

**From:** plnametz <plnametz@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Don't cut the police budget!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, Madison Alders,

I have read with great concern of Mayor Rhodes-Conway's plans to cut the city police budget. Please don't vote for this! Madison is growing, bringing increasing needs for traffic enforcement, burglary investigation, community engagement, and other functions only our police officers are trained to do.

We have a great department! Please don't cut their budget as the city's needs for intelligent and caring policing only continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Nametz  
Madison resident since 1973

**From:** Susan Ashley <susan@ashleyhall.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** MPD

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Good morning,

I want to communicate my thoughts on the continuing rise in crime in Madison and the continuing and proposed reduction in our MPD budget. In a recent meeting in our area, it was disclosed by current officers that MPD ranks consist of either the very young, new recruit officers and those old enough to only be willing to continue their MPD career because they are relatively close to retirement and wish to retain their retirement benefits. The entire middle age range of officers have already left MPD for pastures greener than Madison offers; pastures where they are supported in every way by the community they work in and for. Now I've learned that there are further proposed cuts in MPD's budget for next year.

In recent years, crime in Madison has gotten completely out of control and MPD already doesn't have enough officers (due to prior budget constraints) to adequately handle all the crime, speeding, shootings, auto theft, homeless settlement unrest, home break-ins, etc. so I fail to understand how our police will serve and protect us if there are more budget cuts. In 32 of the past 39 years, I have lived in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Houston and I have NEVER felt as unsafe in those communities as I feel living in Madison. We never know when our homes will be broken into, when we might become victims of a traffic incident caused either by a youth in a stolen, speeding vehicle or of crossfire from another vehicle, when our catalytic convert will be cut off our car overnight, etc. And are we waiting for Reindahl Park to erupt into a full-fledged riot before the issues there are addressed? Our police need to be adequately funded and staffed for them to be able to protect our community. Madison has always had the reputation of being a desirable place to live but the way things are going now, that reputation won't last for very long. I have 4 neighbors and friends that used to live within a block of our home, but they have sold their homes and moved out of Madison. I'm quite sure there are many more.

Will it take an assault on your own person or home to see the danger in these MPD cuts?

I beg you, PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT FURTHER MPD BUDGET CUTS!

*Susan Ashley*

6001 Ragan Street  
Madison, WI 53718-8500

**From:** Colleen Cotter <cottercmt@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2021 2:39 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:**

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I, as a citizen of Madison want and NEED a FULLY STAFFED and ADEQUATELY FUNDED Police Department. Our safety is in imminent peril without it.

From: GRIFFIN DORSCHER <gifdor@aol.com>  
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 5:28 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police department

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

While racism is a deep and long term problem to be addressed, we are not in favor of downsizing the police department. Community policing is an important part of the fabric not only of Madison, but of the whole Dane County community.

**From:** Nancy Battist <battistnancy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Disgusted

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am a resident on the East side with Alder Jael Currie. I have lived in Madison my entire life. I have never been so disgusted as I am now. My Far East side neighborhood has been plagued with criminal activity over the past two years and now extreme violence with guns. I have always felt safe until the past few years. I live only a few blocks from the east Police district and the past months the sound of sirens is constant. I have a son living in SW Minneapolis near W. Lake St. and when visiting him there are fewer sirens heard.

STOP the politics and FUND our POLICE. Yes Social Workers and Counselors are important to ride with Police, but are they going to calls to de-escalate with @shots fired calls?" Innocent people are being hurt, homes shot at and there will be more innocent people killed. Put money back into Community Policing.

Concerned Madisonian,  
Nancy Battist  
1114 Amsterdam Ave.  
Madison - 53716

**From:** mtevanson@gmail.com <mtevanson@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:16 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Patton, Timothy <TPatton@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>; Arik Grundahl <grundahlak19@gmail.com>; Heidi Wiley <heidijeanwiley@gmail.com>; Jacob Kriegisch <jacob.kriegisch@gmail.com>; Janice Bauman <jdbauman4@gmail.com>; Kristen McCool <kristen.mccool@gmail.com>; Lisa Kass <lkpenguins@gmail.com>; Lisa Schulz <buttonldy@aol.com>; Lisa Veldran <lveldran@yahoo.com>; Maggie Dugan <maggiedugan24@gmail.com>; Mark Bauman <msbauman57@gmail.com>; Marty & Terry Evanson <mtevanson@gmail.com>; Maureen Murphy <murphy.k.maureen@gmail.com>; Miguel Benson <miguel.a.benson@gmail.com>; Mike Edmonds <m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net>; Sammy Clevenger <samanthakay36@yahoo.com>; Sheray Wallace (CSW focused interruption) <swallace@focusedinterruption.org>; Tony Smick <skyumahwi@aol.com>

**Subject:** 2022 City Operating Budget for the Madison Police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway – The Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board respectfully opposes your plan to cut the Madison police department budget. The attached letter outlines the safety situations in our neighborhood and the need for a fully staffed police force. As you construct the 2022 operating budget we strongly urge you to fully fund the police department.

Sincerely,

Theresa Evanson, President

Meadowood Neighborhood Association

<https://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/>

608-695-6846



## Meadowood Neighborhood Association, Inc.

P.O. BOX 45528  
Madison, WI 53744-5528  
[www.meadowoodneighborhood.org](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org)

Theresa Evanson, President  
[MNABoard1@gmail.com](mailto:MNABoard1@gmail.com)

September 7, 2021

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway  
City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, #403  
Madison, WI 53703

RE: 2022 Operating Budget for the Madison Police

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) opposes your plan to cut the Madison police department budget.

In this last year, our neighborhood has experienced multiple shots fired incidents, with at least one injury, multiple burglaries and other property crimes. Homes have been hit with bullets while people slept in their beds.

The city already has too few officers to address multiple, on-going incidents. The five percent cut you have proposed may result in the loss of more than 35 officers from our understaffed police force. Police are already stretched thin – more cuts will make their jobs more dangerous and reduce response times. Residents in our neighborhood feel unsafe and unheard. Reducing our overstretched police force only exacerbates anger and distrust toward you and other elected officials.

The MNA Board is constantly communicating with our residents through social media, email, newsletters, yard signs, and personal conversations about the responsibility of residents for neighborhood safety. We promote communication between residents and the police. We include our neighborhood officers in our neighborhood activities so residents can get to know them personally. We encourage residents to report suspicious activity and to be cognizant of personal actions they can take to prevent crime.

But there is only so much we can do as residents. We depend on the police to show up when people in stolen cars race down our streets shooting guns. Perpetrators of these incredibly dangerous acts need to be apprehended. Neighborhood safety is at the very top of MNA's priorities. It should also be a top priority for the city.

The MNA board supports the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) program, Focused Interruption, and a public health approach to reducing violence in our city. These and other social service efforts can help address root causes of crime. However, they take time to implement and it will be some time before these efforts have an impact on day-to-day crime in the city. It is critical that effective police services be available to address the crimes that are being committed daily and are putting our neighborhood residents at risk.

We believe that you can find the money to fully fund the police department while also funding longer term responses to reduce crime. We look forward to working with your office and our alder, Christian Albouras, to ensure safety in our city.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Evanson

Cc: All Madison City Alders

**From:** Marie Schanke <marieschanke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:04 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Police Funding Cut

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I'd like to add my 2 cents to the police department's funding cut.

I was shocked to hear police had to work overtime to cover Madison during the Labor Day weekend. This holiday (as with most holidays) should have had more, not fewer, officers assigned to work.

>> At minimum, the weekend is known for increased alcohol consumption. That act alone often results in:

- an increased number of people driving under the influence
- an increase in underage drinking. Do not forget the University of WI has over 45,000 students. If we assume 20% are 21 or older that leaves 36k. If 10% don't drink over \$32k remain. With classes for 2021 starting Wed. 9/8/21 those 32k students will have moved into the area by Mon. 9/6/21 = Labor Day.
- increased DUI-based road accidents (single vehicle or multiple) & their associated injuries
- increased theft and burglary
- people doing stupid things, aside from driving or stealing, which result in injury (for ex., improper use of fireworks resulting in terrible hand & face burns)
- operating a boat while under the influence \*\*with 4 major lakes in our backyard this is a big issue\*\*
- injuring or killing others using the lakes
- increased domestic violence
- an increase in rape (while under the influence the word "no" quite often isn't as clearly heard as it should be)
- increased gunfire & associated injuries: death of a specific person or innocent bystanders as well as death/injuries resulting from someone "playing" with a gun

>> Regarding injuries resulting from the above crimes as well as those I didn't list:

- As of Aug. 26/2021 only 6% of WI's ICU beds were available. COVID is kicking our state's ability to treat everything from minor injuries to those meriting an ICU bed.
- Cutting the number of police available, over a known-to-be-hazardous weekend, could be considered a criminal act. It definitely is if someone dies or is permanently injured due to the limited number of police available. If a domestic disturbance call comes in, a delay of mere seconds may result in death or permanent disability. Same with a "person has a gun & is threatening..." call.
- Every "extra" injury severe enough to require the ED or hospitalization puts an increased strain on our almost maxed healthcare facilities. Also, most of their staff have been working backbreaking hours since at least February of 2020.

