

To whom it may concern,

Instead of "defunding" the police, I would like you to pay them 15% more than you did in 2019! I would like to see LAW AND ORDER in Madison! We have more shootings and violence since 2019, and lowering our officers ability to respond is IRRESPONSIBLE! Did you know that the United States has 35% less cops on our streets than other industrialized nations?! I would like to hear from you as to how you will be SUPPORTING our police department, not tearing it and our city APART?!

Sincerely,
-Holly Moore
2221 Sherman Ave, Apt 409
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 438-2076

It was suggested to me that I forward my email also to you.

Thank you for sharing it as needed!

Warm regards,
Sheila

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sheila Martin <sheila0725@sbcglobal.net>
Date: September 29, 2020 at 11:02:04 PM CDT
To: district13@cityofmadison.com, pdpsrc@cityofmadison.com, district2@cityofmadison.com
Subject: MPD Budget Funding

September 28, 2020

Sheila Olk Martin
2142 Keyes Ave
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Chair Konkell, Alder Heck, Alder Mitnick, Alder Evers, et al.,

I am writing to request that the City of Madison approve the MPD proposed budget and that it not be de-funded in any way. I have been attending the West Side Safety Meetings and have watched criminal events rise at an alarming rate both on the news and also on our Nextdoor site.

The scenario is clearly no longer the typical “kids rifling through unlocked cars looking for spare change” we used to experience. People are breaking into cars, stealing cars, and engaging in high speed crashes in stolen cars that injure and kill innocent bystanders. They are breaking into homes when people are away, and even while the inhabitants sleep, to steal their belongings. These perpetrators are armed while performing these criminal acts, as witnessed by the guns found in these cars, the increase in shots fired events, and the tragic loss of life we are seeing across the city due to gun violence. These are crimes that will continue to escalate, both in terms of frequency and potential to end in injury and loss of life, both for the victims and frankly the perpetrators, unless we have an appropriately funded police force to address them. If anything, MPD requires more funding in order to address the substantial rise in these crimes, not less.

Our city is in crisis right now, which significantly impacts the Madison Police Department. We have a global pandemic resulting in frequently untreated mental health issues, a significant rise in homelessness and an inability for the court system to appropriately address violent perpetrators. Peaceful protests have escalated into violence and significant property damage, requiring diversion of officers from regular duties. As noted above, these events have contributed to crime rates escalating rapidly in both volume and severity. Now, more than ever, the MPD needs the backing of the City of Madison, our Alders, and our Mayor, in terms of funding and emotional support.

Are there other roles that should be put in place to respond to some of these needs, to assist with mental illness, substance abuse and other non-violent issues? Should there be earlier and stronger intervention to support families in crisis to help stem the tide of juveniles engaged in crime? I believe that these are essential support elements in restoring a safer city for all, but this should be in addition to, not in place of, our police officers.

It is well known that the vast majority of MPD’s budget goes toward paying personnel. I have read that reducing just 5% of MPD’s budget would require cutting 26 police officers from our streets, and by many accounts we are already short in street officers. Reducing their ranks only makes a very stressful job more difficult, the bridges between communities and officers weaker. We need to stop the steady decline of our once safe urban neighborhoods, which is putting all of our citizens in jeopardy. And we need to invest in programs which both stem the tide of crime by supporting families earlier in the life cycle and hold people accountable for actions and choices made later.

We are counting on you, our leaders, to support the safety and well-being of ALL of your constituents, by continuing to fund our police department so they can fulfill their civic duty to serve our city reliably.

Best regards,

Sheila Olk Martin

Sent from my iPhone

> September 28, 2020

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> Sheila Olk Martin
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> Sent from my iPhone

Dear members of the PSRC,

Please find attached my husband's and my comments on the Madison Police Budget Report.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for public engagement on this subject, as we feel that this is essential for creating a fair, just, and community-serving approach to public safety in Madison.

Police Recommendations

Best,

Kristin Riching and BJ Bass

1. What priorities or recommendations would you make to the police budget?

Staffing and officer pay:

1. Maintain higher ranked and more educated officers, and reduce the number of positions that are lower paid and less trained.
2. Move focus to detective positions over patrol staffing. Addressing actual crimes is more important than patrolling communities.
3. Increase resources to the investigator functions at the expense of patrol. Based on the report, the investigative staff should be roughly double what it was in 2009.
4. Increase resources to community outreach at the expense of patrol.
5. Eliminate the TEST group. Traffic citations are shown to have a strong racial bias, and dangerous traffic conditions often arise during commuting periods when police officers pull people over and create traffic jams.
6. Eliminate traffic patrol. Current traffic control methods are ineffective, and if we wanted to reduce speeding, traffic cameras could and perhaps should be used. Traffic patrol is also shown to disproportionately target minorities and harm minority communities, which does harm without the assumed good of changing traffic behaviors in a meaningful way.
7. The CPT's time allotment to traffic patrol is time spent on a task shown to have a heavy racial bias and negative impact on the community. The time spent on this activity is both unnecessary and harmful to many people. See point 5 above.
8. Eliminate a few patrol positions to fill the open crossing guard positions. Crossing guards interact positively with the community and

provide a service in giving children a safe route to school. Let's make that a priority.

9. NPO/NRO – This seems like another patrol position, with annual reports filed to change resource allocations to their neighborhood. I would like to be sure that the efforts of this group are not hurting the neighborhoods they are affiliated with through over-policing, specifically through the cost of court fees/citations and disruption of family units which over-policing brings.
10. Overtime pay for officers is more than 10% of an officer's annual salary. Why are we approving this much overtime? I believe that overtime should be capped at 5% of annual salary.
11. Eliminate mounted police division. Only two officers are budgeted for this which appears to be almost exclusively for riot control and only during weather permitting months of the year. I do not see value here for the function and maintenance costs. (Training, maintenance, animal care) Even with external grants covering these officers, I view them as a threatening presence meant to be used against assemblies and demonstrations, not as a meaningful unit that functions to improve community safety.
12. Significantly reduce the number of officers on patrol to better align with the number of calls per day requiring police response. See additional questions and thoughts on patrol under Section 3: What other questions would you like to see answered in the report?
13. The Madison police chief Victor Wahl expressed that a 5% budget cut will decimate the police department. I'd like to point out that to decimate something requires the elimination of 1 in 10, or 10%. I am in favor of a 10% cut, with up to 30% being cut if police duties can be taken on by more specialized (unarmed) and more appropriate responders. If a police officer on patrol is responding to only 1.2 emergency calls per day, how many non-emergency calls per day require the response of someone with a gun?

Equipment, Training, and Community Programs:

14. Body cameras should be a priority to give the opportunity for accountability to exist. These should be used on patrol, and not just for SWAT.
15. Training focused on de-escalation and understanding/eliminating racial biases in policing should be a high priority.
16. Don't make cuts to Madison's equity goal, from the 5% budget cut. Having more officers with less training and less focus on equity will exacerbate current problems with policing, not solve them.
17. The CORE program has significant grant funding, so it should not be targeted by Wahl as part of the 5% budget cuts. He appears to be taking racial disparity training and holding it hostage.

Mental Health Response and Drug Enforcement:

18. The mental health unit's functions should be taken on by mental health specific service providers. I understand that our MHU has been held up as a national model, but I also remember that our police department shot Tony Robinson after a call to

“check up” on someone acting erratically, and also shot Michael William Schumacher who had a history of mental illness. I also remember Sgt. Joseph Engler viciously beating a minor with mental illness in August of 2019. Calls to aid people who are suffering from mental illness or acting erratically should not end in death or brutality.

19. Reduce focus on drug enforcement, and eliminate investigation and enforcement of nonviolent drug offences. The report’s own wording differentiates between the opiate epidemic and drug related violence, which shows an implicit bias in enforcement between white and minority groups. Such enforcement is bad for minority communities and should be eliminated and replaced with non-police services.

Citations, Civil Forfeiture and Officer Settlements:

20. Remove traffic citations from the city funding and MPD budget unless they are going to a community development fund that the city and police department do not have access to.

21. Civil forfeiture should not be allowed in Madison – if it needs to remain, I would also like to see this applied to a community development fund that the police and city budgets do not have access to.

22. Settlements involving police should come from the police budget, and settlement funds should not be a line item in the budget. Settlement costs should be covered by a reduction in staff.

2. Are you comfortable with the police department’s spending and resource allocation?

1. No, far too many resources are used to patrol, which is a mechanism intended to antagonize rather than respond directly to calls for help. If the focus were on providing help, these resources would be better aligned with the number of calls that are received on a daily basis rather than needlessly profiling the community, targeting minorities, and slapping people with penalties and arrests based on suspicion or for petty infractions.
2. Spending should be reduced by 5% at a minimum. I believe that if we were to focus on effectively addressing the real needs within the community, we could realistically reduce the MPD budget by closer to 30%.

