

Presentation to the Committee of the Whole

# **2025 Proposed Police Budget**

December 12, 2024

By D Glass

# First Things First

1. This presentation was deferred from November.
2. I also met with Senior Staff from Durham Police who gave me more insight that I have tried to factor into my presentation.
3. Do not mistake my concerns as being anti police
4. I am a just concerned about the unsustainable level of spend in Durham and the Police budget guideline of 9.25%

I hope you receive my message accordingly

# 1. Police Challenges & Pressures

In September, our Chief spoke to the many pressures that are driving this budget

- Increased call volumes and crime
  - Burnout
  - Increased regulation
  - New capital needs
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- As tough as these are, these pressures are **not unique** to our police department alone

# 1a – Increased Call Volumes – 2024 vs 2023

Year To Date	Total Service Calls
YTD to November 2024	98,094
YTD to November 2023	94,470
% Chg	3.8%

- Total service calls are up by almost 4%

# 1b - Total Service Calls – By Call Type

Year To Date	Emergency Calls (high risk of harm)	Urgent (moderate risk of harm)	Routine (no immediate harm)	Total Service Calls
YTD to Nov 2024	8,169	37,709	52,216	98,094
Calls Per Day	24.4	113	156.3	294
% Chg from 2023	0.1%	0.9%	6.7%	3.8%
% of Total 2024 Calls	8.3%	38.4%	53.2%	

- While total service calls grew by almost 4%
  - 53.2% of all service calls are routine (no risk of immediate harm) and they grew the fastest at **6.7%** over last year
  - Emergency calls (high risk of harm) have been flat year over year and represent 24.4 calls a day or 8.3% of all service calls into DRPS

# 1c - Service Calls Vs Total Crime Types

Year To Date	Total Violent Crime	Total Property Crime	Total Crimes	Total Service Calls	Service Calls With No Crime
YTD to Nov 2024	5,471	14,833	20,304	98,094	77,790
% of Total Service Calls	5.6%	15.1%			79.3%
Calls Per Day	16.4	44.4	61	294	232

- Plus, when you layer total service calls of 98,094 against total crimes of 20,304
  - 5.6% of all service calls are for violent crimes (16 calls a day)
  - 15.1% of all service calls are for property crimes (45 calls a day)
  - 79.3% of all service calls are for no crime at all (232 calls a day)

This is not to say that non-crime calls are any less important. (well-being checks, missing persons, etc..)

# 1d - Service Calls – Summary

But I do not believe that the volumes are at a level warranting the Chief's recent comments

- 1 - To Council on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>    ***“we will never be able to keep up even if we hire 1,000 more officers”***
- 2- To Public 2025 Budget Town Hall on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> -    ***“we are seeing a significant increase in emergency calls that are occurring, which is driving our staff away from proactive policing”***
- Volumes are up and our police are dealing with things like mental health, but most of the growth in service calls is due to routine calls. (those with no immediate risk of harm), not in emergency calls as implied.

## 2a – Total Crime in Durham Region

Year To Date	Total All Crime	Crimes Per Day
YTD to Nov 2024	20,304	60.8
YTD to Nov 2023	19,491	58.4
% Chg	4.2%	

- Total recent crime is sadly up 4.2% increase year over year
- But even with crime increasing, 61 total crimes a day right now over 760,000 residents is not a Region under serious criminal threat.



# 2b - Total Crime By Type (Violent vs Property)

Year To Date	Total Violent Crime	Total Property Crime	Total Crime
YTD to Nov 2024	5,471	14,833	20,304
YTD to Nov 2023	4,709	14,782	19,491
% Chg	16.2%	0.3%	4.2%
2024 Per Day	16.4	44.4	60.8
2024 % of Total	26.9%	73.1%	

- 73.1% of crime in Durham is property crime (which is tragic as well)
- While violent crime is sadly up 16.2%, on a proportional basis relative to our population, it is not out of control.

(760,000 residents / 5,471 total YTD violent crimes = 0.72% of residents impacted on a YTD basis)

## 2c - Top 5 Crimes

Crime	2024 YTD Nov Totals	% of Total 2024 YTD Crime	Crimes Per Day	% Chg from 2023
1. Theft Under \$5,000	6,887	33.9%	20.6	2.2%
2. Fraud	2,434	12%	7.3	-15.7%
3. Level 1 Assault (no injury)	1,905	9.4%	5.7	18.2%
4. Mischief	1,870	9.2%	5.6	-3.3%
5. Auto Theft	1,240	6.1%	3.7	-10.1%
<b>Top 5 Total</b>	<b>14,336</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>

- The top 5 crimes in Durham represent **70.5%** of total crimes and none of them (while all terrible) involve physical injury.
- Plus the top 5 crimes total declined year over year by **1.5%**