I hope you understand cutting the police presence within Madison is only going to kick start an increase in illegal activity. Too much of that activity leads to additions to our already severely strained healthcare system. It's a nasty circle which does not have to exist.

I was also informed that at one point there was a single officer on duty for all of Madison. That has to be one of the most disturbing and saddening things I've heard. We aren't Milwaukee, with nearly 600,000



people, but we are also not Appleton with a population close to 75,000. Our 275,000 people absolutely require an involved, well trained, and adequately sized police force.

If the “bad guys” know the severe limits of the police force’s ability to respond to crime of any type, which they already do or will soon understand, it virtually gives them free reign to do what they do best which includes everything I’ve listed above plus much more: vandalization, the stealing of cars and/or car jacking, riffling through cars in driveways, parental (or non-related) kidnapping of a child which would merit immediate investigation, the selling of drugs of all types, etc.

Please help avoid the inevitable consequences I’ve noted. We have seen what has happened in cities which have lowered/defunded their police department budgets. Every city, I believe, which has done so has experienced difficulties such as I’ve outlined (and more). Some have even employed private security firms to supplement their significantly reduced police force.

It makes no sense. Money saved up front through reduction of the department’s budget will result in a larger amount spent down the road. Spending on healthcare, the removal of “tags” off vandalized property, paying facilities to wean an increased number of our fellow citizens off drugs, etc... will haunt us; especially those who made the decision to reduce police funding.

Please properly fund our police department ASAP.

I would greatly appreciate a reply if my facts regarding Labor Day weekend police staffing are incorrect.

I would also like a reply explaining why the necessary funding is not going to the police department when we’ve seen the decline in safety and increase in violence/ crime in other cities.

- A study must have been completed before this decision was made. It would outline the benefits and negatives associated with lowering police department funding. If you can point me to that document, which I would expect to be publicly available, I would greatly appreciate it.

I thank you for your time.

Marie

Marie Schanke, M.H.A.

cell: (608) 239-5731

[marieschanke@gmail.com](mailto:marieschanke@gmail.com)

**From:** getkidsoutside@gmail.com <getkidsoutside@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:56 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** [All Alders] Keep police funding

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Diane Schwartz

**Address:** 2145 East Washington Ave., East Washington, Madison, WI 53704

**Email:** [getkidsoutside@gmail.com](mailto:getkidsoutside@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I would like to express my support of keeping police funding in tact or even increasing it. Crime is rising, not decreasing and we are still seeing black men being shot down in the streets. I don't think it makes sense to defund the police when we need them more than ever.

**From:** Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 7:58 PM  
**To:** Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>  
**Subject:** Budget Concerns

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So many issues so I will limit this letter to two: **Police Budget and Metro Redesign**

Under funding one agency at the expense of another is poor governance.

As to **Police Funding** I believe there should be more dollars allocated, not less. Have you considered the population growth of Madison as against the number of police on the force. What was the population of Madison, say 5 and 10 years ago versus the number of police at that time? So the population grows and the number of officers decreases. Think that one over and consider on a personal level what that means to you and your neighbors.

Secondly the **Metro Redesign and BRT** are not user friendly to residential neighborhoods. The biggest clue to this potential boondoggle is the premise from which Metro started this redesign: straight from Metro guy, "we assumed Madison had never had a bus system", not how can we tweak the system to make it more neighborhood and rider friendly.

Cutting service of existing routes to create a channel to the BRT does not meet the needs of neighborhoods. I live in Nakoma and we have had bus service since the 1920's. Metro has skewed its propaganda to treat BRT as the end all. Neighborhood routes have been eliminated. Metro is so excited to say the bus ride will be 3 minutes faster, but ignores the fact that a rider now must walk 15 minutes or more to get a bus and/or got through a transfer point and possibly missing the connection. BRT propaganda says but there will be four buses and hour across Midvale compared to one bus in or neighborhood every half hour or hour. My question to Metro are those four buses going to have at 30 riders per bus? Extremely doubtful.

As Alders I believe you are supposed to work for every resident of Madison and not limit yourself to your own personal issues. Cutting the budget should not have to be a conversation because the City Council encourages developers to build on the premise that is increases the tax base. So the tax base should be healthy at this time and your concerns should be to create a budget that keeps the city at its previous level of services, especially with these new taxes.

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Finance Committee members, Alders, and Mayor,

I'm writing today to say that the mayor's proposed budget is awash with misplaced priorities and corruption. The last year has seen public debates over how to solve houselessness in our community, and we've run up time and again against the constraints of the budget. But rather than taking bold budgetary action to provide the services and facilities that can hold our community together in the face of climate collapse, mass displacement, a coming wave of evictions in our community, and political turmoil around the nation, the Mayor has chosen to dump millions more into an already bloated policing budget to maintain a private standing army for the city to violently harass houseless folks trying to get by in an economy defined by shortages of affordable housing and well-paying jobs. This speaks to our priorities as a society: We would rather kick our problems down the road, letting them snowball into untenable situations that will inevitably escalate into civil unrest, than dedicate money to improving the living situation in our city. We would rather militarize and prepare to violently repress those who capitalism fails than build a city that's resilient to that turmoil, and that alleviates the suffering that causes turmoil.

Last year saw a mass uprising demanding the abolition of the institution of policing and its replacement with a system of community care that deals with antisocial behavior at its root, rather than waiting for conditions of neglect to boil over into violence. This demand was diluted by national media to a call for mere defunding of police- and I do believe that defunding the police is a workable first step towards building a society that places people first. And yet, as we slashed tens of millions off of the city's operating budget in the face of a global pandemic, we actually **\*increased\*** the police budget, rewarding them for their violent behavior, for continuing to ignore the murderer in their department, for escalating fully peaceful protests to the level of property damage with their militarized presence and indiscriminate use of physical and chemical weapons against civilians. And this year, as MPD continues to ignore its problems, as it [treats houseless folks staying at a shelter as prisoners, standing by as people suffer asthma attacks](#), the mayor once again wishes to reward violent behavior with millions of dollars of additional funding. MPD holds onto and protects its bad apples- and if you know anything about food preservation, you know that even one bad apple spoils the bunch. At this point, MPD is rotten to its core, and the knee-jerk reaction of throwing money at them to solve that has proven ineffective year after year.

This has gone on long enough. Defund the police, and shift that money to shelters and boarding houses for community members who've lost their homes, to urban farming projects and food pantries to feed our neighbors, to libraries and community centers and programs that interrupt antisocial behavior at its root, and to CAHOOTS and strong mental health care programs that are more equipped to manage crisis situations than armed vigilantes.

Thank you,

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips

[They/Them](#)

Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Bonnie ackerman <bonnieackerman@charter.net>  
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:26 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Safety and Budget

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**SAFETY:**

I am extremely concerned about all the car thefts, shootings and car jacking by gun point that is taking place in Madison.

Madison is no longer a safe place to live. I do not feel that the mayor and city council are making citizen's safety a top priority.

**BUDGET:**

I feel the proposed budget for the coming year is very short sighted regarding financing. It appears to only addresses financing for the coming year without consideration for longevity to funding yearly issues.

Thank you for serving and for considering my concerns.

Cecilia Ackerman  
17 Oak Creek Trl  
Madison Wi 53717

From: meganpbruun@gmail.com <meganpbruun@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:37 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: No increase for police spending

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I'm writing to urge you to not increase the budget for the Madison police. This money could go to so many other causes that would help our community, such as helping with housing homeless people.

Here are a few ways that the budget could be decreased for the police:

Reduce the 168k for ammunition

Not adding new positions

Not getting new police drones

Please consider putting this money elsewhere, where it is more needed and would help the Madison community.

Thank you,  
Megan Bruun

312 N Blair St. APT 1  
Madison WI 53703

[Meganpbruun@gmail.com](mailto:Meganpbruun@gmail.com)

**From:** Bailey O'Malley <bwomalley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 7:09 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** no police budget increase

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I would like to oppose any increase to the police budget. I feel strongly that the police budget should be decreased and reallocated to support programs that will help all members of the community.

Thank you,  
Bailey O'Malley  
739 Williamson St



From: Peyton David <peyday44@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:29 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Opposition to Item 6 10/19 Meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning:

I am emailing to voice my opposition of the increase in funding for the Madison Police Department. This funding would be better allocated for community programs and mental health services. The increase in funding over the last several years has not curbed violence and crime. This funding should go towards resources for Madison community members instead.

I urge you to consider how an increase in police funding and presence will impact our most marginalized communities.

Thank you,  
Peyton

**From:** Jessica D <jessdufault@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:17 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Operating budget concerns

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders

I strongly oppose item 6.67496, particularly on the increased spending for mpd.

Your Madison constituents have been speaking loud and clear on how we do NOT support increasing budgets for MPD. And yet here we are again talking millions of dollars being invested in systems of oppression rather than systems of support. I can think of a hundred different ways I'd rather see this money used and I can promise you not one of them includes giving the police \$84M. And yet affordable housing is only getting \$6.8M and public health only \$7.2M? This is completely backwards. In case you missed it, we are demanding to defund the police. And if you forgot what that means, let me refresh your memory. It means investing money into systems of support like affordable housing and public health and divesting money from systems of oppression.

I could call into this meeting and waste everybody's time listing out the hundred of other options for investing this money into real community needs but we've done that already! And you refuse to listen.

