

From: [Tijerino, Rommel](#)
To: [Schmiedicke, David](#); [Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Nunez, Erin](#)
Subject: DCR Supplemental Budget Request - Community Connector position
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:20:11 AM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[Community Connector position Memo 10122021.pdf](#)
[image007.png](#)
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Schmiedicke and Members of the Finance Committee,

We, Erin Nuñez and Rommel Tijerino, are writing to ask for your support and approval of the funding for the 0.6 FTE Community Connector – Spanish position in DCR. We have been residents of Madison for over 20 years. We currently work for the City of Madison and we are the co-leaders of the Latinx Community Engagement Team (LCET).

The Latinx Community Engagement Team was formed in 2015. We are a group of city staff, bilingual in Spanish and English, who work to support the work of city agencies to build trust and strong relationships with Spanish-speakers and members of the Latinx community.

Our work focuses on the following areas:

- Improve service delivery to the Spanish speaking public
- Improve the workplace climate for Latinx employees
- Consult with City agencies to improve awareness of the Latinx community and improve how the City engages with the Latinx community
- Represent the City at community events that target the Latinx and/or Spanish-speaking community

With this email and attached memo, we are requesting that you fund the Community Connector – Spanish position in the operating budget. (The Department of Civil Rights originally requested permanent positions for Chinese, Hmong, and Spanish in order to meet the language needs of the community.) Please support this budget request and help the City take the next step toward fully implementing the Language Access Plan.

Thank you,

Erin Nuñez and Rommel Tijerino
On behalf of the Latinx Community Engagement Team (LCET)

Pronouns: he / él

[What are personal pronouns?](#)

*****Working remotely, e-mail is best*****

*****Language interpreters are available*****

Please Practice Social Distancing. Find updates to [local COVID-19 Response](#) here.

OUR MADISON
INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE & THRIVING

Child Care Scholarship Coordinator

Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development
Community Development Division



Madison Municipal Building | Suite 300
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard | Madison, Wisconsin
53703-3348



Mail P.O. Box 2627 | Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2627

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cityofmadison.com/cdd

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Latinx Community Engagement Team

Our mission is to support and improve access to services provided by all city agencies for our Spanish speaking community and for those with Latinx heritage.

Date: **October 12, 2021**

From: **Latinx Community Engagement Team**

Erin Nuñez and Rommel Tijerino,
On behalf of the Latinx Community Engagement Team

To: **David P. Schmiedickie, Finance Director**

Cc: **Syed Abbas, Jael Currie, Sheri Carter, Yannette Figueroa Cole, Keith Furman,
Satya Rhodes-Conway, Michael E. Verveer**

Subject: **DCR Supplemental Budget Request – Community Connector Position(s)**

The Latinx Community Engagement Team (LCET) is a group of City of Madison staff bilingual in Spanish. We support the work of City agencies to increase access to services and resources and to build relationships with Spanish-speakers and members of the Latinx community who live and work in the City of Madison.

It is a stated goal of the City of Madison to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all members of the community. In 2018, the Common Council approved the [Language Access Plan](#); the Steering Committee for this plan included members of our group. This plan was long overdue, and included the goal of moving translation and interpretation internally.

Today, three years after the adoption, the City of Madison has yet to fully implement the Language Access Plan. The City currently offers basic interpretation and translation services upon request, but this model only works if both staff and the public are aware that the service is available and know how to access it. As shown in recent language phone audits conducted by the Latinx Community Engagement Team, in cooperation with the Department of Civil Rights (DCR), City of Madison agencies are not yet

providing these services consistently, although training, assistance, and resources are provided to each department.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted these service gaps. To address this need, DCR piloted new ways of providing vital information by hiring bilingual and bicultural staff members with community connections to produce written communication and videos in Mandarin (simplified Chinese) and Hmong. This pilot successfully delivered urgent messages to residents and realized cost and timesavings. With their 2021 Supplemental Budget request, DCR proposed adding three 0.6 FTE Community Connector positions, one each for Chinese, Hmong, and Spanish. The Mayor's operating budget includes the hire of a permanent, bilingual and bicultural Spanish-speaking staff member to address the need with the Spanish-speaking community. Additionally, the need for language services is expected to grow due to the upcoming attachment of the Town of Madison in 2022. Town of Madison residents are diverse; 32% of residents are non-English speakers and Spanish is one of the primary languages.

