

# OTTAWA POLICE ASSOCIATION COMMENTS ON OTTAWA MAYORAL ELECTION

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MEDIA RELEASE

Ottawa Police Association

Oct 18, 2022 20:15 EDT

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OTTAWA, ON, Oct 18, 2022/GENERAL RELEASE/ - The Ottawa Police Association has released a statement from Interim President Brian Samuel regarding the 2022 municipal elections in Ottawa.

In early October, the Ottawa Police Association sent a mayoral candidate questionnaire to all fourteen (14) official candidates. Seven replied and seven did not.

In his statement, which can be viewed here [https://youtu.be/vGr\\_gWxEE08](https://youtu.be/vGr_gWxEE08) Interim President Brian Samuel identifies and denounces specific rhetoric and the council record of candidate Catherine McKenney.

McKenney's history of support for defunding police and their agreement with incorrect and broad mischaracterizations surrounding police officers are badly informed and relies on selective interpretation and distorted context.

The Association deemed it necessary and prudent to denounce incorrect and problematic assertions that places its members and the public at risk. The Ottawa Police Association's commentary is especially appropriate given rising calls for service from police and increasing crime in the City of Ottawa.

The Ottawa Police Association is not endorsing any candidate for Mayor and respects the choice Ottawa voters will make on October 24, 2022.

The Ottawa Police Association represents nearly 2,000 civilian and uniformed members of the Ottawa Police Service.

The Board of Directors and all members of the Ottawa Police Association believe Ottawa is worth protecting.

For further information:  
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BACKGROUND ATTACHED

# BACKGROUND

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The history and record of Ottawa mayoral candidate Catherine McKenney is well-established and troubling:

- **SUPPORTED** Ottawa Coalition for a People's Budget that proposes, among other things, the effective defunding of the Ottawa Police Service. It also characterizes Ottawa Police Service members as having 20 'violent' incidents that suggests an 'extensive' history since 1988. These unenumerated incidents amounted to 20 out of over 10 million+ calls for service during the same period.

Link:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c66083db291124b0c092e/t/619e785a9b4b6a3eef228aa6/1637775465305/Ottawa+Alt+Budget+2022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c66083db291124b0c092e/t/619e785a9b4b6a3eef228aa6/1637775465305/Ottawa+Alt+Budget+2022_FINAL.pdf)

- **LOST** a motion proposed at Ottawa City Council in October 2020 to divert funds from the Ottawa Police Service under the premise of the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion failed 20 votes against to 4 in favour. Eighty-percent (80%) of Ottawa City Council voted against the motion

Link: <https://twitter.com/cmckenney/status/1316480434004471808>

- **SUPPORTED** comments proposing 'divesting' the Ottawa Police Service at a time of chronic staffing shortages

Link: <https://twitter.com/cmckenney/status/1391811061393788934>

Link: <https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/dorimain-defunding-ottawa-police-would-better-serve-racialized-groups>

- **ADVOCATES** for the removal of police from frontline policing despite the following:

*Violent Crime*

- (a) Crime rate increase of 7%
- (b) Reported crime increase of 6%
- (c) Crime severity index increase of 12%

*Non-Violent Crime (includes property-related offences)*

- (a) Crime rate increase of 7%
- (b) Reported crime increase of 7%
- (c) Crime severity index consistent with 2020

Link: <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/annual-report/resources/2021-Annual-Report-content/OPS-2021-Annual-Report-ENG.pdf>

- **ENDORSED** by the Ontario Federation of Labour but is selective on which organized unions or associations are correct and reasonable in protecting their members (like the Ottawa Police Association)

Link: <https://ofl.ca/event/municipal-election-labour-canvasses/>

- **CONTRADICTS** the well-established principle of neutrality of police leadership:

*“We have to be careful not to overly politicize policing. But again, it’s critical that the vision of the mayor and the chair are in place and aligned with the chief of police.”*

Link: <https://www.ottawalife.com/article/catherine-mckenney-ottawas-boots-on-the-ground-councillor-runs-for-mayor?c=13>