What will it take for the city to listen to their community, divest from carceral punishment and give Madison a real opportunity to thrive? Let me know please.

Jessica Dufault

**From:** Allison Baldwin <acbaldwin49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common Council 10/19 @6PM Comment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am a resident of Madison who lives in District #2.

I oppose the proposed budget in Item #6 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget due to the \$2 million increase for police. Madison does not need an increased police budget and more police officers. The recent incident where officer Keith Brown fired his weapon during an arrest on State St. and struck officer Andy Garcia shows the incompetence of Madison police that we certainly do not need to fund more of. The Common Council should listen to what activists and the public have been calling for and decrease the police budget to divert police funding to social services like affordable housing and public health that Madison actually needs. At the very least, do not pass an increase in the police budget.

I also oppose the decreased speaking time limit for public hearings as proposed in Item #21 67638 Amending Section 2.30(2) of the Madison General Ordinances. The job of the Council, as officials elected by the people, is to let the people speak and to hear them out. This is a blatant attempt to silence the people of Madison from speaking out against the harm perpetuated by Madison Common Council.

Thank you,  
Allison Baldwin  
Madison, WI 53703

**From:** Dominique Barthel <dominiquroseb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No MPD budget increase

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition of Common Council item 6 - the 2022 executive operating budget.

This proposal identifies funding to go to MPD for "reform and innovation initiatives". This is problematic for several reasons. For one, it is incredibly vague as to how this money will be spent. This is very concerning to me as a community member.

As a community member for five years, I've seen many problematic behaviors from MPD, even after the new sheriff has been appointed. I am very against allocating ANY increase in funds to MPD. They do not use their funding wisely. If they need money for reform, they should **take it from the money they spend to ride horses around (a historically racist form of intimidation and ineffective tool for keeping the community safe)**. We could also **reduce the \$168,000 spent on ammunition**...or not get a new police drone. There is no reason we should be giving MPD an increase in funding. If anything, it should be cut and used more effectively.

I'd love to see our community allocate this funding to support more effective public health efforts, such as helping the homelessness crisis.

Please listen to the community and advocate against increased MPD funding.

Thank you,  
Dominique

**From:** Bailey Wendelberger <bailey.wendelberger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:30 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

I want to urge you to prioritize funding for low income housing, ecological restoration of the city, and mental health support (like the CARES program) over adding more funding to the police. They have enough. People and the planet deserve better. Please oppose the Operating Budget and rework it to reflect the actual needs of this community, which is health and safety through accessible services.

Thank you,  
Bailey Wendelberger  
53704-ian

**From:** Ryan Eykholt <[ryan.eykholt@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.eykholt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** All Alders <[allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Common Council 10/19 Agenda Item 6

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

My name is Ryan Eykholt. I am a Madison resident, living on E Johnson St, 53703.

I have comments pertaining to Item 6 on today's Common Council meeting agenda, "ITEM 6. 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget".

I strongly oppose the amount of money in the 2022 Executive Operational Budget that is going to the police department. Over \$84 million going towards the police (\$2 million more than 2021) is excessive, dangerous, harmful, and wasteful. It is well documented that funneling more funding into police departments, as well as allowing these departments to operate without impunity, does nothing to reduce crime. Police cause immense harm to Black and Brown communities, and we cannot police our way out of that reality. It is well documented that defunding the police and refunding community/social services offers much more promising outcomes for the health, safety, and livelihoods of everyone in our communities, especially Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color.

I find it outrageous that the Mayor is attempting to give more money to MPD when so many people are suffering, and as she is only planning for \$6.8M for new affordable housing, \$7.2M for public health, and \$18.9M for libraries. Freedom Inc surveyed 1500+ people in Madison to create the [People's Budget](#), and the needs articulated in this thorough report are not reflected in the 2022 Executive Operating Budget.

I urge you to not increase the police budget as the Mayor has written into the executive budget. We do not need \$168K spent on ammunition. We do not need a mounted police program. We don't need more police officers. We *need* to invest in an infrastructure of support, care, and transformative justice. I hope you will make a decision that looks out for your constituents' priorities and does not contribute to the centuries-long harms against Black people.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Eykholt  
[ryan.eykholt@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.eykholt@gmail.com)

**From:** Allison Bell Bern <abellbern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to oppose the budget proposal- specifically the \$84+ million for the police. How many of you have begun devoting yourselves to developing a race analysis? You cannot do this work ethically without one and without centering it in your approach to everything you do.

The police make us less safe. You will see this if you actually study the issue as the activist community has done.

We may or may not show up and speak at the meeting. If we don't, it's not because we aren't paying attention any more now that the fervor has subsided. It's because you don't listen to us anyway.

Allison Bell Bern  
Abbas district

**From:** Tim K <timothykilkenny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I would implore you to take a second look at the executive operating budget for next year and recognize that there is a huge discrepancy between what is set aside for the Police Department, versus Public Health.

We could easily be making a bigger and more positive impact in our community if we invest more in wellness initiatives and violence prevention passed what is a paltry \$20,000 currently according to the budget.

I know that there are steps being taken to try and help more but when it comes down to it, literally putting our money where our mouths are is at least a good start. There have been major strides starting with the C.A.R.E.S. Program; we can continue to invest in our community by focusing on these alternative emergency response initiatives, and be an example for other cities around the country.

Thank you for your time,

Tim Kilkenny  
District 11  
(608) 843-1083



**From:** Danielle Ludtke <d\_ludtke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common Council – October 19, 2021

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Greetings,

With regards to Agenda Item # 67496 Executive Operating Budget, I have some concerns over some of the 2022 police department budget highlights:

- the change to ICAT is a reduction of \$65,000 when police training is more important to the safety of our community than ever; is that shift going to benefit all of us?
- the Dane County Narcotics Task Force has a \$432,600 grant and traffic enforcement anticipates \$733,700; what will that money be put towards? I'm concerned that these positions take advantage of people and discriminate based on what kind of car they drive or where they live, so putting ~\$1M more towards that will hurt my community.
- a Community Relations Specialist position is being filled, but at a net reduction of \$14,000; considering how important the relationship between the community and the police is, I worry that only having a single position and/or the compensation for that single position will be insufficient for our community's needs

Thank you for your time and attention. I know these issues are complicated and balance can be hard to find, I just want my community to be one where I'm 100% proud to be part of it.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ludtke

From: Pais Ley <pais4days@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:13 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am here to request from the bottom of my heart that you do not increase the police budget. Public housing and healthcare are what our communities really need, and these areas are severely under budgeted, especially in comparison to the police. Why would you choose to allocate our resources to an institution that we know disproportionately harms MANY people in our community, instead of in services that actually benefit people in need? I hope you consider this, and do the right thing. I know you know the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Paisley Koch

**From:** Olivia Williams <oliviareneewilliams@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:39 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Police & Housing budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi alders,

In reviewing the 2022 Executive Operating Budget, I was disheartened to see that the police budget has a proposed increase and will involve hiring new police, while many other departments are having to cut costs. Policing also takes up about a quarter of the whole Operating budget, at over \$82 million. We need to put our money where our mouth is as a community to say where our priorities lie. Please support a reduction of the police budget in order to fund more community services such as public health, housing, and libraries. Affordable housing is especially needed as home prices have gone up 13% in Madison in the last year. To help people out of poverty and reduce crime, they first need to be housed.

Thank you for your time,  
Olivia

**From:** Missy Mael <missy.mael@thercc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:24 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Common Council Agenda Item 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison Alders,

First, thank you for your service to the people of our great City. I know that you likely chose to become alders for the same reason I became a sexual violence educator and advocate—to help people and make our community a better place. I so appreciate that.

I'm writing today to oppose agenda item 67496, the operating budget currently being put forth by the Mayor's office.

I've spent several hours over the past week counseling MMSD staff about how to effectively support students and develop better policies and practices after yet another incident of sexual violence among their student body. Whether it occurs in school hallways, at school sponsored events, or at a home away from campus, our young people experience sexual violence at astronomical rates. This doesn't even take into consideration the horrific acts of violence perpetrated by adults who have been entrusted to care for our children. Statistically, 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18. Those statistics aren't as easy to find for transgender and non-binary kids, but we know that they are victimized at much, much higher rates.

Why am I telling you this? I'm telling you this because our City's operating budget continually forces agencies like ours to compete with valued community partners like DAIS and Focused Interruption Coalition for funding, even though the budget for the services we provide isn't enough for just one of our organizations. We work hard to find creative ways to collaborate and make the dollars stretch, and our work has truly lasting impact that has the potential to decrease suicide rates, addiction and drug abuse, and homelessness. However, the operating budget and ARPA funds that have been identified for crisis intervention and true violence prevention services are simply not enough.

If the City of Madison genuinely wants to change the culture of violence that is causing the increase in gun violence, car thefts, and other crime, you **MUST** invest in crisis intervention and violence prevention programming.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

In strength and solidarity,

**Missy Mael** *she/her/hers* ([what's this?](#))

Co-Executive Director/Director of Outreach



Office: (608) 251-5126

2801 Coho St., Ste. 301 | Madison, WI 53713

**From:** Jake Rodgers <jjrodge@sunprairieschools.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:44 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

As a voting member of District 6, I am asking that you do not increase funding for the Madison Police Department.

