

From: [Alexandra Wilburn](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Budget Comments
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Hello,

I find Shon Barnes request to continue the mounted police, to get a new surveillance drone, to add positions and officers all problematic and actions that perpetuate systemic racism. Also the police need to spend less than 150K on ammunition. they do not need that much practice murdering civilians. they are trained to shoot to kill, and we do not need to support that with funding for their practice materials.

a Black person can believe that actions rooted in race and class violence are actions that will help society. Just because the Police Chief is a Black man does NOT mean that what he is asking for is anti racist.

1. Mounted police are a direct relic from slavery, slave patrols in states like ours that didn't have slavery but still captured runaways and returned them to enslavement. Any excuses used to continue the program are retroactive reasoning that ignore the historical use. we cannot ignore where the ideology comes from of using horses. That is how we continue racist behaviors, by retroactively saying we can use this practice but for different reasons and that makes it ok. that does not make it ok. end mounted police. Also, there are environmental factors when horse manure goes into the drainage system. historically racist, environmentally disruptive practices must end.

2. They have a drone, I did not see any reason why their current one is not okay to continue use. Although unless it is being used to do things like locate sex traffickers, white supremacist terrorist groups, and missing people, I do not find the use of a surveillance drone appropriate at all.

3. the Police Unions are a relic of the KKK. They are full of white supremacists and white supremacist apologists, as in they do not care they are an organization full of bigotry. Also, I've read some of the WPPA information, it does not appear they are fully up to date on the sciences of human behavior, so they do not know how to properly do anything as they reject current science. So, even though it might look like the positions Barnes wants to add would begin to help address racism in the system, these positions would hold union contracts, making them part of the racist system. Add positions in public health, or civil rights departments. We can take good ideas that are under the umbrella term and department of "police" and take those ideas to other departments. Divest from policing and Invest in community care by doing this.

4. using the term "gang" and having gang units are not appropriate ways to address gun violence and other violence and the selling of illegal items. Gangs formed because people were poor, had no resources, and could not trust the police to help them. Further we do not need to be criminalizing people for possessing, buying or selling drugs. we need to be providing opportunities for people to get help, and providing better education and programs to our youth so they grow believing in themselves and loving themselves so they do not turn to activities to escape their problems. this style of policing "gangs" is rooted in racism, the

practices of policing were designed by active white race dominant believers, and those who didn't understand/believe that poor mental health is the cause of violent behaviors.

5. we do not need cops to address people "pandering". making it illegal to ask for money was a law that was made after Black people were free'd but given no resources, and continuously not allowed to work or live anywhere because racists made laws to keep black people in poverty then criminalized being poor.

6. Everyone reading this should publicly call for Matt Kenny to be charged with murder. it is never too late to be on the side of moral justice.

7. Ban tear gas. the proper response to property damage, or people not leaving an area the police have asked them too, is not to spray them chemicals that have been banned in war. anyone for tear gas is for something banned internationally, think about that ya'll.

All Power to The People,

Alexandra Wilburn.