3. What other questions would you like to see answered in the report?

1. Does leasing make more economic sense than buying fleet vehicles?
2. Why do we have unmarked police cars? They are not a deterrent. Are they more effective at generating traffic citations as a money maker? Traffic citations disproportionately fall on poor and minority communities, and if quotas are being filled, money generated via citations should not be added to police and municipal budgets. As mentioned above, it should be directed to community development funds.
3. What alternatives does the police department have to bean bag shotguns, pepper spray, and rubber bullets?
4. Additional questions on patrol:

1. Assuming 4 officers to cover 1 patrol beat (24/7), why do we budget for an officer on patrol for every 1.65 square miles of the city? Even with a full lap around the circumference of this space, this would translate to an officer driving past my house every 11 minutes. (note: I saw this exact situation when living in an overpoliced poor neighborhood)
2. What concentration of officers is there in each neighborhood?
3. Can we reduce the concentration of overpoliced neighborhoods to match predominantly white residential neighborhoods?
4. Are officers on patrol in their cars? If so, can we reduce costs by having officers stationed in smaller response centers for deployment on call (similar to the model used by the fire department) rather than working out of their cars and driving around? This could reduce the officers on patrol and cut down on vehicle/maintenance costs as well as emissions. This should be prioritized over spending on electric vehicles.
 1. Officers driving around are seen as a threat by many neighborhoods, create traffic hazards and congestion on the beltline.
 2. Rolling patrols function as antagonists by attempting to pre-emptively intervene based on suspicion rather than responding to a crime, which translates to racial and community profiling
 3. 66% of 128 vehicles are assigned to patrol (84 vehicles), which could be dramatically reduced if the number of vehicles is better aligned with the number of calls per day within a given response area.
5. What percentage of patrol time is spent on traffic control? In general, traffic patrol positions should be eliminated. There are more effective ways to achieve the intent of traffic control without paying salaries. Automated systems are also less likely to have racial bias in enforcement.
6. How much of a patrol officer's time is spent responding to emergency calls from civilians vs. patrolling?
7. How much of a patrol officer's time is spent responding to non-emergency calls from civilians vs. patrolling?
8. Gut check calculation says an officer responds to 1.2 emergency calls per day on average. The report states that the community is not receiving the patrol services they are expecting and expanding patrol is therefore considered the highest priority at the expense of other departments. I would like to better understand what expressed needs from the community are not being met and whether this is coming from either emergency or non-emergency calls?
9. Reducing the number of patrol officers would reduce the span of control supervisory ratio to at or below the recommended level

between 5:1-6:1. Can we improve the quality of patrol by reducing the quantity of patrol?

1. Does the MPD operate based on arrest quotas?
2. How much revenue does the city of Madison and the MPD generate from issuing citations to fill quotas?
3. What alternatives does the police department have to bean bag shotguns, pepper spray, and rubber bullets?

Questions specific to patrol:

1. How many officers on patrol are there per square mile in Madison? A quick calculation assuming 4 officers to cover 1 patrol beat (24/7) puts this at one patrol officer for every 1.65 square miles of the city. Is this accurate?
2. What concentration of officers is there in each neighborhood?
3. If concentrations are higher in certain neighborhoods, can we decrease this?
4. Can we reduce costs by having officers stationed in smaller response centers for deployment on call (similar to the model used by the fire department) rather than working out of their cars and driving around? This could reduce the officers on patrol and cut down on vehicle/maintenance costs as well as emissions. This should be prioritized over spending on electric vehicles.
5. What percentage of patrol time is spent on traffic control?
6. How much of a patrol officer's time is spent responding to emergency calls from civilians vs. patrolling?
7. How much of a patrol officer's time is spent responding to non-emergency calls from civilians vs. patrolling?
8. A quick calculation shows patrol officers respond to 1.2 emergency calls per day on average. Is this accurate?
9. On average, how many incidents does a patrol officer respond to that are based on the patrol officer's discretion and are not a call from a civilian? Of these incidents, how many are crimes with charges filed (on average)?
10. Do we have statistical data on the efficacy of patrol in crime prevention/intervention in Madison? If not, can we track these metrics?
11. What specific requests/needs from the community are or are not being responded to by our current patrol model?
12. Can we improve the quality of patrol by reducing the quantity of patrol?

With regard to strength within the police department, I'm just wondering if there are metrics that are used, and what are those metrics to assess whether the level of strength is appropriately serving our community. Are there similar national standards or recommendations similar to what Chief Davis mentioned for the fire department?

Given the number of police calls over the past several years, I do not believe the City of Madison police budget for 2021 should be reduced. If a 5% cut to the police budget is recommended by

your committee, much in the way of valuable public service will be lost and we citizens will feel, and likely be, less safe.

I do not believe we can afford to lose those services which would necessarily be cut if a 5% reduction were recommended by your committee to be included in the mayor's budget. While I understand the police department's budget is unlikely to be granted an increase given the budget constraints for next year, I strongly urge you not to recommend reducing the amount provided in the 2020 budget.

Shary Bisgard
2511 Millers Way
Madison, WI 53719

Hello Public Safety Review Subcommittee Members,

A few brief comments with reference to today's meeting:

1. Scheduling such a meeting at 8 AM on a workday is a surefire way to ensure that people most affected by policing in this city will not be able to attend and comment in person since they will be working. Schedule these meetings at another time that is more amenable to community participation.
2. The Police Department taking the largest percentage of the city budget is showing us where our priorities are, and it is not with people needing social services, educational support, housing, or any of the many other things we could be funding with this same money. I oppose the department taking the lion's share of the funding when community members have explicitly stated needs we are choosing not to address. If a budget is a moral statement, we've said our morals lie more with law enforcement than building up and supporting our citizens. Please listen to the folks with specific ideas on how money can be better allocated - they live these experiences here in Madison and the budget should be a tool to help them.

Thank you,
Madeline Sall
1253 Williamson St. #3
Madison, WI 53703

September 28, 2020

Bonnie Roe
4410 Somerset Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Chair Konkell, Alder Heck and Alder Mitnick, et al.,

I am writing to request that the City of Madison approve the MPD proposed budget and that it not be de-funded one dime. I think the more logical thing would be to increase funding for our Police Department. Our city is in a state of crisis right now, in fact multiple crises, all of which impact the Madison Police Department in a huge way. We have a global pandemic resulting in

domestic violence, mental health and homelessness being off the charts. We have a skyrocketing crime rate right, with the previous record shots fired incidents being absolutely dwarfed by what we have now. From my neighborhood, I occasionally hear gunshots and neighborhoods near me hear them very frequently, often not knowing if they are fireworks or actual shots. Bullets have flown through windows not far from my house, narrowly missing an adult and a young child who was injured by broken glass. We had the tragic shooting of 11-year-old Anisa Scott, shot in the head while riding in a car on a major city street in the middle of the day presumably by 16-, 17-, and 19-year-old teens with prior criminal records. One had escaped arrest and later escaped out of jail and was still back out on the streets, doing more harm. Then the death of Kyla Robinson, another tragedy which could have been prevented had juvenile crime been taken seriously. And most recently Anthony Chung, a model citizen, recent graduate of Memorial High School, National Merit Scholar and former student representative on the School Board. Killed in his car when it was hit by Maurice Chandler, an 18-year-old alleged multiple felon, in a likely stolen Jeep going 91mph in a 30mph zone when it T-boned Chung's car, killing him at the scene. His girlfriend received many broken bones, requiring surgery. What a tragedy. A tragedy that could have been prevented had juvenile offenses been properly handled and bail not extended in charge after charge, despite five counts of felony bail jumping and 3 counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, in Chandler's case.

I am so thankful for our hard-working Madison Police Department Officers, out on the streets responding to these awful, heart-wrenching situations. They continue to arrest these offenders and sadly, too often, the court system lets them off the hook to continue to commit more crimes that no one but the Police Officers respond to. Again and again, over and over. They are severely overworked, often being forced to work 12-hour shifts, and it's hard work. It's no surprise to me that the City is having so much trouble finding a permanent Chief of Police. The MPD needs the backing of the City of Madison and our Mayor, from funding to emotional support, from public trust to practical support, including from the court system.

People speak of "de-funding the police" and then act like the phrase was hijacked. What it means, they say, is that Police officers don't need to be responding to all types of calls. There are people better equipped to handle domestic disputes and issues arising out of mental illness. Yet it is the Police that must continue to respond to these calls from our residents. No one else is doing it. If people want to divert funds for those types of calls, then the MPD needs to be told which calls not to take. Some say the Police cannot be trusted to deal with our Black residents, and yet the officers of our MPD have state-of-the-art training and impeccable records. They were voted out of the schools when they undoubtedly provided some of the best role models ever to underserved Black juveniles in the schools, especially for those on their way to a criminal record.

You know that the vast majority of MPD's budget goes toward Personnel. To cut just 5% of MPD's budget would require cutting 26 police officers from our streets. We already do not have enough patrol officers to respond to the breath-taking amount of calls coming in at all hours of the day. They have spent way too much time on Priority Calls Only status since the protests and riots of the summer started happening. We need more officers on the streets, not less. We need healthy officers, working a reasonable amount of hours and responding to a manageable number of calls. We need enough officers to spend time in communities with frequent-call rates, establishing bridges and connections. We need enough officers to patrol the streets, where cars and motorcycles are racing during daytime and nighttime hours, often without any consequences, unless they crash, which is happening way too often. Many of the deaths are young people, nearly all ethnic minority citizens. We cannot allow these things to happen on our

streets and in our neighborhoods. We need the City to allow the MPD the resources it needs to keep our great City safe, or I should say, to restore it to safety.

Please resist the urge to satisfy the few loud voices calling to de-fund the Police and instead give these heroes what they need to do their indispensable jobs. The success of our City depends on it.

Best regards,

Bonnie Roe

Dear Members of the Public Safety Review Committee Budget Sub Committee,

Thank you for your commitment to creating a safer Madison. I firmly believe that safety comes from within a community and can not be imposed by outside threat of force. For years the Madison Police Department has been adding new police officers and increasing its budget. The city of Madison has not done similar increase in budgets for public health or community programming. We need a non police option for health and wealthiness checks and mental health crisis. Police officers are not the appropriate responders to mental health crisis as their presence can escalate the situation. Please reduce the police department expenses in order to create public health and community based alternatives for non violent interventions.