We do not need a two million dollar increase in spending for MPD. This money can be better spent elsewhere. Housing, education, health care, and mental health services. This is not what the people need.

Thank you,  
Jake Rodgers

**From:** Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** Finance <finance@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Madison Budget Shortfalls

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mr. David Schmiedicke  
Finance Director  
City of Madison

Thank you for your presentation about the Madison budget process and current overview of that budget at the Westside Community Conversation last Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Your presentation noted several items. First, the current budget for 2022 ongoing operations is being funded by onetime funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, onetime funds from the Tax Incremental Finance District #25, and Madison “rainy day” funds of eight million dollars. These funds will cover the budget years 2022 and 2023 but will not be able to cover the budget year 2024. You noted that cuts will most likely need to be made in 2024. Secondly, to cover the 2022 budget a recycling fee of \$3.00/monthly/household will be implemented in mid-year 2022. Finally, Madison’s Aaa bond rating is predicated on having the eight million dollar “rainy day” money available. Given these funds will be used up in 2022 there was no mention on how these monies would be replenished to preserve the Aaa bond rating.

To be transparent to the Madison citizenry, I request the following:

- 1) To be good financial stewards, Madison needs to currently address how it will approach the funding shortfall for 2024. Given that shortfall, you noted that cuts will need to be made. I would ask that a blog come from the mayor detailing what those cuts will be so those impacted by the reduced spending can have time to make plans to address that shortfall.
- 2) Again, to be good financial stewards, Madison needs to replenish those “rainy day” funds to ensure our bond rating does not decline thus increasing our borrowing costs with higher interest rates. Those higher interest rates will have a pernicious impact on the cost of debt for capital additions and on the debt issued to fund the Bus Rapid Transit project. I would ask another mayoral blog be issued addressing this point so the Madison citizenry can be fully informed.
- 3) As you agreed, a summary detailing and adding together all property taxes and fees (forestry, recycling, wheel tax, etc.) on an average Madison home be provided to Madison residents. I would request that this summary be provided on a 3-year comparative basis and be added to the mayor’s narrative provided with the yearend property tax bill.

Again, thank you for your budget presentation and I look forward to the explanations of the situations detailed above.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph R. Keyes  
District 11

**From:** Konkel, Brenda <brendakonkel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** What happened to funding for a new tiny house village?

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Last July the Common Council [allocated ARPA funds in the amount of \\$2M for "unsheltered homeless support"](#). At the time we understood, and we believe many others did, that \$1M would be used for encampments and \$1M would be used for a tiny house village. (See [tiny houses](#) mentioned in the Mayor's blog regarding this funding.)

At this time we understand that all of the money has been spent on the encampment and there is no additional funding for a third tiny house village.

We, the board of Occupy Madison, are particularly dismayed that so much money has been put into a "temporary" solution and that the permanent solution has been shelved. We are perplexed that you would purchase tiny houses from an out of state company when we could have built them at half the cost and used it as a community building effort. And, we are surprised you are putting so much funding into a temporary site that will be a fire training facility in the future, wasting money that could have been spent on a long term investment.

Additionally, Occupy Madison was bidding on 1901 Bartillon Drive. In good faith, we shared the elements of our offer to the city, offering to work with city staff. However, because the city was bidding against us at the time, the price went up to \$1M and we were unable to purchase the property, particularly understanding that there were now no funds available from the city. That particular property, with the building as it is, was ideal for us because we could have converted the building to a shop to build our tiny houses. We understand you plan to demolish that building and if it eventually becomes a tiny house village, it will cost approximately \$1.2M to replace the building with current construction costs.

To date, the only money the City of Madison has put into our two villages is \$150,000 for solar improvements. The rest of the funding for our villages has come entirely from fundraising, selling goods we make and grow and Dane County (\$200,000). We believe we have a sustainable and viable option for permanent housing for some people and that our villages serve as an important option in the range of solutions to ending homelessness in Dane County.

We are writing today to ask that you put money to purchase land for a 3rd tiny house village in the 2022 budget to replace the funding previously alleged to be allocated for tiny houses.

Should you have any questions, members of the board would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Brenda K. Konkel  
President, Occupy Madison



From: Michael Johnson <mjohnson@bgcdc.org>  
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:05 PM  
To: Satya Rhodes-Conway <satyarhodesconway@gmail.com>; All Alders  
<allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: MPD budget- Thanks in advance for your consideration

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Michael Johnson: Chief Barnes deserves support in his Inaugural MPD Budget

With the recent incidents happening in our city, we have a new chief of police that could be a game changer if given the opportunity and resources to do so.

Chief Barnes is a proven reformer, educator, and law enforcement expert who has been recognized by the National Institute of Justice as a Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Scholar. In his past practices, he has used data and science to help reduce crime. He also uses this approach to improve community and police relations. I recently learned that the Madison Police department has 4 LEADS Scholars that includes the Chief. This is largest number of any police department in the nation.

Our new chief also has experience working with civilian oversight boards and brings significant experience to his new position. Chief Barnes is a member of the National Police Foundation's Council on Police Reform and Race and is highly respected for his law enforcement work. I recently met with Chief Barnes, and he convinced me that he has a vision for community policing that is reflective of his budget priorities.

His current budget proposal includes:

1. Adding an additional staff member to Professional Standards and Internal Affairs to work with the new Intendent Monitor to expedite the citizen complaint process.
2. Adding a permanent Police Sergeant to his newly formed Gang and Neighborhood Crime Abatement Team to help address the rise in gun violence.
3. Creating a new division of police reform and innovation that would execute on the one hundred seventy-seven ad hoc recommendations as well as the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) report.
4. The Town of Madison will be annexed into the Madison Community in October of 2022 and Chief Barnes has proposed a balanced and equitable blueprint that is designed to keep our community safer without an abundance of over policing.
5. Creating a Community Engagement Specialist position to improve community and police relations and to help address critical communication and distrust that exist in our community.
6. His operational strategies include working with the Focused Interruption Coalition, Public Health, mental health agencies and other community partners and government agencies to alleviate gun violence and provide support to families of those impacted by violent crimes.

In addition, when he first started his assignment, we talked about the creation of a Youth Advisory Board. I watched him execute on that plan as he secured private funding to ensure that the voices of young people are being heard. I've also watched him develop his first comprehensive multi-year strategic plan which is important for a leader coming into new executive management role.

I believe we have an amazing opportunity to support an accomplished leader who is no stranger to successful reform and our city needs Chief Barnes to be successful. It is not enough to select Black executives in these roles and not offer them the full armor of support to help them achieve success for our city including supporting their budget priorities, operational recommendations, and offering moral support, especially early in their tenure.

I support Chief Barnes inaugural plans and hope he garners the support to make our community a safe and livable place for all Madisonians.

Michael Johnson is the President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County

**From:** Gene Cox <decox.2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 4:12 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Occupy Madison Board <omincboard@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** Funding for new tiny house village

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Last July the Common Council [allocated ARPA funds in the amount of \\$2M for "unsheltered homeless support"](#). At the time we understood, and we believe many others did, that \$1M would be used for encampments and \$1M would be used for a tiny house village. (See [tiny houses](#) mentioned in the Mayor's blog regarding this funding.)

At this time we understand that all of the money has been spent on the encampment and there is no additional funding for a third tiny house village.

We, the board of Occupy Madison, are particularly dismayed that so much money has been put into a "temporary" solution and that the permanent solution has been shelved. I have been a resident at the Third Street village for more than 6 years after experiencing just over a year of homelessness. Over the last 6 years, living in the village has enabled me to establish relationships within the Emerson East Neighborhood that promote a sense of safety, community, and belonging for us all. I have been a part of building an organization that promotes sustainability, both financially and environmentally, which has been an extremely fulfilling effort. I am equally dismayed and perplexed that you would purchase tiny houses from an out of state company when we could have built them at half the cost and used it as a community building effort. And, we are surprised you are putting so much funding into a temporary site that will be a fire training facility in the future, wasting money that could have been spent on a long term investment.

I was part of the Occupy Madison workgroup that was looking for and suggesting sites for a third tiny house village that fit our organization's criteria of available public transportation, food security, and a place to build community. We were bidding on the site at 1901 Bartillon Drive. In good faith, we agreed to share the elements of our offer to the city and have been willing to work with city staff. However, because the city was bidding against us at the time, the price went up to \$1M and we were unable to purchase the property, particularly understanding that there were now no funds available from the city. That particular property, with the building as it is, was ideal for us because we could have converted the building to a shop to build our tiny houses quicker. We understand you plan to demolish that building and if it eventually becomes a tiny house village, it will cost approximately \$1.2M to replace the building with current construction costs.

To date, the only money the City of Madison has put into our two villages is \$150,000 for solar improvements. The rest of the funding for our villages has come entirely from fundraising, selling goods we make and grow and Dane County (\$200,000). We believe we have a sustainable and viable option for permanent housing for some people and that our villages serve as an important option in the range of solutions to ending homelessness in Dane County.

I am writing today to ask that you put money to purchase land for a 3rd tiny house village in the 2022 budget to replace the funding previously alleged to be allocated for tiny houses.