## 2d – Total Crime from 2014 to 2024 (from DRPS)

Type	2014 Q3	2024 Q3	10 Yr % Chg	Annualized %
Violent	2,692	4,481	66%	6.6%
Property	8,735	12,306	41%	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,427</b>	<b>16,787</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

### Violent Crime

- Assault up 72% from 1,266 to 2,178
- Robbery up 13% from 190 to 215
- Sexual Assault up 172% from 170 to 463
- Firearm Discharge/Shooting up 1,400% from 2 to 30

### Property Crime

- Break & Enter up 2% from 982 to 997
- Fraud up 120% from 1,242 to 2,736
- Theft up 33% from 4,375 to 5,807
- Vehicle Theft up 240% from 304 to 1,034

### Other

- Fail to Comply up 233% from 588 to 1,960
- Probation breach up 43% from 260 to 372

- Durham Police did stress that year over year data as I am reporting can be misleading
- Since 2014, total crime is up **47%**.
- But when you annualize this over 10 years, you get **4.7%** which is very similar to the 4.2% year over year number I have quoted

## 2e - Crime Comparison With Other Communities

City / Region	Population	Crime Severity Index ( 2023)
Winnipeg	760,000	129.0
Kitchener / Waterloo	673,000	75.6
Hamilton	729,000	59.5
Quebec City	733,000	52.9
York Region	1,200,000	49.7
<b>Durham Region</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>46.8</b>
Halton Region	597,000	23.9
Canada Nationally		73.7

- Durham Region is a much safer than many other communities of a similar size according to the 2023 CSI rates.
- For example, Durham Region and Winnipeg have a similar populations but our CSI index is 63.7% less than theirs. Same goes for Hamilton & Quebec City

## 2f- Crime In Durham - Summary

- I don't share these numbers to minimize crime or the impact it has on our fellow residents.
- I share them to illustrate that **Durham Region is a safe community**
- With over 760,000+ residents, Durham averages 61 crimes a day and 73% of them are property crime.
- While DRPS is clearly reducing victimization, I believe that consistently higher budget increases are not sustainable to the taxpayer.

# 3 - Police Budgets vs Population

Year	Police Budget	Population
2025 (proposed)	\$292,700,000	773,536 (est)
2024	\$268,000,000	760,000 (est)
2023	\$247,500,000	735,090
2022	\$233,300,000	743,095
2021	\$223,200,000	713,680
2020	\$214,700,000	711,060
2019	\$206,600,000	699,460
2018	\$198,900,000	691,580
<b>% Chg (2025 vs 2018)</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

- **Because This Council has invested considerably into our police department.**
- Since 2018, Police budgets have grown almost 4 times as fast as the population served.
- Other options should be considered to help build a more sustainable model.

# In closing

- A 9.25% budget guideline increase is significant and worthy of more review by council. (like every other increase in any department)
- If you have questions about this presentation or the any of appendixes at the back (they are equally important), I will be happy to answer them.

Thank you for your time.

**I also want to thank Durham Police for their work in our community and for taking the time to meet with me.**

# Appendix 1 – Other Departments As Well

Department	2018 Expenses	2023 Expenses	\$ Increase	% Increase	% of Total Chg
General Government	\$63,780,000	\$112,182,000	\$48,402,000	75.9%	29.5%
Social Family Services	\$328,277,000	\$486,743,000	\$158,466,000	48.3%	9.1%
Health Services	\$97,952,000	134,440,000	\$36,488,000	37.3%	1.0%
Protection to Persons	\$228,248,000	\$305,186,000	\$76,938,000	33.7%	-1.6%
Transit	\$105,154,000	\$131,881,000	\$26,727,000	25.4%	-7.7%
Environmental Services	\$275,204,000	\$342,643,000	\$67,439,000	24.5%	-8.4%
Transport Services	\$88,113,000	\$109,465,000	\$21,352,000	24.2%	-8.6%
<i>Social Housing</i>	<i>\$65,340,000</i>	<i>\$78,664,000</i>	<i>\$13,324,00</i>	20.4%	-11.4%
<b>Durham Total</b>	<b>\$1,252,068,000</b>	<b>\$1,701,204,000</b>	<b>\$449,136,000</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	

- While my presentation focuses on our Police Dept, other departments should be scrutinized as well by council.
- **For example, why has General Government grown 2 times as fast as the 5 year total for Durham at 75.9%?** Is General Government more important to Durham than housing & safety?