Thank you,
Evy Gildrie-Voyles
202 Farley Avenue,
Madison, WI 53705

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in reference to the September 25th Wisconsin State Journal article seeking input on the proposed budget cuts to the Madison police force for 2021. I, and I'm sure I'm not the only one, am very concerned. In the 13 years I have lived in Madison crime has never been worse in the city and continues to worsen each day. When I moved my family here Madison was consistently ranked as one of the best places to live in the country. Not anymore. Assaults, gun fire, car thefts, and home invasions are in the news everyday in many of our neighborhoods, including mine.

We currently have no chief of police and there does not seem to be a plan in place to confront crime other than react to it as it occurs. I strongly feel we should **increase** police funding as opposed to cutting funds. We need to hire the best police candidates, pay them well and train them to do their jobs while providing them the tools and training they need. Body cameras are a necessity. Diversity training is a must. The goal needs to be to prevent crime from happening rather than arresting more people.

In regards to funding, I would much rather see the \$40 "wheels tax" go towards our police department rather than our mayors pipe dream of advancing bus rapid transit. This alone would provide a projected \$7.9 million.

Regardless, please support our police. It pains me to read of "defunding" the police with no solutions provided. When the basic need of safety and security is at stake this has to be a top priority.

Thank you,

Don Friedman
Madison, Wisconsin

Public Safety is something we cannot do without. We can live with library cuts and bike and pedestrian pathways and many other projects that can be delayed, but police don't only respond to emergencies, they are a deterrent to crime and a safe hold in an emergency. The duties, responsibilities and hazardous risks a police officer or firefighter encounters while they perform their jobs cannot be truly compared with someone in a different city occupation. Defunding or reducing police funding during a time when criminal activity is out of control in this city is reckless endangerment of its citizens and businesses. What will the quality of living in Madison be like when businesses leave because they cannot operate in high-crime areas? The city needs tax revenues of businesses and for employment of its citizens, but having no police to protect their businesses costs us all. How safe will parents feel sending their children to school when criminals are shooting each other in board daylight? Since the end of May until now, criminals have become more emboldened and determined to cause harm to other citizens, and I'm worried about the consequences if 4 million dollars are cut from their budget. Contrary to what we see on TV, our police are not brutal and they aren't racists looking for minorities to gun down, but they are being made to look like the enemy on purpose, often before an investigation begins. Also, the police shouldn't be used to protect unlawful behavior either, like protestors impeding traffic for hours or following protestors around as they cause property damage so they aren't injured. This isn't helping the citizens of Madison and it's a misuse of our tax dollars. What I'd like to see in your report is real data, fair and impartial, from real community members over all of the neighborhoods in Madison providing input about what Madison really needs in terms of public safety. This cut isn't small and shouldn't be done quietly. I also feel that cost savings should be sought instead of cuts. It is imperative that you give all residents a real voice – I say residents and people giving input should be living within city limits. Announcement of the public meeting on 9/22/20 was poorly carried out, especially for such a drastic change in public safety services. If this committee seeks to hold the police accountable, the committee should expect to be held accountable to the community.

Other comments:

- 2016 Staffing link didn't not work
- Acronyms need to be explained somewhere
- Sources aren't cited like where the data for the service call break-down is derived. It is also misleading stating that the is "How the Police Spend their Time" because it doesn't show the time it took them to handle calls they have to respond to or its severity. Also, officers don't just handle 911 calls.

- I'd like to see a break-down on the training requirements, hours spend on training and the total cost of training.
- The Mental Health Unit was successful and is essential to keep individuals with mental health conditions out of the criminal system and their underlying health condition address. Just like there are mental health probation and parole agents, there needs to be police who know how to work with these individuals.
- I find it imperative that the youth of all race, color and creed learn they can trust police and community liaisons are also essential.
- What are the repercussions of the service cuts? Who is going to be the most affected by them and how? Do we just stop needing crossing guards and mental health officers?
- Wellness checks of officers will help decrease worker's compensation claims and supports the health and well-being of officers. They are human resources but shouldn't be treated as expendable resources.

The Financial Presentation:

1. What is a Step 5 officer and why was this used as a basis for the data?
2. Family health insurance employer contribution is almost double the single – things shouldn't be assumed.
3. Note that the occupation includes an inherent hazardous duty cost – they risk their lives, serving the public, especially now with huge increase in criminal activity and lawlessness.
4. Where exactly are the numbers coming from in this break-down?

Comments on Agenda Item 1:

We have all been sold a great lie. We were told that if we just reached high enough, if we just kept our noses to the grindstone, we would succeed. That ambition kept us asleep to the injustices happening around us. But the world is waking up. We are looking around at each other and realizing the destruction we have been causing. Armed militias, marching towards peaceful protesters in t-shirts. This has to stop. We need to defund the police and put that money into communities. It is imperative that we take care of our neighbors in these times and moving forward. We can no longer afford a racist police force that makes people afraid to be asleep in their own homes. We must move forward and listen to what has been happening for decades, and stop talking so damn much.

Thank you for the work you do, and for “existing to assist”. Let's come together in these crazy times and finally look out for one another.

Rachel Chisman

Dear Members of the Public Safety Review Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Madison Police Department 2020 Budget. It is disheartening and quite frankly immoral to see that more than half of the City of Madison's Public Safety

and Health funds are allocated to MPD and that "MPD has the largest department budget from the General & Library Fund in the City of Madison" (City of Madison Public Safety Review Committee Police Budget Subcommittee, Madison Police Department Budget Roadmap Draft, 9/21/2020). How does this reflect our community's commitment to public health and safety? Given the level of violence perpetrated by MPD on our community within the last 15 years (including but not limited to the deaths of Paul Heenan, and Tony Robinson and excessive use of force during recent protests), it seems that our priorities are seriously skewed in the wrong direction. Also of note, what other jobs pay you overtime to show up for work 15 minutes early (p. 25 of previously referenced report)? That is one line item that can easily be removed from this budget and those funds redirected towards meeting the needs of Black and Indigenous People of Color who have historically been systematically discriminated against by this institution.

I support a public health and safety budget that prioritizes meeting the following needs:

1. Remove all harmful punitive policies, practices, and people from school environments, including police, suspension, and expulsion. Do not support politicking or policy decisions that put property over black peoples lives.
2. Public institutions engage in 360 degree accountability through abolitionist restorative justice.
3. Support and fund a Black-led committee with decision making and implementation power to remedy the deep patterns of harm caused by racist violence in all of its forms.
4. Using recommendations of said committee, invest in a campaign to decriminalize and humanize Black people.
5. Provide reparations to said committee to create educational initiatives for the Black community.
6. Provide reparations for Black land trusts and other remedies for gentrification and hyper-segregation.
7. Create a truth and reconciliation process to replace the punitive criminal justice system with abolitionist restorative justice.
8. Adopt the demands developed by the Movement for Black Lives.

Sincerely,

Carol Hermann
2636 Quartz Road 53711

Dear Public Safety Review Committee Members: As you formulate your recommendations for the MPD's 2021 budget, please consider funding a pilot a diversion program similar to the CAHOOTS program that has been incredibly successful for the past 30+ years in Eugene OR.

As reported on CNN this past July, [CAHOOTS](#) ("Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets") is a partnership between White Bird Clinic, a local nonprofit mental health center, and Eugene's Police Department. Under this program, 911 dispatchers filter calls they receive. If the call is for a violent or criminal situation, it's sent directly to police. However, if it's a call for help about a mental health crisis, homelessness, substance abuse, or threats of suicide, the call is taken by White Bird's team of medics and mental health counselors.

By passing off this latter type of call to trained unarmed civilians, and diverting a small portion of the Police Department budget to White Bird, Eugene has found that the types of problems that too often turned violent and deadly in the hands of police get a response from practitioners who are best able to successfully resolve the problem. In 2019, CAHOOTS workers responded to roughly 24,000 calls (about 20% of total 911 dispatches) and found that only about 150 of them (i.e., less 1%) required police backup to resolve.

While I wish Madison activists wouldn't use the loaded term "defund" when it comes to the police budget, I think CAHOOTS is one example of the kind of sensible budgetary diversion that they're really after. It also helps remove the pressure from MPD officers to deal with all kinds of social problems that need not be part of their job.

BTW, I hope that the Wisconsin State Journal's Chris Rickert did not accurately report Interim Police Chief Vic Wahl's comments about the impact of a 5% cut in his department's budget (["Many call for diverting money to other services," 9/25/20](#)). These reported comments suggested that Chief Wahl would prioritize cutting/eliminating the very types of programs and services that are aimed at improving relations between MPD and the community, esp. our local communities of color. I have a hard time imagining that Chief Wahl couldn't find other places in an \$80+ million budget to make cuts that wouldn't significantly reduce public safety. If his comments were indeed accurate, I consider them spiteful and unbecoming of a City department head, and worthy of rebuke from the Mayor and Common Council.

Thanks much for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Landsman

318 Elmside Boulevard

Madison, WI 53704

Hello,

I urge you not to decrease police funding, and at least keep it level, with possible increases. The city got inundated with criminals from Chicago and Milwaukee and other places. They are brazenly driving around at super-high speeds and shoot at one another and other people in the broad daylight. With a record number of homicides ever in the history of Madison, and thugs all over the place – even in the areas that used to be safe, I feel the city is falling into the lawlessness and chaos. I am surprised I don't see cops stopping these criminals, and they are obviously unable to stop the incessant shootings by gangs. This has gotten out of hand, and think the part of it is cops are outnumbered by scumbags in this city. After little girl was killed by gangsters, and young man killed by speeding thug, enough is enough.

Respectfully submitted.