Sincerely,

Gene Cox  
Co-Treasurer, Occupy Madison Inc  
608-957-3408  
[occupymadisoninc.com](http://occupymadisoninc.com)

**From:** Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2021 5:02 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Budget Concerns

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a longtime resident of Madison, I am writing this letter out of concern for the current proposed police budget. It seems counterintuitive to cut funding when the city is encouraging economic growth. The number of police officers on the street and behind the scene is very important to having a safe city.

Policing efforts include more than the big headline stories; every day policing efforts are very important to Madison residents. I want a full complement of officers to deal with incidents like sexual assault, carjacking's, home invasions, traffic accidents and speeding, and active shootings to name a few. Investigations in to past incidents are critical to right the ship and protect the victims. You may cite crime statistics in certain categories as going down, but the nature of many current crimes has become more violent for victims, so the statistics are misleading.

Admittedly, I am not a budget expert, but I know without adequate staffing in a growing population, Madison will become even less safe for residents. I know that budget issues are not simple and they should not be made without in depth study. I also do not want funds shifted from policing to support unproven programs.

As a resident of Madison, I am asking you not to cut more funding from the Madison Police Department. An analogy might be the first experience with illegal drugs does not often kill, but multiple experiences can be deadly. Shaving a budget can lead to big problems down the road, as the saying goes. I can speak from experience on this as I spent 38 years in the classroom and budget cuts do not solve problems; they create future problems of quality students and personnel.

P.S. Please study the repercussions of using up the "rainy day" funding ahead of the real rainy day. As a taxpayer, this possibility really concerns me.

**From:** Kathy <kaviets@charter.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:39 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed budget cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello All,

I am writing regarding potential budget cuts affecting the MPD.

Madison has become a crime, violence filled city. We need more officers not fewer.

The people with criminal intentions are encouraged by the lack of respect and support of law enforcement.

I am imploring you to please drop your agendas and do what has to be done to save this city! I hope it isn't already too late.

Respectfully,

Kathy Viets

**From:** Alice Ropella <aliceropella@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please reconsider your need to cut MPD funding. This crime in this city is unbelievable. I have lived here since 1973. I no longer feel safe going out at night. I don't get out of my car until I'm in my garage and the door is closed because people are getting carjacked. We are held hostage by criminals and you want to take away more officers with cutting funding. Why????? To spend more on OT when there are not enough officers to work shifts? As a taxpayer it was very disheartening to call the non emergency police number this past summer, on a Saturday night, and get told officers were too busy to deal with our situation and to "suck it up"! 2....a total of 2 officers for the entire east side that night! This is WRONG! We need more and you want less. Do you all have to have something tragic to happen in your families before you realize your actions are hurting all Madison residents? Find another way!

PS....I would not, as many others, use rapid transit because it still would NOT get me to where I need to go! And lowering speed limits....people that don't go 35 aren't going 25!! I live off Milwaukee St and these idiots just recklessly pass those of us that do go 25. But hey, where are all the officers that could bring in 1000's of \$\$s in fines?? No where because they don't exist because you all want to take away funding.....your actions are causing bad reactions. Rethink and re-set!

**From:** Susan Pride Caulum <spridec@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:59 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not cut funds from the Mayor's proposed budget for the Madison Police Department. With all the retirements, many "Priority Calls Only" instances and increased city size and population (including adding the Town of Madison), we need a full recruit class and protection. Thank you.



**From:** Lynn Hughes <finbar.hughe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 4:21 PM

**To:** financecommittee@cityofmadison.com; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Keep up the good work! Don't throw money at the policing problem.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hey,

I had an unfortunate encounter with a police officer in 2015 visiting the UW arboretum, I was sitting in my parents' vehicle waiting for them to exit the visitor center, an officer knocked on the window of the passenger side, gestured for me to roll down the windows. As you can't roll down the windows without the key in the ignition. I opened the door. The officer feared for his life at the prospect of a high schooler leaving a car to talk to him, and thus reached for his firearm and began to yell at me to not do such a thing.

I tell you this now because the so-called "Madison Area Safety Connection" posted all of these emails to spam with hypochondria. I fully disagree with their points, I think the police operating budget reduction is perfectly fine.

You can't throw money or training at the police force to fix cops like that. Carry on with programs like the CARES response teams, we need qualified professionals — not people who believe their life is at risk every time they don't get a raise or see a civilian minding their own business

Thanks for your time,

A concerned citizen.

**From:** Joanne Heil <joanne.m.heil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 5:48 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vote No on Reducing the Police Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Two alders (Keith Furman and Yannette Figueroa Cole) have proposed to remove \$795,000 of funds from MPD's proposed budget. This will reduce 11 positions from the 2022 recruit academy (that replaces officers lost to retirement and resignations) and eliminate a civilian position that Chief Barnes asked the Mayor to include in her operating budget (which she did) that would help the department collect and use data "to implement projects and services aimed at police reform."

Any cuts to the recruit academy will mean MPD will only be able to hire 36 recruits for the academy next year (even though 42 officers have already left MPD so far this year between Jan-Sept---a near record number). That also includes wiping out the 8 new police officer positions Chief Barnes asked the Mayor for (which she granted) to staff the almost-5000 residents who will join the city of Madison when the Town of Madison is dissolved next October. Yes, we would add nearly 5000 residents but give MPD no additional police officers to staff their calls for service.

If you want to show support for a safer Madison at a time when violent crime and reckless driving are on the increase in our city, please listen to your constituents who live in fear in what once was a safe and vibrant city.

**From:** William Sayles <wsayles1950@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:37 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose amendments to Operations Budget for reduce MPD funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The City of Madison has seen an increase in violent crime. In addition, the population is growing. It will expand further with the takeover of the Town of Madison. Also, there has been a high level of departures from MPD. These factors are increasing the demand for police services. Therefore, any effort to reduce the proposed budget for MPD is unwarranted. Any change should be to increase the budget!

William W. Sayles  
5017 Flad Ave.

**From:** Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 9:34 PM

**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose Cuts to Madison Police Department – Finance Committee Agenda Item #17

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison Finance Committee,

I oppose the cuts to the Madison Police Department as detailed in the proposed adjustments to the 2022 Executive Operating Budget (Item #17 – October 25, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting agenda) . What the cuts will do is to turn the department from a pro-active to a reactive department. Current public complaints revolve around reactive departments. These cuts will only result in those self-fulfilling complaints. Also, the Madison Police Department is experiencing more and extended periods of priority calls. The City Council is still demanding the current service levels without the resources to meet them. This is leading to an untenable situation. How can this situation be resolved? I would offer these solutions. First, don't send officers to Madison schools when fights break out like the one at East High last Wednesday. That disturbance required ten patrol officers and one supervisor. Why not send officers? The Madison Metropolitan School District has stated it has a highly trained safety team that can handle any eventuality. Secondly, don't send officers to ensure an area is safe for the CARES Team. Why? The CARES Team staff are experts in de-escalation and should not need police help. In fact, the CARES team is in existence because it is said uniformed officers just escalate situational tensions. Thirdly, don't conduct traffic enforcement operations on streets like Whitney Way where Traffic Engineering has reduced the speed limit to 25 mile per hour. Why? Motorists will voluntarily abide by the new speed limits. However, in actual experience that does not happen. I live a few houses from Whitney Way, and you can hear the high-pitched whine of motorbikes regularly speeding down Whitney Way to get to the beltline. Fourth, don't send officers to noise complaints to prevent further issues. Why? Because fights and subsequent murders won't happen. But they do happen as evidenced by the young man who was killed at a party by Breeze Terrace in September.

Yes, there will be detrimental consequences for not properly funding the Madison Police Department. But the responsibility for those consequences resides not with the Madison Police Department but with the Madison Common Council and rightfully so.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Keyes  
District 11

**From:** Ruth Crump <crumprg@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 10:47 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed amendments to remove funds from the MPD's budget for 2022

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the Alders of the City of Madison, Wisconsin,

I'm writing in support of the Mayor's proposed budget for 2022 and against the amendments proposed by Alders Furman and Figueroa Cole which would significantly decrease the budget for MPD.

As Madison continues to grow, there is a need for adequate policing services for the community. We lost a large number of officers in this past year (2021) so far, and the loss of funding would not provide for adequate recruitment to replace even the ones that have left the department. Our police officers have had a difficult year, with shifts that have been much too long due to already inadequate staffing, with continuing loss of staffing, and an associated loss of morale. Those officers who in the past have worked proactively to minimize crime are now needed on patrol, so our communities will have fewer supports to help solve neighborhood issues that can lead to increased crime. I am also concerned about Amendment 19, which would remove funds for a position that would help in the collection of data to improve the functioning of MPD.

I have also written the mayor and finance committee regarding my strong belief that we need to ensure adequate support for MPD. I appreciate that the Mayor's budget, as originally proposed, provides much better support for MPD than we will have should the proposed amendments pass.

Thank you,  
Ruth Crump

**From:** Nickat Nite <nickatnite79@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:42 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD budget cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello all,

I am a lifelong resident and taxpayer of Madison (east side). I do NOT support further cuts to the police budget, which will impact public safety. As I understand it, two alders have proposed to remove a total of \$795,000 of funds from MPD. This is absolutely outrageous at a time when crime (petty and violent) continue to increase. We need to maintain a high quality of life in Madison, not diminish it by reducing the budget of our police force.