For the reasons above, the Latinx Community Engagement Team is asking you to support and approve the funding for 0.6 FTE Community Connector – Spanish position in DCR. This bilingual and bicultural position will develop two-way communication channels in residents' primary language in order to:

- Identify community needs, concerns, and priorities
- Raise awareness of existing City of Madison programs and services and multilingual resources
- Develop and produce culturally relevant content in Spanish

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Nuñez and Rommel Tijerino
Co-leaders of the Latinx Community Engagement Team

From: [Ananda Deacon](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Opposition to Item 1 - Exec. Operating Budget
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:36:51 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to oppose the \$80+ million dollars going towards the police. It has already been said countless times why police hurt Black, brown, and queer communities, and there is ample research about how investing in the root causes of what we consider to be "crime" (e.i. poverty) is a better preventative measure than the police will ever be.

I am asking you all to be bold by supporting a massive cut in police funding. Redirect that money in housing for all, mental health responder initiatives, and food security and see how quickly crime goes down in Madison.

Invest in the people, not the police.

Thank you,

Ananda

From: [Amanda Jane Hoffman](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 2:45:27 PM

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

I will do everything I can to push you all to take funding away from the police. They are a white-supremacy murder squad and that's not ok. Fire Matt Keany.

Thank you,
Amanda

From: [Ben W](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:41:03 PM

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how can the city continue to claim they Care about affordable housing But have no problem allowing all these high rise multi million dollar apartments continue to be built all over the city cda properties are old small issue residents there deserve better stop talking about it and start doing something 6.8 million in the budget that's a joke

From: [Daniel Levitin](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Reducing Funding to Police
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 5:20:38 PM

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Hello

I am emailing to voice that I oppose the increase in funding to the police department during this budget cycle. Those approximately two million dollars of increase should instead go to social services.

Daniel Levitin
225 E. Lakelawn Pl.
Madison, WI, 53703

From: [JACK K PHILLIPS](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:28:50 PM

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Hello Finance Committee members, Alders, and Mayor,

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

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

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

Thank you,

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips

[They/Them](#)

Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering

University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: [Jake Rodgers](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: 2022 Executive Operating Budget
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:11:05 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Jake Rodgers and I am a voting resident of District 6.

I am writing this morning to strongly oppose ANY funding for police in the upcoming budget. Time and time again research has shown that more police do not equal more crimes. 2020 and 2021 were an opportunity for police to reevaluate their practices and a true chance for reform. Clearly reform has not worked as crime has not decreased over the past two years. Our budget instead should reflect the needs of our community in Madison. More affordable housing, more mental health services, more money for getting folks food and access to affordable health care. If we move money away from police and into giving people what they actually need, we ensure that everyone is safe.

No more money for the police. It's wild to me that we are planning on spending \$84 million on police while public health is on 7.2 million and affordable housing is only \$6.8 million. It is wild.

No more money for the police. We don't need it.

Thank you,
Jake Rodgers

From: [Jake Winkler](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Budgets are moral documents
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:06:06 PM

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The proposed budget has a slight increase for law enforcement. Is that the takeaway from last summer's unprecedented protests? The people have asked for moving resources from enforcement to *prevention*, and that means meeting people's basic needs like housing. Police treat the symptom, not the cause. Let's treat the causes.

From: [Lisa Hansen](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Madison Budget 2022
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:17:10 PM

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

Greetings,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen for our Madison community, particularly those who are marginalized. Why are we criminalizing drug use, especially when it is impacted by affordable and accessible medical care including mental health care? Why do we criminalize homelessness, especially when it is impacted by affordable and accessible health care including mental health care, affordable housing, affordable accessible healthy food options, living wage jobs, and affordable child care. Why do we continue to put so much money toward policing when policing can't fix these issues and so many more that befall our communities? Research shows that access to quality government (community) funded education (from a young age to post high school 1-4 year programs), living wages and benefits, affordable quality housing, access to affordable healthy food, access to affordable health/mental care, child care, access to parks/nature and the arts (aide in mental and emotional well-being), and easy to use and efficient public transportation all lead to reduced crime and improve quality of life. When we lift up part of our community we lift all of us up. Therefore, I want to request that the city budget be redone to show that our priorities lie in areas that will be the most effective in supporting ALL the people of our city. More money for education, health care including mental health, housing, food, child care, living wages/benefits, public transportation. This can be done by reducing the police budget.

