The city needs to get a hold on the pressing unrealistic demands made by social justice groups of either defunding, or more extreme, abolishing the police and what that would mean for resident safety. I live in downtown Toronto between Yonge and Church streets. During the pandemic lockdown, had police presence not increased there would have been serious injury to residents from the increased criminal activity. Every time residents venture out they have been faced with that worry. I have observed police engaged in peaceful dialogue with street people attempting to find solutions to their situations.

For the last two years at least, there has been an increased number of homeless, drug addicted, and during the pandemic, many who were in shelters just released on the street. Many have severe mental health issues. These life situations while tragic for those involved also present problems to residents and personal safety. Where I live attempted break-ins to residences, and business have increased, and many residents including seniors, children and disabled are having to cope with this situation. I am not without empathy and I fully comprehend that there are many people coping with dire circumstances but resident safety shouldn't be sacrificed.

What does it say that the city would just release onto the street people from shelters. To me it says they expect the police, and sadly, residents to deal with the problems it presents. There is something wrong with this picture. I, as well as different neighbours have been confronted with potential harm causing incidents from this influx of people

Do you have time to call a social worker for this problem? Many of these situations turn violent quickly and require police intervention. I fully support our Community Police and decry the constant demonization of all police for the few by militant groups and city councillors. While police have pressing problems within diverse communities that need real resolution, the majority of officers are doing their jobs well. The constant demonization is irresponsible and perpetuates a harmful myth to children. I do not want to live in chaos and I want to be as safe as possible. This notion that we can just defund or abolish the police force is wrong minded and will only lead to more tragedy.

Residents can't be held hostage never knowing if they will be safe and not accosted when leaving their homes. This can't continue, and we, being children, seniors, disabled and all others deserve a reasonable expectation of personal safety when we go about our daily lives. Yet what did we get, a City Councillor, dramatically calling for defunding police putting resident safety at risk This is not acceptable. I want police funded and that funding should never be the decision of city councillors, or other militant groups. A University of Toronto instructor has even advocated abolishment of the police which is simply wrong-minded.

What happens in terms of residents' personal safety in our communities must be a whole conversation between all those affected and not a one-sided solution imposed on everyone and driven by militancy. I support the police to sustain safe communities.

Sharon Gigliotti