Nichole Flores

From: Daniel Battist <djbattist@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:44 AM  
To: Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; mayor@cityofmsdison.com; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Removing funding from MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning, Now does not seem like a good time to remove funding from MPD by diverting funds to the CARES pilot. Please find alternative funding sources for CARES and increase funding for MPD. MPD is drastically understaffed and responses time is suffering as well as excessive overtime to cover basic shifts. The increase in violent crime, reckless driving and the new speeding initiative all strongly suggest more police to insure public safety.

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 7:58 AM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

All:

Several staff reductions are proposed on the October 25th Finance Committee agenda, specifically Amendments 17, 18 and 19. I ask you to **REJECT these and all cuts to the Madison Police Department Budget.**

Crime is up and it affects the quality of life in all areas of the City. We will be absorbing new residents and a greater geographic footprint as the Town of Madison joins us.

As evidenced by the numbers in the 2022 Executive Budget (page 285), MPD staff is overworked and putting in large numbers of overtime hours to fulfill their responsibilities to us.

Overtime Projected for 2021:   \$4,543,845  
Overtime in 2022 Budget:       \$4,141,099

I want those officers who are willing serve us to be at the top of their game. That does not mean overworked, stressed, unable to balance work-life or having the time to recover from the traumatic events that they encounter on a daily basis.

Let's value the members of MPD and treat them like professionals. That means increasing staff to reduce the number of overtime hours that each officer is currently putting in on a regular basis.

**OPPOSE ALL CUTS TO MPD STAFFING!**

Thank you for supporting the work of our exceptional police officers and all of MPD.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9



From: Tish Johnson <tish.johnson920@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:03 AM  
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Please Do Not Pass Budget Amendments 17, 18 and 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor, Alders and Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about three budget amendments, 17, 18 and 19, that you will consider. With the current issues we have with safety in our community, in our schools and on our streets, I cannot support these amendments and the impact they will have on the city's ability even maintain adequate policing resources. These safety issues, along with the integration of the Town of Madison, indicate a need for more, not less, police resources. I do not feel that retirements and other attrition were accounted for in the original budget and these proposed amendments, if passed, will force out more of our understaffed and overworked police without options for replacement. It is a vicious cycle that leaves our community increasingly more vulnerable.

I echo Chief Barnes's position that "we cannot afford to lose any resources and still maintain our current level of services" as well as his concerns about "the value and morale of our officers."

Please do not pass these amendments!!!

Sincerely,  
Tish Johnson  
5505 Tolman Terrace

**From:** Larry and Ginny White <lgwhites@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Don't Cut Police Department Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The City Council, reportedly, is proposing to cut \$790K from the Police Department budget. We believe that would be ill-advised and counter-productive.

We want to see a less militarized, more humane police department, but not at the expense of public safety. Instead, additional money should be budgeted to better vet, train, and compensate police officers and to fund mental health and outreach positions.

The unfortunate slogan "Defund the Police" was never understood by most people to mean cutting police budgets. Rather, it expressed the idea that money should be *redirected* to hiring professionals to assist in situations involving mental health, addiction, and homelessness.

We urge the City Council to *add* money to the Police Department budget, not cut it.

Sincerely,

Ginny and Larry White

**From:** Tricia Lenzendorf <t\_lenzendorf@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposing Reduction of MPD proposed budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a 14 year Madison resident, I have never felt LESS safe in this city as I do today. We will not go downtown at night anymore, there is too much risk of being the victim of a crime. This city needs a larger change overall to fix the issues causing the crime, but reducing the MPD budget with the amount of crime currently happening is not the solution right now. I strongly oppose this proposal.

Tricia Sletten  
4115 Buckeye Road  
Madison, WI 53716

**From:** James Steinbach <jbsteinb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget - police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear neighbors:

I don't support any further reductions in funding for the Madison Police Department. In my immediate neighborhood area — Walnut Grove, Wexford Village, and Tamarack Trails — crime has increased. Shootings, robberies, car theft, mugging ... these can't become normalized. People are afraid and angry. Please hear us.

Thank you for your service to Madison.

James Steinbach

**From:** Mike Thomsen <mikethomsenorna@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:52 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose Cuts to MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Satya and Alders,

The Board of Directors of the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association OPPOSE any cuts to the MPD budget.

The Common Council has failed over the years to adequately staff MPD. In 2010 Madison had a population of 233,209 and 438 sworn police officers. In 2020 Madison had a population of 269,804 and 479 sworn officers.

Madison's population grew 14.7% but the number of sworn officers increased by just 9.4%. To keep up with the population growth through 2020 Madison should have had 507 sworn officers. And, the city should be adding 7 new sworn officers each year just to keep up with population growth. If policing were becoming more efficient, perhaps we could consider reductions in the "police officer-to-resident" ratio, however, it is not. There are more demands for documentation than ever thus we actually should be increasing the "police officer-to-resident" ratio.

It takes two years to train and prepare a new police officer for the streets. The Common Council's failure to properly staff MPD in the past is showing up in exploding crime today. PLEASE, do not worsen the situation by adopting the budget amendments offered by alders Furman and Figueroa-Cole. They are shortsighted and will harm our city.

Sincerely yours,  
Mike Thomsen

--

Mike Thomsen, President  
Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

**From:** Wendy Reichel <reichelwendy@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:18 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>; Patton, Timothy <TPatton@cityofmadison.com>; Freedman, Jason <JFreedman@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Vote No on Amendments 17-19--It's Negligence

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Finance Committee alders and Mayor,

To propose taking \$795,000 from MPD's budget at this tipping point in our city's safety is negligence.

We're going to welcome almost 5000 residents from the Town of Madison but then tell them they aren't getting any police services? And MPD will lose 3 additional officer positions in addition to the 8---at a time when MPD is struggling to meet critical daily hard staffing minimums and gun violence incidents and reckless driving are affecting residents' daily quality of life like never before.

Please talk to or take a ride-along with the officers who are covering all of these overtime shifts. I have. They are burned out and morale is at an all-time low. They can't guarantee to their families that they'll be home to attend family events or pick up their kids from daycare or get time off for the mental or physical breaks they need. That's why so many of them are quitting or retiring. When they leave, all of their training (that we paid for!) and experience goes out the door with them.

And as a taxpayer I also don't appreciate paying for 1.5 cops and only getting 1 which is what happens every time an officer is called in early or is asked to stay late---all of us pay for their entire 12-hour shift, not just the 4 hours of overtime they put in.

Finally, while I (as well as the many police officers I've spoken to) hope the CARES program is a big success, it does not and will not ever replace the need for police officers to respond to most calls for service. And the program will not be able to relieve MPD of the most time and labor intensive calls---those involving weapons and those involving mental health detentions (because by state statute only a law enforcement officer can take someone into protective custody).

MPD responds to 400 to 500 calls PER DAY on average (pre-COVID that number was starting to hit the 600s). The CARES unit answered 37 calls in its first 5 weeks. Again, I wish them all the success in the world so they can help hurting people in our community. But during that 5 weeks, MPD responded to approximately 12,205 calls for service.

Even if this \$795,000 grab from MPD's budget is able to create 7 or 8 more CARES teams, they will only be able to respond to 400 to 500 calls PER MONTH. That's what MPD responds to in ONE DAY. And CARES will not be picking up bullet casings and interviewing families of victims lost to gun violence. Nor will they be arresting car thieves, domestic abusers or issuing tickets to reckless drivers on East Washington Avenue.

The CARES program is not a substitute for MPD officers and it should not be funded from MPD's budget. Please vote NO on amendments 17, 18 and 19.

Thank you!  
Wendy Reichel  
District 10

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Harried <kohunter722@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:24 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee  
<financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reduction of Budget to Madison Police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To all city leaders,

I urge you to reject any motions or amendments to the city budget that reduce monies to the Madison Police Department or any other protective services.

As a lifelong resident of the city I can tell you the landscape has changed. Every day there are news reports of violent acts of criminal activity. There are reports of personal property damage or theft. We as a community not only expect our police services to respond to these issues but also improve upon the community to reduce these activities in general.

These protective services require funding and staffing to not only maintain the current system but to improve the community in every way that we as residents expect from our city leaders.

From a voice of one resident, please reject any elimination of funds from any of our emergency services.  
(Police or Fire)

Kevin Harried

**From:** doug.subak@kellogg.com <doug.subak@kellogg.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Defunding law enforcement

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Doug Subak  
**Address:** 4211 Hegg Ave, Madison , Wi 53716  
**Phone:** 608-359-1053  
**Email:** [doug.subak@kellogg.com](mailto:doug.subak@kellogg.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Hi, we should be increasing funding for law enforcement and not decreasing funding for law enforcement, the council should vote no on reduce funding for law enforcement, thank you, Doug



**From:** Charles James <cjjames@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No cuts to the MPD!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I understand you are planning to cut the budget of the Madison Police Department by almost a million dollars. OK, maybe it's "only" \$795,000, but that's still too much. If so, this is pure insanity! What are you thinking!

Respectfully,

Charles

Charles J. James  
4018 St. Clair  
District 11

**From:** madves <madves@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget amendments

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Budget amendment 17, 18, 19 Should be rejected. Reductions in the police budget at this time with the crime rates and the departure of current staff is not timely.

