this action demonstrates the absolute failure of the police budget to tackle issues like homelessness. Instead, we see the ways in which those who are homeless - individuals who are poor, often living with disabilities, and are disproportionately members of BIPOC and/or 2SLGBTQ+ communities - are criminalized and are subject to police force against themselves and their property. Rather than prioritize affordable housing, cultural and health services, shelters, and other actual upstream approaches, this decision prioritizes destruction.

In line with other calls made by ReallocateWR, I am asking you to ensure that the 2022 budget reflects values that the region claims to be in support of, including:

* Developing an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
* Rejecting the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
* Immediately fulfilling your commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
* Alloting the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
* Committing $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Christine Mayor

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Christine Mayor, PhD Candidate, MA, BCT/RDT, RP (she/her)  
Associate Editor, Drama Therapy Review  
http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals/view-Journal.id=241/
I am beyond disgusted to learn the Region of Waterloo, with assistance from WRPS, evicted and bulldozed the encampment located at Charles and Stirling today.

Who does this serve? Who does this benefit?

As I mentioned before, you have the responsibility to put your money where your mouth is. Your actions speak louder than words. The actions today by the Region of Waterloo and WRPS are deplorable, inhumane and, frankly, classist. You have shown you do not care for our homeless. That they don’t belong in our city. That they’re a blight and an inconvenience. That they make you feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

Shame.

Just last week, your staff brought forward a report on the state of homelessness in the region. You heard how it’s tripled in just the last few years. It’s a serious issue many of our neighbours face and a situation we’re all one major accident away from. And now, on the coldest day of the year your staff decide to evict, bulldoze and demolish your most vulnerable citizens homes.

Shame.

Last week I read about the $100k you approved for the Rolling Stones advertisement. And then the $700k to restore an old bunker. Oh and who can forget the $12.4M budget increase that WRPS is currently requesting.

I am demanding you immediately take action to ensure all displaced residents are properly taken care of (temporarily and then permanently). Everyone in our community deserves dignity.

I am also demanding that all staff who were part of today’s decision making process be fired. Their actions are toxic, deplorable and inhumane.

Please include this email in the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package as well as in the next Committee of the Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Disgusted and ashamed.
Mitchell Avis

Dear Regional Council,

I am writing to you in response to the Waterloo Region Police Service (WRPS) budget as I am unable to delegate at your November 24 and December 8 meetings.

As a Government, you have the responsibility to literally put your money where your mouth is.

“As the past year has demonstrated, discrimination is in not only part of our past but it is also part of our present. Work remains to be done in our institutions and in our society to address homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, and racism or discrimination of any kind.” -Karen Redman (June 22, 2021)

I am writing to demonstrate my support and solidarity with ReallocateWR and demand that Waterloo Region Council:

1. Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
2. Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget.
3. Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model.
4. Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
5. Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopment resources and services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by trauma of police violence.

We’ve heard enough nice words. Now it’s time to do the work.

Mitchell Avis
Kitchener, ON

PS nearly all the WRPS budget comes from property taxes. You, as Regional Councillors of said municipalities encompassing these properties, have the power to send the budget back to the WRPS and demand a different number on behalf of the people footing the bill. The threat made by some Councillors of the OPCP is unnecessary and, frankly, is “passing the buck” instead of doing the right thing. Systems don’t change without leadership and perseverance.

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Mitchell Avis

"
Last year there was a lot of attention on the police budget following the BLM protests. Rather than reducing police budgets, an increase went through.

Here we are a year later, and as far as I can tell, voices are being ignored.

I urge you as a council to take action. Don't let this same scenario occur next year. Start a task force and make a plan to reduce the need for armed police officers in our community. What responsibilities can be given to others? What support services can be better funded? Where can money be allocated such that our crime rate would decrease in 5, 10, or 20 years?

Many of our publicly-funded support systems require donations to supplement their budgets, including our hospitals and school board. I don't want police to have to fundraise, but I don't want our hospitals or school boards or shelters or mental health centers to have to either. What makes Police the exception?

Regardless of what you do with this year's police budget, I ask that you put together a thoughtful response to the calls of BLM, ReallocateW, GroundUpWR. Show us that our many voices are being heard, and that you have (or will make) a plan to address the concerns.

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Dear Regional Council members,

I am extremely upset at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request (as I understand it), destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the unhoused people’s belongings. They destroyed everything, and the only things, that these people had in this world. Shame! “They left on their own”…. After how much coercion? Did they understand when leaving that all they had would be destroyed? Nobody I know would leave their house and belongings knowing those things would all be turned into, and treated like, garbage.

The region is spending 700,000.00 on a bunker that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

No caring community does this. No “innovative” community does this.

It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

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Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

- J.J. Harris

I have learned that I live and work on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

I understand that, through colonization processes that continue to this day, this land was taken
from Indigenous peoples. I understand that because I live and work on this land, I have contributed to, benefit from, and continue to participate in those processes. I understand that living here provides me with privileges, and that I must work continuously to recognize and change my conscious and unconscious oppressive actions and beliefs. Learn more about territorial acknowledgement.