# Appendix 2 – General Police Data

Statistic	2014 (to Q3)	2024 (to Q3)	% Change
Population	649,810	786,000 (est)	21%
Sworn DRPS Officers	871	978	12%
Residents Per Officer	746	804	8%
Emergency Response Time	7:29	9:12	23%
Median Time on Call	47 min	56 min	19%
Weighted Clearance Rate	44.8	40.6	-10%

- This data was shared with me by Senior Staff of Durham Police

# Appendix 3 – Investments are Base Pressures

- We hear “base pressures” and think of something beyond our control.
- But within the 2025 Budget Guideline is:
  1. \$6.6 million or almost 30% of the total Base Pressures amount coming from the 76 positions that were added in 2024, when they were considered strategic investments
  2. Now in 2025, 83.9% of the 2025 Strategic Investment total of \$23 million comes from the addition of 168 new full-time roles.

In effect, a base pressure is controllable as long as it is managed when it is put forth as a strategic investment the year prior.

**So this years \$23 million strategic investment ask can be managed now.**

# Appendix 4- Motion 8.2 – Hate Crime Unit

- I agree that hate has no place in Durham Region
- While “hate flagged” incidents are up 33% and the YTD total is 81, the Chief did not state how many of these incidents rose to the level of a crime.
- I agree with the what one member of Council said “***we should not confirm a motion without knowing all the details, impact and costs first***”
- I also hope that this motion wasn’t timed and driven by politics. Specifically:
  - The motion was put forward to council on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Two days later on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Conservative Leader attended an event in Whitby and was joined by the Councillor who put forth this motion.
  - At the event, the Federal Leader blamed the rise in hate on the Prime Minister and later the Councillor in question spoke to the news media about his Motion
  - I hope that all of this was just a coincidence but I have concern’s that politics beyond the municipal level is happening and this motion is being leveraged accordingly.
- I look forward to seeing the full analysis and proposal from the Police Board and this Councils thorough review of its impact and viability without any politics.

# Appendix 5 – Raising Questions is Vital

- At the Sept 12, 2024 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting, councillors Lee and Cook put forth an amendment to reduce the police budget from 9.25% to 5% citing concerns about the 1) amount, 2) the impact to other regional priorities like homelessness, transit and so on.
- As a concerned resident, I believe this was a fair request given the % / \$ increase.
- Before the amendment was voted down, several councillors spoke in opposition.
  - *This amendment will hamstring the police*
  - *This isn't a motion to make now*
  - *No way would I ever support this*
  - *Perhaps we should take all the police out of Ajax to meet his standard for the Region*
- *I found some of these comments inappropriate and want council to know this*

# Appendix 6 – Property Crime 2024 (73.1% of Crime)

Property Crime	YTD 2024 Total	Offenses Per Day	% of Total Crime	% Chg from 2023
Theft under \$5,000	6,887	20.6	33.9%	2.2%
Fraud	2,434	7.3	12%	-15.7%
Mischief	1,870	5.6	9.2%	-3.3%
Car Theft	1,241	3.7	6.1%	-10.1%
Theft from car	994	3.0	4.4%	-20.4%
Commercial B&E	546	1.6	2.7%	1.9%
Residential B&E	475	1.4	2.3%	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,833</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

# Appendix 7 – Violent Crime 2024 (26.9% of Crime)

Violent Crime	YTD 2024 Total	Offenses Per Day	% of Total Crime	% Chg from 2023
Assault 1 (no injury)	1,905	5.7	9.4%	18.2%
Threaten Death/Harm	774	2.3	3.8%	31.4%
Assault 2 (injury/weapon)	595	1.8	2.9%	11.2%
Sexual Assault	581	1.7	2.9%	15.5%
Criminal Harassment	495	1.5	2.4%	20.7%
Robbery	259	0.8	1.3%	5.7%
All Other (not listed online)	862	2.6	4.2%	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,471</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

# Appendix 8 - Police Budget & Durham Property Tax Increases

Year	Durham Police Increases	Durham Tax Increases
2025 (proposed)	9.25%	4.90%
2024	8.26%	7.65%
2023	5.37%	5.43%
2022	3.35%	2.58%
2021	3.00%	1.94%
2020	3.90%	2.37%
2019	3.90%	1.93%
2018	5.79%	1.82%
<b>Average</b>	<b>5.35%</b>	<b>3.58%</b>

- Please note that this is meant to illustrate budget increases only
- The Durham budget includes revenue from other sources where as the Police budget guideline is fully funded by taxpayers.
- DRPS further explained that prior to 2018, they had flat budgets and the recent spend has been catch up
- None the less, I believe the recent 3 year pace is not sustainable for residents if it continues.

# Appendix 9- Data Sources

- All crime and call data from Durham Regional Police website up to November 30, 2024
- Data gathered on Dec 1, 2024
- Data can change due to month end adjustments so there may adjustments since preparing this presentation. (which would explain any minor discrepancies)