Kevin Vesperman  
608-628-8041

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Conway and Council Members:

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed \$790,000 in budget cuts to the MPD & which includes cutting the needed 8 additional police officers to patrol the Town of Madison population by the MPD of 8,000 + by City Council members. We need these 8 additional police officers for the Town of Madison's merger with the City of Madison.

I do not approve of any funding being removed from our already-understaffed police department---especially at a time when violent crime and reckless driving on our streets is increasing.

MPD is seeing the highest number of resignations in 10 years and as of September 30th, resignations and retirements are 2 short of hitting the all-time record. So far this year 42 officers have left MPD. MPD is having trouble staffing shifts daily. Officers are staying over an extra 4 hours or are coming in early and working overtime to fill those shifts but it's become too burdensome. Officer morale is at its lowest point ever and many more officers are poised to leave for careers that won't make them work overtime every day or every other day. As a nurse, I understand how stressful and dangerous working short-staffed, especially on such a regular basis, is. Council members proposed cuts, reducing the police budget by \$795,000 which will impact the size of MPD's next year's recruit academy by 11 officers to replace officers lost to attrition and those 11 officers don't even begin to fill the gap.

More budget cuts will only increase attrition, and potentially mistakes, as I have seen in the hospital with increased hours, fatigue, and stress. In addition, when there aren't enough officers available for the city, the city goes into priority-only call status and officers are only dispatched to serious calls involving weapons, life in danger, or a traffic accident with injuries. All other calls are triaged until more officers become available again. When you call 911 or non-emergency you may be told by a dispatcher that your call is not urgent and therefore will have to be stacked in a queue. That is not the kind of service I expect from my city.

In addition, an amendment denies Police Chief Barnes his civilian position he requested that would "improve data collection and analysis supporting data-informed decision-making, violence reduction, and crime prevention." He considered this position the key to his success in doing more with fewer resources. His expertise is in data-driven police policy reform and innovation. This cut seems counterproductive.

While I support innovation in crime reduction, restorative justice, and police training, we need a fully staffed, well-trained police force in the meantime.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jayne Meyer

District 9

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your Conscience is On Display

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I meant to also cc all Alders on this email below. I hope you will all be attending the Finance Committee meeting today at 4:30 pm.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/finance-committee/10-25-2021>

Thank you for your leadership of our City,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 25, 2021, 10:50 AM  
**Subject:** Your Conscience is On Display  
**To:** <[financecommittee@cityofmadison.com](mailto:financecommittee@cityofmadison.com)>, Alder Yannette Figueiroa Cole <[district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com)>, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway <[SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** Chief Shon Barnes <[sbarnes@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sbarnes@cityofmadison.com)>

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

If you vote yes on Amdments 17, 18, and 19 tonight, you are doing so:

- Against the wishes of Chief Davis of the Fire Department, which houses CARES.
- Against the informed and expert advice of Chief Barnes, who believes his civilian data and innovation position would help him mazimize the efficiency of his department.
- Against the Mayor's promise to add 8 officers for the Town of Madison attachment (this removes them by capping the recruit academy so it cannot keep up with attrition). This is an equity problem.
- In spite of the fact that our police department is experiencing extreme staffing shortages and unable to recoup last year's attrition, not to mention this year's record level.
- Against all common sense in light of workforce trends, growing population, and residents' growing concerns with rising violent crime and reckless driving, etc.

You will be held publicly accountable to the City you steward for your votes on these amendments.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748

**From:** Gina Landucci <glanducci@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:21 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Alder-proposed MPD reductions

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, I was very dismayed to learn of alder proposed budget reductions to the Mayor's operational budget. This is unfortunately a knee-jerk reaction that has the potential to make a tough situation even worse. Alders need to talk and work with the MPD and discuss ways to use resources *differently*, rather than just slashing budgets.

This lack of detailed collaborative work is further emphasized by the amendment, again proposed by the alders, that denies Chief Barnes the civilian position he requested to bring about data-driven police reform and innovation.

Alders are put in place to speak for communities and on this issue I feel they are not doing a good job of listening and working with all voices to come to a solution. I am adamantly opposed to these proposals.

Sincerely,  
Gina Landucci

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget Amendments-Ambulance Conveyance Fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor, Alders:

I am asking you to **OPPOSE Budget Amendment #16 which increases the ambulance conveyance fee to \$1,410.**

This is an exorbitant 33% increase from \$1,075 in a two year period. With an increased travel time from Middleton and Sun Prairie, their fees should not be used as a comparison to the Madison fees.

An increase in cost will mean that many people will think twice about calling for an ambulance. In turn, this will result in negative healthcare outcomes for many residents.

Let's be proactive in offering affordable healthcare for Madison residents.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

**From:** judybl@tds.net <judybl@tds.net>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:57 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please vote NO on Amendments 17, 18 and 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Please vote NO on Amendments 17, 18 and 19 which reduce even more officers from MPD's already short-staffed department. This is not the time to be decreasing police resources when neighborhoods like mine are seeing a significant increase in gun violence incidents.

I have lived in my neighborhood for 35 years and I have never been scared to walk after dark, but I am now. And after several armed robberies in the last few months, I'm fearful of visiting my neighborhood Walgreens. Other neighbors are also afraid and have transferred their prescriptions to another pharmacy.

And with shooting and carjacking incidents at the gas station nearest to my house, I now only get gas during the daytime, and I feel apprehensive any time I go there.

This increase in violent crime incidents in my neighborhood is having a direct impact on my quality of life. A few weeks ago the occupants of two vehicles were shooting at each other on a street in my neighborhood. One of the stray bullets entered a home and struck a mattress. It landed only 12 inches away from someone who was sleeping in that bed. It's a miracle they weren't injured or killed.

We need MORE police officers that can have a presence and help solve crimes in our neighborhoods, not fewer.

Thank you,  
Judy Bluel  
District 9



**From:** John Fons <jefons@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Mismanagement

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Madison is reportedly spending nearly one million dollars to create an encampment for a limited number of homeless in this city. It will cost a reported \$70,000 per month to keep that encampment in operation. Yet you consider decreasing funding to the Madison Police Department by at least the same amount and make it impossible for MPD to recruit officers to replace those who retire or resign.

These decisions are your responsibility and you will be held accountable by the citizens of Madison who pay taxes and rely on tax supported services for their safety and livelihood.

Think carefully.

John Fons  
4634 Tokay Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-236-0844 Hm  
661-917-0850 cell

From: Ruth Sybers <knitterstreat@wekz.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:03 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not cut the police budget.

Safety of our city residents is at stake.

Dwindling number of staff are available to respond to calls. Pressure of today's world is resulting in more retirements and resignations - long hours and overtime are wearing out front line workers - just like medical staff.

It takes a long time to train w police officers. - don't continue the present downward trend.

Our police department took years to develop Community policing, much of which is preventative and is not as measurable as the crime statistics.

Traffic habits unchecked are producing needless injuries and deaths. We need education and enforcement. Grants are great but uncertain and sporadic.

Courts are in a hard place as well.

If only the police did not have to spend hours at hospitals and transporting mental commitments to mental health facilities. Gradually getting mental health to transition to a new mental health venue is great but in today's world there will always be the 911 call first to police.

Please help the MPD directed towards our safety by fully funding them.

Ruth Sybers

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget-Streets-Drop-off

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor and Alder:

Please **OPPOSE Amendment #15 which prematurely opens an Olin Avenue public drop-off site.**

Yes, Downtown residents will have further to go to reach Sycamore or South Point. Since the reverse has been true for years, restoring this funding has the appearance of giving preferential treatment to the central city.

Let's all make some sacrifices to bring down our debt load.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:36 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget Amendments-Ambulance Conveyance Fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor, Alders:

I am asking you to **OPPOSE Budget Amendment #16 which increases the ambulance conveyance fee to \$1,410.**

This is an exorbitant 33% increase from \$1,075 in a two-year period. With an increased travel time from Middleton and Sun Prairie, their fees should not be used as a comparison to the Madison fees.

An increase in cost will mean that many people will think twice about calling for an ambulance. In turn, this will result in negative healthcare outcomes for many residents.

Let's be proactive in offering affordable healthcare for Madison residents.

Jayne Meyer

District 9

From: Terry Ludkey <ludkeys@charter.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:00 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc:  
reply+GEYTAMRQGE3DIX3QOJXWI5LDORUW63S7KBHVGVC7GIYDKNBYGAZDGNA=@reply  
.nextdoor.com  
Subject: Reduction of MPD Budget Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am unalterably opposed to the proposed amendments which ask for a reduction in the Madison Police Department portion of the city budget.

If there is to be any hope whatsoever of reducing gun violence, other violence, speeding, and a general disregard for the law, lawbreakers need to know that the city is able and willing to quell the same.

That response cannot happen with this proposed reduction.

Please reconsider and reject these amendments and grant full funding to the Madison Police Department.