Andrew Khitsun
7474 Old Sauk Rd.
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 831-1576

Dear Council,

I am writing to support our local Madison Police force. Since Chief Mike Koval, the force has been asking for more officers to assist in their daily work. I notice that in the Police Chief's blog on Sept. 24, officers responded to 342 calls in a 24 hour period throughout the city. Officers work long hours and deserve to increase their current budget. For example, as one who drives in the city, most would agree that citizens are driving too fast and frequently run traffic lights. Our police force is hard pressed to be present throughout the city and meet all of the expectations that we have of them. Their job is essential to the health and safety of each of us.

I believe that we are all interested in a safer community and our local Police force has been working hard to do just that. They are not being given credit for all that they do. Times are difficult, please do what you can to support this group of hard working individuals to continue to do their best work. These are trying times and I would agree that an increase in social services would be helpful but please don't add these additional services at the expense of our police force.

Sincerely,
Carol Hudson

Stop spending so much on paying police and for locking up people. Spend my tax money on small houses and solar electric panels. Over policing is not the answer, but getting more police who are black and brown might.

Moses Prasad

After attending the online Westside Community Conversation on September, 24 I have to say I was more that disappointed to read in the Wisconsin State Journal this morning that "Many" attending the online Public Hearing of the subcommittee of the city's Public Safety Review Committee called for "DEFUNDING

POLICE". The police budget is already lean and cutting it further does nothing to provide feelings of confidence and safety for me. I have lived in Madison for over 40+ years. For most of these years I have never feared going downtown on my own for dinner and/or events. I do not feel safe now and I just don't go and do not plan to go in the future.

I do not feel safe in Madison the way things are now. The one city agency that provides me with the feeling of support is the Madison Police Department. The MPD deserves the fiscal support of the city that employs them so they can do their job of keeping this community safe for its citizens.

Thank You
Rmbenzie

TWIMC,

Defunding the police is not the answer to the current police/black citizen shooting problem. We shouldn't be using this term as most people don't want to see the police defunded as we can't lose the thin blue line between law and order and chaos. What we want is better behavior. "REALLOCATING" funding to provide training that moves law enforcement away from the all too common guerrilla /SWAT team approach to policing to a less forceful approach is to me the answer.

My \$0.02

Bob Falk, Ph.D, PE
US Forest Products Lab (Retired)
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Committee;

A number of my neighbors busy with their jobs and educating their kids at home asked me to write this letter in their behalf, because we share the same serious concern for our personal safety during this time of increased random shootings which is accompanied by an unjustified hate for Madison Police.

1) Madison is not Minneapolis--Its not even Kenosha. It's Madison, with the very best police department thanks to our city leaders demanding they be the best.

2) The arguments for defunding police make no sense

example 1) Andi Janeway -- supporting the police is "a facet of government that only serves to create criminals.." an idiotic statement

example 2) Maleyek Mason " more police officers does not equal less crime" perhaps not because more officers equal more arrests of the bad guys, that is more crimes solved.

However, less police guarantees more crime. There is evidence everywhere on this Minneapolis, Seattle, etc. etc.

3) We agree more resources are needed to get at the root of criminal behavior especially the mentally ill. The county just committed 300K to a mental health triage. Imagine if the city committed the wasted 500K for a questionable experiment in police oversight to aid in this project. It would be a much better investment in tax dollars.

We firmly oppose any defunding of the Madison police- Please do not experiment with our safety.

Jerry Darda, Bonnie Darda, Isabella Rocha, Chevelle Cortez, Rick Thies, Ian Smith, Tom Flemming--all of Madison

I am emailing in support of the MPD.

Please know that the citizens understand the need for their services.

This taxpayer would like to see our local policemen & women treated fairly. Stop shitting on them.

Melissa Makela
531 Pawling

I say this with sincerity. Do you have other data that you feel should be included in the report. It's very hard to get data. But if you feel there is data that is missing from this report that should be included, we would welcome your suggestions.

Thank you so much for taking the time to write us.

Brenda K. Konkel
Chair, Public Safety Review Committee

On Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 3:34 PM John <lvlnw@charter.net> wrote:

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

Members of the PSRC and City Alders,

As a City resident with nearly 4 decades of law enforcement experience, I reviewed with keen interest your MPD Budget Draft Report.

While I laud your efforts to include a sizable quantity of information in the report, there is a vast chasm of missing substantive information that relates to the real-world consequences of what you are considering and what is truly at stake here.

Unfortunately, I do not believe that certain members of this Committee, nor many members of the Common Council, who are seriously considering and/or espousing reductions to the Police

Department budget, have an inkling or perhaps even a care, as to the true ramifications of their words and subsequent actions.

Madison now has Common Council members who openly advocate not just for defunding, but an ultimate goal of the abolition of the Police Department. There are others, both on the Council and/or assigned to special committees or community groups with whom they consult, whose false narrative-based anti-police biases run so deep it clouds whatever common sense they might have once possessed. Still others in or attached to City government, do not have enough life experience to fill a thimble, much less to be in the position of making such critical decisions which will disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations within the community.

Many of you engage in word and number play with quantities of officers, assignments, equipment, union benefits and the like. Yet, 95% of you have never seated yourself in a squad car for a night shift, nor set foot into a cockroach infested apartment where a toddler eats out of a pot of lard on the stove while drug dealing parents entertain their customers.

Perhaps if you would take a moment to step out of your several hundred thousand dollar houses or away from the comfort of your parents home or dorm room/apartment, you might just meet the drug addled mother whose pre-teen daughter is sexually assaulted by her crack cocaine/heroin supplying boyfriend and the only person that child trusts to tell the ugly story of her attack to, is the neighborhood police officer.

Maybe if you took the time away from your all-important social justice pontification on electronic media, and stepped along with a police Detective, into the Medical Examiner's room to view the autopsy of an innocent murder victim killed by hunting predator, or a young person shot to death by rival gang members or another crushed in a traffic crash because family, prosecutors and judges failed to impose any meaningful discipline on the child for numerous previous crimes the police arrested them for, perhaps then you might begin to have a glimmer of what you are talking about here. Until that time, you do not.

Madison, in large measure via the actions of its Police Department, has made great strides in improving the life within its challenged neighborhoods and schools during the last 30 years and thus, the community at large benefitted as well. Now however, the negative influence of urban crime is exploding and again threatening not just those challenged neighborhoods, but also the wider population.

The quality of life in Madison and its institutions is devolving and a significant portion of responsibility for that downward spiral can be laid directly at the feet of the current Common Council, the Mayor and other City 'social activist leaders'. So many of you espouse your desire for meaningful 'conversation' and 'dialogue', yet the truth of the matter is you don't really want to discuss nor attempt to address the true root causes of the crime that is beginning to progressively plague larger segments of the community all the time.

The first responsibility of any government on any level in this Country is public safety. Yet, here in Madison, where you are pampered by one of the most well-educated, competent, responsive Police Departments in the Country, there are elected City 'representatives' who would rather

follow their own misguided radical social agendas and those of their fringe activist acolytes, and “burn it down” without having a scintilla of an idea of how to address the vacuum they will purposely create, meanwhile while bludgeoning those who need police services the most.

So now, the community is provided this ‘Draft’ budget report which contains several obscene numerical calculations of various different levels of Police Department budget slashing. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of dollars within other portions of the City budget go untouched because, although unneeded window-dressing, they are pet projects of this Mayor and/or certain Alders.

In closing, if you do not wish to experience further significant decline in Madison, I suggest you begin to listen to those Alders among you who are the voices of reason. To those who know of what they speak from their life experiences, not from sociology textbooks, social media chatter or Aldermanic cliques. Dismiss those ‘loudest voices in the room’, whether they be radical Alders or their activist allies. Listen instead to your common sense and avail yourselves of the highly-trained and experienced Police Department professionals who are trying their level-best to implore and educate you as to the true meaning budgetary cuts would have throughout the community as a whole.

John S.
Madison, Wis.

I am adamantly opposed to any reduction in budget to the MPD! Over the last year we have seen a major increase in crime, shootings, riots, looting, arson, car thefts, muggings and murders!

The Mayor and The City Council must start to respect the police officers who put their lives on the line everyday for our safety!

The activist judges who repeatedly let them off also need to be accountable and sentence them. They need to learn a lesson and pay their debt to society, Currently they know they will get off and they will continue to do it over and over again.

Just this week a group of 4 teens were arrested at East Towne for theft and driving a stolen vehicle. One of them was the same teen that stole my friends car just last August. The car was brand new and found a week later completely totaled!

We are sick of seeing our city burned! State Street is disgusting and will NEVER come back to what it was. The Mayor LET THIS HAPPEN and we have lost businesses and livelihoods as a result. UNACCEPTABLE! Mental health programs and counseling will not solve these problems!

Michelle Hoppe

Give the police department what their budget asks for. I feel they are the only city agency that truly supports me and cares about tax paying citizens’ quality of life. Yet I do not feel safe living and functioning in Madison anymore. Regarding the cry to divert police dollars to community programs

directed toward support for city youth and affected families is there quality over-site...do these programs have solid data supporting them? Police activities are data driven and include extensive over-site.

Barbara Dougherty

My husband and I feel there should be no cuts to the police force. We are Democrats and liberal, but we appreciate the strong police force. What is happening in Madison and the surrounding cities is disturbing and we want it stopped. No more gangs

Sheila Fields

I realize that I only answered part of Brenda Konkel's question:

Question: What are the elements of the CAHOOTS or STAR models that you would recommend:

I believe that the critical part of the CAHOOTS model is the diversion of people from the legal system at the 911 level. Not dispatching police where social and medical expertise is required is a win for both the people served and for the police.