Terrence L. Ludkey  
711 McClellan Drive  
Madison, WI. 53718

**From:** Kim Richman <krichman@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Say NO to Amendments 17, 18, 19.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madam Mayor and ALL Alders,

**If they come before you**, I urge you **NOT** to consider the irresponsible 2022 budget amendments 17, 18, or 19. **I DO NOT** support any defunding, redirecting, reallocating, or reimagining of funds **AWAY** from the Madison Police Department. Those ladies and gentlemen are already dangerously stretched thin in the highest risk job in the city. On a regular basis, dispatchers are asking for extended shifts, calling in officers to fill voids, causing unnecessary extreme overtime costs. CARES is a welcome addition to Madison, but it's NOT a replacement for an MPD officer and NO funding should be redirected away from MPD for it.

I live of the far-east side where I've seen steady, fast growth East of the Interstate. There are countless homes under construction in the Grandview Commons North & South neighborhoods, The Meadowlands, and Autumn Woods neighborhoods. In addition there are MANY multi-unit "complexes" (if you will) under construction. Since 2019, on the Cottage Grove Road corridor, multi-unit buildings such as The Grove, Royster Commons and Pinney Lane have been built. Pinney Lane and Royster Commons have expansions currently under construction. Ace apartments on Cottage Grove Road at Acewood Blvd are under construction. Another large multi-unit building is currently under construction on Cottage Grove Road at North Star Drive. To the north, along Milwaukee Street (also east of the Interstate), Harmony Apartments recently opened. There are 2 more large multi-unit projects under construction. One at Milwaukee Street at Sprecher, and a HUGE one just a few blocks East. **Those "rental" units alone account for at least 1000 more units, (1500 to 3000 more people) in a short period of time, and that DOES NOT include people in the new homes.**

Now, multiply that by the other neighborhoods in Madison where there is construction and city growth. Then add in the 5000 residents of the Town of Madison that the city is annexing. As I mentioned, MPD is already stretch thin, any reduction whatsoever would be detrimental to community safety.

My point? MPD officers have only increased 9%, while at the same time (according to Madison.com), Madison has grown almost 16% since 2010. That's a disturbing trend.

Unless you aren't paying attention to your constituents, you can see what's happening with more violent crimes.

Put your agendas and politics aside and use some common sense.

Past Common Councils have not done well in this area.

YOU, as current members of the Common Council have the ability to change it.

If amendments 17, 18, & 19 come before for you, and you vote FOR them, you will individually and publicly be held accountable for your actions.

Respectfully;

Kim Richman  
16th District

From: Glori Sabin <kdietzman@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:52 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Common Council Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

This is a plea that you strike down the amendments #17, #18 and #19 that were submitted by 2 alders to remove \$795,000 from the MPD's budget. How could anyone think that this is a logical request? We are totally against ANY reduction to the MPD's proposed budget. Thank you

Kim Dietzman and Glori Sabin  
10 Jubilee Circle  
Madison Wi 53718



**From:** Elizabeth Falkos <bdjfalkos@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 2:45 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Fw: Finance Committee- TONIGHT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Mayor:

Can we agree on how wonderful our beautiful city of Madison is? **Yes.**

Can we have consensus that social/city services keep it that way? **Yes.**

Can we agree on the importance of funding public safety through reasonable funding for the MPD? **Apparently not.**

With higher population, higher crime rates, and more violent crime, how can you possibly squeeze the MPD anymore? We will continue to pay the price for this with tax payers moving out of the city and people left here suffering under a diminishing quality of life.

We have a diverse, professional, committed, well-trained police force with excellent leadership that is already under-staffed. It is not reasonable to limit the number of trainees in the police academy and overwork the officers we have. It is irresponsible to depend on officers working overtime as the normal way of operations. The CARES team is a great adjunct, but it cannot handle the level of calls that the MPD covers and cannot replace the MPD. CARES funding needs to be separate from MPD funding.

I do not want Madison to be a place where residents hear gun shots and people fear driving or crossing a street due to flagrant disregard of our laws. I do not want Madison to be a place with home burglaries and armed robberies. Our security and sense of pride in this city can slip away by the incessant chipping away at the MPD. The Common Council fighting every year over funding of the MPD is bad for officer morale and for hiring future officers. Less funding for the MPD means more crime.

I protest the proposed amendments 17, 18 and 19 and urge appropriate funding of the MPD to keep us all safe.

Thank you,  
Beth Falkos  
6218 Countryside Ln  
Madison, WI 53705

**From:** Paul Skidmore <paulskidmore@tds.net>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:17 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD Budget Cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Conway and Council Members:

I am writing today to oppose the proposed \$790,000 in budget cuts to the MPD that will be considered at tonight's Finance Committee meeting. These cuts, include the elimination the 8 additional police officers needed to patrol the Town of Madison population by the MPD. We need these 8 additional police officers to adequately provide public safety for the Town of Madison's merger with the City of Madison.

Also, I do not approve of any funding being removed from our already-understaffed police department--especially at a time when violent crime and reckless driving on our streets is increasing.

MPD is seeing the highest number of resignations in 10 years and as of September 30th, resignations and retirements are 2 short of hitting the all-time record. So far this year 42 officers have left MPD. MPD is having trouble staffing shifts daily. Officers are staying over an extra 4 hours or are coming in early and working overtime to fill those shifts but it's become too burdensome. Officer morale is at its lowest point ever and many more officers are poised to leave for careers that won't make them work overtime every day or every other day. As a nurse, I understand how stressful and dangerous working short-staffed, especially on such a regular basis, is. Council members proposed cuts, reducing the police budget by \$795,000 which will impact the size of MPD's next year's recruit academy by 11 officers to replace officers lost to attrition and those 11 officers don't even begin to fill the gap.

More budget cuts will only increase attrition, and potentially mistakes, as I have seen in the hospital with increased hours, fatigue, and stress. In addition, when there aren't enough officers available for the city, the city goes into priority-only call status and officers are only dispatched to serious calls involving weapons, life in danger, or a traffic accident with injuries. All other calls are triaged until more officers become available again. When you call 911 or non-emergency you may be told by a dispatcher that your call is not urgent and therefore will have to be stacked in a queue. That is not the kind of service I expect from my city.

In addition, an amendment denies Police Chief Barnes his civilian position he requested that would "improve data collection and analysis supporting data-informed decision-making, violence reduction, and crime prevention." He considered this position the key to his success in doing more with fewer resources. His expertise is in data-driven police policy reform and innovation. This cut seems counterproductive.

While I support innovation in crime reduction, restorative justice, and police training, we will always need a fully staffed, well-trained police force that is capable of ending the threats that we are experiencing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Skidmore  
District 9

**From:** Joni Mitchell <jonimitchell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Reducing funds for MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am vehemently against reducing funds and police officers. Our crime is soaring in Madison. I am so upset about this!

Joni Mitchell  
702 Herndon Drive  
Madison 53718

**From:** marylinmalloy@gmail.com <marylinmalloy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Finance Committee Amendments

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Mary Malloy  
**Address:** 4414 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [marylinmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:marylinmalloy@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote to Amendments 17, 18, and 19. Do not take money from the police budget for the CARES Team.

**From:** rmklemme@wisc.edu <rmklemme@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Amendments 17, 18, 19

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Rick Klemme  
**Address:** 142 Larkin St., Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [rmklemme@wisc.edu](mailto:rmklemme@wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote no on these amendments that move funds from police to the CARES team. Police budget is already short.

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposing the budget as is, support amendments 17, 18, 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I wrote in earlier this month with more, but I'm writing today to say that I support amendments 17, 18, and 19 to the budget, which reallocate money from a bloated and corrupt police department to emergency services which support our community.

This month, one MPD officer shot another while attempting to murder a member of the community in an overly aggressive, militarized response to a simple violation of a nanny-state bail provision which was observed via an invasive use of live surveillance downtown. MPD subsequently framed this man for their own mistake and set his bail prohibitively high to maintain their smear campaign. All of this obscures the fact that we were a few inches away from another Black man killed by MPD, this time downtown. This behavior should not be rewarded with any additional funding. We have seen time and again that rewarding this sort of bad behavior leads to more militarized and aggressive cops. MPD's budget needs to be reduced and used to fund crisis intervention to prevent future catastrophe like this.

-Jack

**From:** Maureen Engelberger <engmau48@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:36 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget for 2022

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To all Alders and Mayor:

Please pay very close attention to the proposal to decrease the budget for MPD for 2022. Our city has NEVER experienced the numbers of speeders and crime that has occurred in the past two years. It goes against logic in keeping our city safe to reduce a budget for a police department! The budget needs to be INCREASED, NOT DECREASED!!!!!! I beg you to give this item your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Engelberger  
[engmau48@gmail.com](mailto:engmau48@gmail.com)



**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 7:02 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Amendments

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Mayor and Alders,

If it's not too late I would like to register my support for Amendments 6, 12, 13 and 14.

I strongly oppose amendmentd 17, 18 and 19.

Thank you,  
Bonnie

From: James Flemal <badgerjdf@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:34 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: MPD budget reduction

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not allow the reduction of funds to the MPD operating budget. We need our police force.  
JD Flemal

From: Rosalie Migas <romigas@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 10:06 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: police funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

With the annual budget being under consideration, I would urge you to continue, if not increase funding for the police. While Madison is a safe community, the number of shootings in previously quiet neighbors is concerning.

Regards,  
Rosalie Migas  
5913 South Hill Drive  
Madison, WI 53705