Diversion from the legal system is especially important for people during a behavioral health crisis. People who are in crisis are often noncompliant with police demands which puts them at risk of harm from the police. Even absent harm, people in crisis are at risk of criminalization for behavior that is poorly handled by the legal system. The Mead and Hunt reports note that people of color are over-represented in the Dane County Jail among the group of people with prescriptions for psychoactive medication to an even greater degree than they are in the general Dane County Jail population. Changing this situation is a moral imperative.

This discussion is taking place in the context of budget. In addition to the moral argument there is also a fiscal argument. The CAHOOTS system serves Eugene and Springfield Oregon handling about 20% of their 911 calls and has a budget of just over \$2 million. The combined budget for police in those two communities is about \$90 million - not so different in size as Madison. Recognising that not all police calls are the same, still having 20% of the calls handled for roughly 2% of the budget is a bargain.

This is why I believe that moving ahead with all deliberate haste toward a CAHOOTS style system is desirable for Madison and Dane County. Changing the police budget to support this development would be a good start.

Eric Howland

From: Gary Robbins <gnrobbins@gmail.com>

Date: September 24, 2020 at 9:31:08 PM CDT
To: Gary Robbins <gnrobbins@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Clueless Police De-funders

Oh, and if you thought crime in Madison was bad before, just wait till the public, and the criminals among the public, hear that Madison's police force has been weakened by a withdrawal of funding and support!

Talk about emboldening a bad element, and taking away a deterrent to committing crimes!

De-funding the police will increase crime and decrease public safety.

Period.

Gary

On Sep 24, 2020, at 9:08 PM, Gary Robbins <gnrobbins@gmail.com> wrote:

Have you seen the number of gunfire incidents in Madison lately?

The number of INCREASING violent crimes and incidents?

And then have you heard the morons who call to take funding away from the police precisely at the time in Madison when MORE funding for the police is required?

Well, don't listen to those morons and don't listen to the mob mentality.

We have serious issues in Madison, and they require serious answers. Not experimental suggestions from clueless people.

At this time, Madison's police department needs MORE funding, AND MORE SUPPORT FROM IT'S MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL, not less.

Gary

Hello,

I have lived in Madison my entire life and I do not support cutting the budget of the police department. At a time when 11 year olds are getting murdered at 11am on a Tuesday on East Wash and cars are stolen every night, we need more police protection than ever. I support increasing the MPD budget to hire more officers and offer even more training opportunities. MPD is a progressive, positive police force that should be supported, not cut and demonized.

Sincerely,
Nikki Acker

I definitely think that Police Reform is needed. I don't think the focus on having social/mental health workers either accompany officers or replace police calls is the best way to look at the problem. A mental health worker accompanying a police officer would still be a weaponized response to any situation. In some situations, it may be possible to send a social worker without a policeman on a call but it would not be easy to make those decisions and probably wouldn't yield a huge improvement. It would still be worth following what other police departments have done successfully in this way.

The bigger picture is that we need better job opportunity, health care, educational opportunity, housing support, green space etc. Residents of neighborhoods who have access to the above have less need for police calls and different police responses to their calls. This obviously is not just "police reform". It is societal reform. In addition to the needs of the poor there is a huge problem of the availability of guns. In this environment policemen believe they need and legally allowed to shoot first in order to survive their interactions. This is a recipe for deaths by police.

Of course, we need to start somewhere and the police budget is a good starting point. Any changes should be in the direction of fewer armed responses to calls. Another recommendation would be for police to advocate for gun regulation and demand other city/county initiatives to support neighborhoods.

--

CRD

Please do. Then the good citizens of WI can get down to the business of cleaning up our communities without any police interference. Be careful what you wish for.

DIVEST FROM THE POLICE. WE THE PEOPLE GIVE CARE WITH EACH OTHER. THE POLICE DO NOTHING BUT HARM US

Autumn Fearing-Kabler tfearingk@icloud.com

Howdy Everyone,

Thank you for engaging with my comments this evening. Attached please find the three papers which I referenced. I also include a brief summary of those papers along with a list of broken links.

Braga's 2018 meta-analysis titled "Focused Deterrence Strategies and Crime Control"

- This is a long paper that provides a summary of the literature regarding crime reduction as it was in 2018.

- A one-sentence summary could be: *"The available empirical evidence suggests these strategies generate noteworthy crime reduction impacts and should be part of a broader portfolio of crime reduction strategies available to policy makers and practitioners."*

Chalfin's 2017 summary paper titled "Criminal Deterrence: a Review of the Literature"

- I would suggest reading the section titles for titles that sound interesting and then read those sections for their references.
- As a summary paper, Chalfin unfortunately offers precious little in the way of concrete solutions and instead makes many suggestions for future research.

Rosenfeld's 2019 titled "Did de-policing cause the increase in homicide rates?"

- Rosenfeld's analysis shows that having fewer arrests (defund the police) does not correlate to a rise in homicide rates.

Regarding broken links, I currently have only noticed three:

- Page 14, link to the Etico Solutions 2016 Staffing Report
- Page 37, Appendix F - "Link 1"
- Page 38, Appendix M - Etico Solutions (2016) Report

As I continue to review the Draft Budget Roadmap, I will reach out if I notice any other issues or missing information.

--

Christopher S Patterson
608.352.3337

Good evening to the members of the Public Safety Review Committee,

I wanted to say thank you to the Police Budget Sub-committee for all of your hard work on the Madison Police Department Budget Roadmap Draft. I am thankful for the transparency and the thorough breakdown of each area of spending. Seeing how large of a portion the City of Madison 2020 General & Library Funds Budget goes to the MPD is very worrisome. I would love to see more of that funding allocated to other important areas of the budget like the CDA Housing Agency and the Public Health Agency (particularly Mental Health Services).

Once again, thank you for your hard work in compiling this information.

Best,

Stevi Parmentier
Eken Park Resident
District 12

Members of the Public Safety Committee,

Words cannot express how vehemently against the proposed police budget I am.

As a former UW-Madison student, current Madison resident and worker, and lifelong Dane county resident, I urge you to reallocate the proposed funds from the MPD to instead help build the community in a positive way.

Housing, education, medical care, rehab programs, mental health awareness. These are all things that help build a community. Aggressive policing only increases the number of bodies behind bars and too often leaves the less fortunate to fend for themselves.

Additionally, police continue to prove they see themselves as above the laws they enforce, and many have a clear bias against people of color. As a Mexican American, I truly do not feel safe every time I leave my house for fear of a rogue cop bringing me harm without repercussions. I can't even feel safe INSIDE my own house, as Breonna Taylor's case has made clear.

If police officers aren't going to be held accountable for literally destroying lives, then why would I EVER give them my tax money to do so? People should always be valued over property, and this new police budget simply does the opposite. It encourages the dehumanization of "criminals", an extremely broad term that some may deserve but most truly do not.

Before anything else, we're all people. We're all somebody's son or daughter. PLEASE, do not pass this budget. Fund the community, not mass incarceration.

All power to the people,

Abe Morrick

[I will be unable to speak in person but if possible, I would like to request my piece be read at your meeting so that all may hear.]

Members of the PSRC and City Alders,

As a City resident with nearly 4 decades of law enforcement experience, I reviewed with keen interest your MPD Budget Draft Report.

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John S.
Madison, Wis.

Dear Public Safety Committee Members,

I'd like to thank the Police Budget subcommittee for putting together the Police Department Public Roadmap draft. It was really helpful to see all the different breakdowns of how the police budget is allocated. I have also read the 2019 MPD Annual Report and I have some grave concerns that the Black community in Madison has been trying to communicate for some time.

The graphs in the Annual Report showed that 40% of adult arrests and a staggering 64% of juvenile arrests in 2019 were Black people, despite the fact that the last census data shows that only 6.8% of Madison residents are Black. And even though there was a higher percentage of white adults arrested (49%), there were nearly 800 more charges leveled against Black people.

According to the Public Roadmap, the city reserves the right to transfer functions away from the police department and it is time we do that. We should route resources into trained civilian personnel who can deal more appropriately with things like mental health, addiction, and providing neighborhood resources. Reducing the size and scope of our police force will allow us to redirect that funding into housing, public health, and improving our poorest communities. Those kinds of measures will reduce crime in the long term, further reducing the need for policing.

It's time we start thinking about long-term solutions and about eliminating the disproportionate effect of policing on communities of color. I fully support reduction of the police budget and redirection of that funding with a goal of benefiting marginalized communities in our city.

Sincerely,
Erin Lemley
1703 Rowland Ave #1
Madison, WI 53704

Because of another scheduled commitment, I am unable to attend this evening's listening session on MPD's budget, but still very much want to provide input on the subject. As is the case with most American communities, the City of Madison's budget is badly out of balance. That's not to say that expenditures are exceeding revenues. It's to say that spending priorities are out of whack. With nearly \$82 million spent on policing, MPD has by far the largest department budget financed by the city's general fund. A better balance needs to be struck in Madison's overall city budget, with less going for policing and more invested in human services and especially mental health services. A 5% to 10% cut in MPD funding is not only reasonable but a necessary down payment toward the establishment of a better balance between human service spending and policing.

Looking at MPD's spending in isolation, I see another imbalance. There is an apparent emphasis on expenses that serve to create an increasingly militarized police force, and not enough emphasis on things like de-escalation training for police personnel and mental health officers who can respond to conflicts involving people with mental health challenges. This imbalance also needs to be addressed. MPD's budget not only should be reduced so money can be shifted to human services, but within MPD's budget money needs to be shifted to prioritize de-escalation of conflict and mental health care.

Oh, and stop accepting surplus military equipment and ammunition. Instead of going along with the national trend of hardening and militarizing police forces that "intimidate and control," work to return policing to a "protect and serve" mission.

Mike McCabe
3634 Alpine Road
Madison, WI 53704

Hello,

I am a resident of District 2.

I read your detailed analysis of the current MPD budget.

I am opposed to any cuts to the MPD budget. Our City continues to grow unabated and calls for service for the Department continue to increase in number and complexity. Currently where I live, there are continual issues with traffic violations and petty street crimes. By decreasing the budget and forcing MPD to become a call and response type of department, these issues will continue to fester. Long term, this will make living in the central city more dangerous and therefore much less attractive.

It is not fair to blame MPD for the wrongs of Law Enforcement agencies far from here or to punish MPD for the budget crunch caused by Covid 19. By the way, we also do not yet know the budgetary impact of Covid. The largest portion of the City budget is derived from property tax revenue. I sincerely doubt that has decreased due to Covid.

Thank you for serving on this important committee and for considering my input.

Scott Favour
819 E Mifflin St #304
Madison

I disagree with her suggestion to defund, dismantle our police department. As a tax paying, law abiding citizen and someone who has always worked hard to make a living for me my family, I am appalled at what is happening here in Madison, where I have resided for 40 years. It would be my suggestion that members of the city council and especially the mayor should be responding to each and every call for service to the police and also the fire dept. It appears this "SMALL" group has decided they are the judge and jury for all the rest of us.

Maybe you need stop listening to individuals who are just hateful of our country and feel they should be allowed to commit crimes / disturbances against any other citizen just because they can. I happen to currently live in a neighborhood including, families, older individuals, people of many varied backgrounds. 90 percent of the residents are hardworking, law abiding citizens, but we have a small number who feel it is their right to have loud parties day and night, leave trash all over, and cause many to be fearful living in their own homes. According to Ms. Konkel's plan she evidently feels that 10 percent have the right to break all laws, disturb others, and cause damage to their homes without having any consequences. God help us if her world comes to fruition.

I just hope and pray the city council, the mayor, and other "leaders" start listen to those of us who are hurt by the actions of the few. It is scary to think our country could become like Mexico where the Cartel are basically in control, and take a percentage of anything the working poor make, just so they won't be attacked and/or killed. Without laws, and people to enforce those laws it will definitely be a the end of our freedoms that all our forefathers fought and died to preserve.

Virginia Okeson

Dear PSRC members,

I would suggest that the MPD Budget Roadmap should include some discussion of opportunity cost. I'll use the rest of this e-mail to explain what I mean by that and why it's important.

Given state statute, there's a limit on the tax levy Madison can impose. If your concern is maximizing public safety, then the budget analysis should be approached differently from how it historically has been. A rational process would consider how to maximally reduce crime per dollar spent, etc.

Research has shown that police actually have minimal effects on crime. The major factors that determine crime rates are informal social control, measures of well-being (poverty and access to resources), etc.

As the esteemed criminal justice scholar David Bayley noted:

The police do not prevent crime. This is one of the best kept secrets of modern life. Experts know it, the police know it, but the public does not know it. Yet the police pretend that they are society's best defense against crime and continually argue that if they are given more resources, especially personnel, they will be able to protect communities against crime. This is a myth.... Changes in the number of police within any practicable range will have no effect on crime....

Crime experts generally accept that the best predictors of crime are factors such as employment status, income, education levels, gender, age, ethnic mix, and family composition. A precise figure can't be put on it, but most - perhaps as much as 90% - of the differences in crime rates among communities can be explained by differences in such factors....To give only one example from a voluminous literature, Cohen, Felson, and Land (1983) found that between 1947 and 1977 such factors could account for 96.5% of the differences in robbery rates, 99% of the differences in burglary rates, and 99.3% of the differences in auto-theft rates throughout the United States. It is not really surprising, then, that finding evidence that police prevent crime is so difficult. Police shouldn't be expected to prevent crime: They are outgunned by circumstances....

Honest law enforcement saves the police from promising something they cannot deliver. Police often say – correctly – that they should not be blamed for increases in crime because the causes of crime are beyond their control. Honest law enforcement solves this public relations dilemma by narrowing the police mission to a set of actions they can demonstrably perform well. As Peter Manning (1977, p 18) has thoughtfully pointed out, the police “have tied themselves to a socially determined process [that is, crime] over which they have no control. They have thus achieved success in focusing public attention upon an activity which can be seen as explosive and self-defeating.” Honest law enforcement cuts this Gordian knot....

The fundamental problem with dishonest law enforcement, beyond its potential for embarrassing the police, is that it prevents communities from facing what really needs to be done. As long as people believe that police can prevent crime, communities will not insist that something else be done (Shearing 1991). The police know – or are rapidly discovering – that successful crime prevention requires multifaceted programs involving all agents, informal as well as formal, of societal control and social amelioration (Clinard 1978, Anderson 1979).... What modern societies lack is an institution apart from the police with responsibility for formulating and implementing crime-prevention programs ((Shearing 1992). [Bayley, D., 1994, “Policing for the Future”, Oxford University Press]

Consistent with this, the most recent and comprehensive meta-analysis of the effect of adding officers to U.S. police departments found no effect on crime rates: Y. Lee, J. E. Eck, and N Corsaro. 2016. "[Conclusions from the history of research into the effects of police force size on crime—1968 through 2013: a historical systematic review](#)" (in Journal of Experimental Criminology).

This is an analysis that incorporated 62 studies and 229 findings of police force size and crime, from 1971 through 2013 (basically all existing prior analyses). The core findings:

When we combined the findings from all the studies and adjusted for confidence in their conclusions, we found the effect on crime of adding or subtracting police is miniscule and not statistically significant. Practically, this means police agency size has no impact on crime. Further analysis showed that this is true over time, it is true regardless of the type of statistical analysis used by the researchers, and it is true regardless of how police force size is measured....

the overall effect size for police force size on crime is negative [i.e. adding officers -> more crime], small, and not statistically significant.

I want to emphasize: This is not my conclusion. This is not the conclusion of one or two studies, which could be aberrant/misleading. This is the consensus finding across the many studies that have examined the question.

Since I'm a stickler for accuracy, I'll add that this is not to say that police activity can never have any crime-reduction effects under any circumstances. For example, there's good evidence that strategies such as problem-oriented policing and hotspot policing show some efficacy for crime reduction. But any such effects are generally small to moderate in size, and overwhelmed by the importance of informal social control, poverty levels, etc. Basically, trying to reduce crime levels with police is like pushing on a string. There appears to be little to no return on investment (societal benefit in crimes prevented) in increased expenditure on policing in the U.S. In contrast, rigorous studies show that public health approaches to crime control (e.g. civilian violence interruption programs like [Cure Violence](#) or [Advance Peace](#), mentoring and peer support programs like [Becoming A Man](#), etc.) can produce [a large return on investment](#). [Here's one source of info](#) on benefit-cost ratios for various non-law-enforcement crime related programs. As a society, one thing we fail to do is think about opportunity cost - when more money is allocated to police, that leaves less money for other kinds of programs that leave everyone better off and have a larger crime-control effect.

Madison has long sought to maximize the amount of proactive policing. But even here, the devil is in the details – the exact form of proactive policing being done. Not all proactive policing is helpful. In late 2014/early 2015, NYPD officers coordinated a work-to-rule strike and stopped all proactive policing activities. Police dramatically reduced the number of criminal summonses (for minor infractions like disorderly conduct or public alcohol use) and the number of stop-question-and-frisks, but continued to respond to major crimes as they would normally.

Scientists found that civilian complaints of major crimes dropped by about 3% to 6% during the slowdown. There was a drop in the number of major crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery and felony assault.

Here's a paper on this: "[Evidence that curtailing proactive policing can reduce major crime](#)":
One possible reason for this, as the authors note:

Proactive policing also disrupts communal life, which can drain social control of group-level violence. Citizens are arrested, unauthorized markets are disrupted, and people lose their jobs, all of which create more localized stress on individuals already living on the edge. Such strains are imposed directly through proactive policing, and thus are independent from subsequent judgments of guilt or innocence.

A full NYPD strike in 1971 (85 percent of the city's police officers went on strike, leaving the city with only 6,500 non-striking officers) also resulted in no apparent increase in crime. As the New York Times noted at the time, "New Yorkers— 'a special breed of cats'...went about their heads-down business. There was no crime wave, no massive traffic jams, no rioting."

As criminologist John Pfaff notes:

As "defunding the police" continues to pick up steam, I think it may be helpful to appreciate the relatively minor role formal enforcement actually plays, and thus why investing in alternatives makes so much sense....

total lockup for violence likely below 10%, for property below 1%.

Yet despite these remarkably LOW levels of contact at every level of the system, we are experiencing crime still at near-historic lows.

Which means that much of what prevent crime must be something more social, less crim justice.

Perhaps we should invest more in that.

The logic is clear:

The criminal justice system only snags a small fraction of cases, and that fraction shrinks significantly at every level.

But if we, say, focus on helping someone manage their anger or address excessive drinking, that effect operates all the time.

Read the full thread, with additional information, [here](#).

There's been a real failure to think about opportunity cost. As John Pfaff [notes](#):



John Pfaff @JohnFPfaff · Aug 20

I still find myself amazed that decades of cost-benefit analyses of crim justice policy in econ, criminology and other fields never seriously wrestled w opportunity cost.

If \$1 spent on, say, prison seemed to cut crime by \$1.05, good! Never asked where else that \$1 cld've gone.

10

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221



John Pfaff @JohnFPfaff · Aug 20

Those decades of work never seriously wrestled with social cost either, not the quantitative stuff anyway.

The \$1 in cost was always the fiscal cost--the actual govt spending. The SOCIAL cost? Acknowledged as uncountable (maybe), and then mostly ignored.

1

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John Pfaff @JohnFPfaff · Aug 20

There's a lot to unpack in all that. It reflects how deeply entrenched are our views that prison, and law enforcement more broadly, is simply the default.

(Similarly, to the extent there was any opportunity cost, it was mostly intra-crim justice ("prison vs police").)



John Pfaff @JohnFPfaff · Aug 20

And the focus on fiscal costs reflects the lived experiences of those DOING the cost-benefit analysis, for whom fiscal costs WERE the costs.

I pay taxes, and could be a crime victim, but I'm not assaulted by the police. And I'm the sort of person who does the cost-benefit work.

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John Pfaff @JohnFPfaff · Aug 20

Anyway, nothing prompted this thread. It's just genuinely the fact that I can be standing in my kitchen, cleaning the dishes (like tonight), and suddenly get stuck by how an entire cost-benefit literature seemed to just... go astray.

I've been making this same point for years. Money spent on policing means less money is available for other programs. And a great deal of research shows that appropriate non-policing programs can have a far, far greater crime-reduction effect than policing. Even if one's primary concern is to minimize crime and maximize safety, how we're allocating resources now is completely irrational.

A basic question is "[Are Cities Willing to Cut Police Spending and Invest in Community Violence Prevention?](#) We know that a public health approach can reduce gun violence. With budgets tight, funding those programs will take divesting from law enforcement."

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Gelembiuk

Dear PSRC members,

I'm writing with a bit of feedback on the MPD Budget Roadmap Draft.

One thing to consider adding to the report is a reference to Recommendation #156 of the MPD Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee report - see page 149 of the report here: <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7812735&GUID=21A9A1A7-AD70-45D3-A954-D660214097C2>

The recommendation is "*For purposes of assessing staffing levels and needs, and making requests for personnel expenditures to the Common Council, the MPD should find ways to capture and convey data on both patrol and non-patrol officer staffing levels, and to ensure that staffing levels of all categories are not underreported to the Common Council.*"

You can read the discussion text for that recommendation for more information.

Since the text of the recommendation itself is a bit vague, I'll briefly explain here what it's about.

With staffing analysis, the key is in the details, and the most crucial details are often buried.

To justify its staffing requests, MPD often points to the Etico analysis. And it sometimes characterizes this as an independent analysis. But it actually isn't. There's never really been an independent analysis of MPD staffing needs. Etico is a one person consulting firm and in working with the Etico consultant, MPD was basically able to dictate its desired outcome. As another Madison resident noted: "the ETICO staffing study and the 2016 follow up are more or less tailor-made vehicles designed to wrap the appearance of impartial assessment around what is really MPD writing their own checks for whatever they want."

The basic form of the Etico model seems OK, but there's a serious problem with arbitrary parameter choices for the model. Etico basically asked MPD what the key parameter (reactive:proactive time) should be set to; MPD said to set it to 50:50, and Etico rationalized that number. This is inconsistent with the target set by most police departments (60:40).

Moreover, there's essentially double counting. In essence, Etico was instructed to pretend that MPD's specialized units didn't exist (to model Patrol Division as though it were operating all alone) AND to set the required proportion of proactive to reactive time high (1:1) for patrol officers. As police regulatory specialist Seth Stoughton (University of South Carolina School of Law) noted when he learned of this, it's "problematic" (as a minor aside, Stoughton is a former police officer himself).

As the USDOJ COPS office notes (in "A Performance-Based Approach to Police Staffing and Allocation"):

"Agencies developing a specialized unit have less need to increase the discretionary time for patrol officers to devote to community policing."

Again, from COPS:

"Some communities might want officers to be available for patrol for at least half their shift. Others, like Chicago, devote considerable resources to specialized patrol units; as a result, beat cars need less time for officer-initiated activities."

Former Alder Amanda Hall once blogged: "MPD has a significantly higher percentage of its total force 'off-patrol' than forces for other similarly-sized cities. Madison has hundreds of officers, and simply too few on patrol." Here I won't go into that allocation question (i.e. whether too few are allocated to patrol). But I will note that you can't just ignore those non-patrol units in a workload analysis assessing proactive:reactive time.

If the Mayor and Council are committed to a 1:1 allocation of proactive versus reactive time, that needs to take into account the existence of the specialized units that are engaging in predominantly proactive policing (CPTs, Neighborhood Officers, etc.) and not pretend that Patrol Division officers are operating alone in the field.

Separate from the above point - I thought I'd also link here some e-mails I sent to alders in 2017-2019, providing various analyses of MPD staffing. These include additional information that you may find of relevance in constructing your MPD Budget Roadmap.

["MPD staffing and officer to population ratios"](#)

["Response to Sue Williams letter regarding MPD staffing"](#)

["Regarding the proposal to increase MPD's budget"](#)

["Regarding the budget amendment to increase MPD staffing"](#)

["MPD staffing"](#) e-mail 1

["Chief Koval's rhetoric"](#)

["MPD Staffing"](#) e-mail 2

["Budget Amendments to Hire More Officers"](#)

I came across an article today (titled "[The Fault Lines of Midwestern Racism Run Deep](#)") that described Madison as "a heavily policed bubble". That's not incorrect.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Gelembiuk

To whom it may concern:

- I am happy to see that the supervising ratio for the MPD is 7:1, greater than recommendations
- I am happy to see that there are mental health officers but am curious to know more about their training. I think going forward this should be outsourced. Denver's 'Support Team Response Program' (STAR) is a great alternative that dispatches seasoned mental health professionals to help people in mental health crises. Police are not trained in mental health issues; they're trained to enforce the law and protect.
See: <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/09/06/denver-star-program-mental-health-police/>

Best,
Rianna

Dear members of the Public Safety Review committee,

Thank you for all your work and draft report on the city of Madison budget as it relates to spending by the Madison Police Department.

It is easy to see the ludicrous high levels of costs associated with policing in this city compared with human services and community development. This says a lot about our values and how punitive we are as a society, sadly.

We all want a safe community with little crime and where EVERYONE thrives. We know that is not the case in Madison, and the deleterious experiences of BIPOC with the police in this city unfortunately contribute to oppression, stress and hopelessness.

A new budget is a chance to walk the talk of a Madison where everyone is respected and treated as equal human beings. As we listen particularly to the Black community, we need to recognize the need to repair and heal hundreds of years of injury that continue until today. We keep doing the same thing, punishing people for "choosing" actions that get them into disproportionate trouble as compared to similar actions by white counterparts who are handed lesser punitive consequences or are able to buy themselves out of the "justice" system.

The time is OVERDUE to do something different please. Let's finally invest in BIPOC sufficiently so that what has been taken from them is restored and the playing field is leveled. Especially Black people need to be relieved NOW from the constant stress of over-policing and finally given access and opportunity that white Madisonians take for granted. This would result in young people having hope that they may have a life in which they will survive, in which they are respected and cherished by their community. Imagine what this country would be if Black children thought their lives mattered.

I whole-heartedly support listening to Black folks and putting our money in their communities (enough funds and sufficient time allowed for those funds to work), so that BIPOC can finally thrive to their fullest potential, like white people are allowed to do in this city.

Choose investment in mental and general health, stress-reduction, stable housing, job training, equitable educational opportunity from birth through college. This investment should be paid for by a decrease in policing as it makes common sense that over-policing, the chronic harassment, family separation and decreased income that comes from incarceration is causative of stress, poor health, unstable housing and households, and ultimately hopelessness, especially in youth.

We need to choose positive change over doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. In this case, this is not only insane but also immoral.

Sincerely,
Bianca Tomasini
4926 Odana Rd
Madison WI 53711

I would like to have more funds that the police department receives to go towards creating more neighborhood police officers, so officers can get to know the people they police. Also, more of the funds should be shifted to increasing the number of police officers who are skilled in dealing with people with mental health issues. That is a big issue. And this is a major way that problems can be avoided. It takes special skills and knowledge to de-escalate and communicate with people with serious mental health problems.

Also, the police need more training in how to de-escalate situations. This was seen during the protests earlier this year.

--Marilyn Feil, 3634 Alpine Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Really?! You want to cut the police budget 75%?

Here's what I want as a city resident who pays taxes for general services. I want you all to get a grip. You can be pro Black Lives Matter and support your local police department. Stop buying into the fallacy that you have to destroy one to save the other. That's Trumpism. The federal government shuts off the funds

to municipalities and we are left to fight for scraps. I agree police don't need to go to certain types of calls, but if you haven't noticed, we're in the midst of a societal change that happens to involve a lot of gun violence. Most social workers and counselors I know don't want to respond to those calls. Leave the police budget alone because when you start talking about cutting that budget 75% you sound like rank amateurs try to govern. You'll leave the vulnerable unprotected-that's not good anti-racist policy.

We are lucky enough to have a department that honestly wants social change.

S. Carnell

I love Madison. I was one of the young leaders on the Department when Community Policing was initiated for all citizens of Madison in the 1970's and 1980's. All citizens. I am appalled and embarrassed by the proposal to cut the Police Department's budget by up to 75%. The City has a serious issue with gangs and drugs. If such a ill conceived idea were to pass who would respond to the many shots fired incidents and who would respond to the armed drug dealers in our great City. Who would respond to celebrations of life for a fallen young man when shots are fired into the crowd. What a sad state of affairs.

I sure people will disregard my comments because I am a retired Police Captain. I love this City and respect all lives. I still am astounded by this proposal. Thank you Jeffrey Frye
Sent from my iPhone

Dear Folks,

We want to make it crystal clear that ANY sort of defunding of the Madison Police Dept is a really, really bad idea. In fact, if anything, the MPD should be given MORE money in its' budget, in order to protect and serve the community. The MPD is already having its' hands tied more and more by the liberals and anti-police folks. The MPD is already very much in-tune with all the members that make up our city, being very careful to treat everyone with respect and dignity. If someone breaks the law and is violent or acting in a criminal manner, they should be held responsible for their actions, not just a slap on the wrist. Let the MPD do their job, give them the funding they need (MORE of it) and quit talking about this defunding the police business!!! We know that we are speaking for hundreds, if not thousands, of Madison residents, who will never take the time or effort to speak up about this nonsense. Even we were only recently made aware of this opportunity to speak up about this issue.

Sincerely,

Vaira and Ron Akselis, Madison, Wisconsin

Hello,

My name is Julia Levine and I live at 1005 E Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703.

I'm writing to you today to express my dismay at the outsized nature of the police proposed budget. We need you to radically alter and DEFUND the police- not keep their budgets relatively similar or only cutting an officer here and there.

To look at the lack of care that MPD has for Black citizens, you just need to look at the protests. In May, your MPD teargassed Madison teenagers on State Street during a protest turned riot. Rather than de-escalating or maybe breaking up the protest, as maybe was the intention of the tear gas, the protest continued for several more hours with many windows broken. If anything, the aggressive response from the police escalated and created a more dangerous situation for everyone involved.

This is what they do.

They have followed young people home, violently arrested protest leaders, and recently arrested a 13 year old at a protest. This is a time of deep trouble and anger, and the police have consistently escalated every situation they have been present for and created constant fear, pain, and hurt.

Police do not help, they escalate and initiate violent contact. They increase young Black people's interaction with violent state structures. They build systems of escalation and agitation.

Defund them,
Julia

Hello:

I am writing to express my opposition to defunding the police department during the next budget cycle. Crime is on the uptick in the city and we can't afford to lose any officers. Overtime will likely increase if you cut officers. Public safety should be a top concern for the city. Cutting the department will embolden criminals and send the wrong message to the community. We need to be supporting our police force and working to make the force operate in a more equitable manner. Cutting positions, however, is not the answer. Overall, we have a very professional and progressive police force and we should keep that in mind before making the decision to cut the police budget.

Thank you for your time.

--

Diane Schwartz
2145 East Washington Ave.
608-358-8314

Hello Ald. Henak, Ald. Heck, Matthew Mitnick, Brenda Konkel, and the Public Safety Review Committee,

Thank you for asking for public comment on this important issue.

I have read the 9/21/20 "Madison Police Department Budget Roadmap Draft" and believe that a 5% across the board cut to all city departments is not equitable nor thoughtful, and we are in an historic moment calling for a drastic revisioning of public safety funding. It is a great opportunity to become the Madison we want to be.

I would like to see the Police Department craft a budget with the 25% cut option (at least) so that those \$22+ million in funds can be used by those City departments which our communities need more, namely Public Health, the Fire Department, Civil Rights, the Economic & Community Development Divisions, CDA Housing, Madison Public Library Library, and the Employee Assistance Program - which, as you probably know, does the bulk of their work supporting our police in the wake of traumatic events and crises that are a routine part of doing police business as we know it, and deserves more support for their efforts.

How the police budgets within their means is up to them - they are the experts and have shown great leadership in efforts to develop community-responsive policing, and know the very specific constraints they are operating under. It's not my place to micromanage their budget, but as a community member I feel strongly that we should ask the police department to adjust to a major reduction in funding the better to serve Madison residents.

The current moment seems to be calling for a reckoning about this issue and I would like to live in a Madison that listens to the call to end the overpolicing of our communities of color, and this is one important part of that.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nichole Fromm
608-287-9349
Resident of District 10
5342 Coney Weston Pl., 53711

On Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 12:27 PM <noreply@cityofmadison.com> wrote:



Alder Henak, District 10

posted September 22, 2020 12:22 PM

Input to Police Department Budget

As a community we have been talking a lot about the Police. I want to highlight this touch point for residents. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/public-safety-review-committee-invites-public-input-on-police-department-budget> Subcommittee Public Hearing Scheduled for 9/24/20 at 6 pm Part ...

[Read more](#)

Hello,

I am writing to respond to the Alders' request for community input on the priorities for the Police Department Budget.

I will begin with the areas I believe cannot be dealt with by any other agency. Traffic control should be a high priority as currently speeding and red light running is out of control, putting pedestrians and those who obey traffic laws at high risk. We need a police traffic force to deal with this.

Crime is on the rise in Madison . This includes assault, robbery, gun violence, theft. This requires a police response. These are real time crimes no other agency can respond to.

Our community needs to be proactive in terms of mental health response. Before we decide to defund police to fund other support systems there needs to be an analysis of current calls to see how many could be safely addressed by mental health workers or social workers **without** police accompanying them. A Dane County Social Work Supervisor recently shared with me how difficult it was to hire competent social workers for the Juvenile Department, especially any with prior experience. She did not feel a new social worker was any more prepared to deal with many situations than a police officer who has been given sufficient de escalation training.

As we think about funding our Police Department, I am reminded of the metaphor of a boat in trouble. Its occupants must plug the hole and bail the excess water. Bailing without plugging the hole simultaneously means we will always be bailing. We can not defund the Police Department until we have the alternatives in place, to do so will sink our ship. We must get crime in Madison under control at the same time we improve our support systems for the future.

Sincerely,
Mary Malloy

I am emailing as I am already registered in opposition of item #1 for this agenda. It is abundantly clear that Madison PD should not receive the biggest percentage of the city's budget given their rich history in bullying our city. We need to focus on funding the community, housing, education, healthcare and libraries...things that actually benefit the community. MPD specifically targets and terrorizes our community members of color as it is a system that benefits off of BIPOC incarceration.

The community is staunchly in favor of the reallocation of funding to other departments that serve the wellbeing of EVERY community member.

Thank you,
Stacey Garbarski

Hello

Here is my feedback for the The sub committee on public safety. my answers are below the bullet points.

1. What priorities or recommendations would you make to the police budget?

My primary recommendation is to not cut any spending to the police budget.

1. Are you comfortable with the police department's spending and resource allocation?

Yes

1. What other questions would you like to see answered in the report?

I'd be interested in knowing how defunding the police department will result in safer communities or less racism. Specifically, what empirical evidence supports that hypothesis.

Andy andyposselt@gmail.com

Hi I'm Jesse I've been a madisonian for about 20 years and one thing I have noticed is nomater where you go it is segregated in town and POC are treated differently. From entrepreneur circles to restaurants POC are looked at differently and a major problem with that is policing. POC are generally in a lower income so they are targeted more such as having gatherings at a park vs going to a restaurant. Generally lower income means you can not fix your car right away and have to drive around with a loud exhaust for a week or two while you save up to fix it. Most of these time this turns into a situation where police target that person and give ticket after ticket till that person owes more than the price of the repair and they lose their license because a lack of income. There is also times when police target POC just for the color of their skin. If we have police out going after small crimes we don't need that many police on our streets. The other part of this problem is while madison has many bright minds here we are reluctant to help solve problems for the city as that would lead to giving advanced technology over to MPD and they have already shown they refuse to stop targeting black and brown people and that tech will further the discrimination. As a example a friend was asking if it would be possible to install gun fire detection equipment and we already have the systems in place to deploy but would the white neighborhoods be treated differently when we alert the police to a gunshot vs it being in a questionable part of town? What about a mini LRAD paired with ultra bright LEDs to incapacitate subjects? That would be a great non lethal weapon but putting it in the hands of a police department that has fired teargas on peaceful protesters makes that a no-go. We need less police and more support. We need to end qualified immunity so we can hold the bad officers accountable. Please pull money away from police and put it in community support. Thank you for listening Jesse Ransom

To the alders:

Went to the first page about this meeting and the list of docs is overwhelming. I'd not trade shoes with you for anything. I paid some attention to public and city council deliberations on the "Defund the Police" meme recently. I do understand that there are many issues that will need to be addressed by many divisions of our city government. It is important to understand that both sides of the issue honor our officers and the department. The current outcries are that they are often not the best solution and that they put their lives on the line due to lack of alternatives or are spending a lot of time dealing with babysitting that will not result even in a citation in many cases. We need to explore better solutions before making increased outlays for some equipment requests, more officers and etc. that the various

voices from both sides have suggested to make policing policing without overwhelming a hopefully shrinking number of calls for policeable matters and a shrinking of overtime and personnel.

I haven't read all those docs. I believe a good start would be a hot line for schools and libraries to summon unarmed professionals who are trained differently than police to intervene as witnesses/councilors and that these people would make the call for police if they are overwhelmed. Lots of details need to be worked out. Do they have to have body cameras? Legal restrictions? Will there be resources after belligerence is no longer an issue? Training?

Above is a sample "what if" that could free up some officer babysitting. What that means to me in a budgetary sense is that this is a baby step in the right direction that could be funded with a capping of the police budget at current levels and the requested increase amount used to fund and rapidly implement this kind of a baby step. You all came in expecting an increase, I am sure. I am confident that MPD can function at current levels. The freed up officers ought to have a bit of savings effect. You will save time, money and aggravation for the schools and libraries and library patrons and may have other beneficial aspects.

Respectfully,

Fred W. Bergmann
938 E Dayton St #1
Madison, WI 53703

Mr. Heck is my alderman. Shots fired and shells found in front of our house in middle of the afternoon. Now that is police work and grateful for their presence.

Hello,

I would encourage you to find a space in the police budget to have a devoted traffic enforcement team. Through the past months it has become obvious when out in our community that traffic enforcement has fallen to the wayside. We have seen many crashes and fatalities in our community. This is a critical function of our police department that can not be 'defunded' to another agency.

mikemovetomadison@gmail.com