I urge you to read this report from Freedom Inc. https://freedom-inc.org/uploads/MadisonPeoplesBudget2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1xIzRBu9dZyX7V7_MU6RBjwyrf6247mE9iUVlvGwRWhjLda0Z_I8TKA5E. I also encourage you to read the book, "We Do This 'Til We Free Us" by Mariame Kaba. The time is now for us to listen to the people of our communities, especially those who have been harmed for generations by the police and justice systems. We need to move forward with a new vision of caring for, supporting, and providing justice in our communities. One that reduces overall harm and not increases it with policing and incarceration.

Thank you.

Lisa Hansen
1302 Dewberry Dr
Madison, WI 53719

From: [Morgan Mayer-Jochimsen](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: 2022 Executive Operating Budget
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:42:04 PM

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Our priorities as a city should be *reducing* funding to police, not increasing it by millions. If you are committed to racial equity and to preventing the need for police, you should create a budget that invests in services and wellness. I am outraged at this budget - especially after Mayor Satya said she was listening to the Movement for Black Lives this summer.

Morgan Mayer-Jochimsen
PhD Student
UW-Madison

From: [Mallory Spencer](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:50:53 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my disapproval with the proposed budget increase for the police of the city of Madison. To solve the problems the police are supposed to address, you must solve the problems at their roots. Increase the measly budget for public health and housing.

A concerned resident,
Mallory Spencer

From: [Olivia Williams](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Police & Housing budgets: Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 2:50:45 PM

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Hello Finance Committee,

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

Thank you for your time,
Olivia

--

Olivia R. Williams, PhD
oliviarenewilliams.com | [Twitter](#)

From: [Peyton David](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 2022 Operating Budget
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:29:40 AM

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Good morning:

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

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

Thank you,
Peyton

Sent from my iPhone

From: [P.Wehrle](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget" - The police funding ask is excessive and unjustified
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:54:37 PM

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Dear Committee Members.

I respectfully ask that you reject the 2022 Executive Operating Budget as it pertains to the excessive outlay of funds for the police. I'm tired of throwing money at an unaccountable, rogue organization. Contrary to the hew and cry of the police union, we don't need more police - we need more investment in accountable community groups that people actually trust

-

I am not convinced that the police, as currently constituted, can be trusted to be transparent partners. Right now we have one member on the force who murdered Tony Robinson, and another (who the police won't name) that committed a sex offense in a police car.

The continued lack of transparency around these actions, combined with the pressing needs of our city means that we cannot afford to throw money at an unaccountable agency.

We need more housing for the poor and working class in this community. We need more investment in communities of color in Madison. Each dollar we spend on the police is one less dollar we have to invest in solutions to social problems led by accountable agencies on the ground.

Thank You,

Peter Lawrence-Wehrle
3310 Cross Street
Madison, WI 53711

From: [Ryan Hartkopf](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:40:55 AM

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

Hello all,

I just wanted to say that I am appalled that police funding is still 1/4 of our entire city budget and that more money is being given to the police department this year, when that money could be spent solving the root causes of crime in our community. We need solutions, such as affordable housing, public health, and trauma informed care; not bandaids.

The steep rise in gun violence the past 2 years is more evidence that police cannot solve social issues that are largely caused by poverty, trauma, and lack of connection to community. If police budget and staffing are really inversely correlated with gun violence, then why is violence increasing while the police budget only continues to go up?

The \$2 million added to the police budget would be better spent by organizations who are trying to solve these issues at the source, instead of sending the money out of Madison to pay officers who, by and large, don't even live in the communities they serve.

Thank you,

Ryan Hartkopf
6633 Raymond Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

From: [Reshaping Madison](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:19:00 AM

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Good afternoon,

Reshaping Madison Together is a collective group of many advocates for the most vulnerable communities of Madison, we advocate for resources for our people like affordable housing, liveable wages, education, health, protections for undocumented immigrants, racial equity and many other issues we see today because of the lack of morality of many in power in government spaces.

We are sending this email to strongly oppose ANY funding for the police. Research after research has proven that more police does not equals less crimes. In the city of Madison adding police officers and money for the police department in the last 10+years has proven that crime rates are still going up, reporting some of the most critical ones involving youth after the pandemic started. This is a clear message that our youth and young adult members of our communities need resources and not police, spaces to thrive and have opportunities, not jails and fines that only push us backwards. Add the fact that Black and Brown people are criminalize and incarcerated at a higher rate and we must work together towards change.

Last weekend, on Saturday night/Sunday morning in specific, we seen a clear example of a situation on why we do not need more police.

A Madison officer was shot TWO times after an unprofessional and dangerous action they took at trying to apprehend a suspect of an allegedly crime. RMT members mobilize and went to attend those who were traumatize by this incident that night. This all happened in one of the busiest time, day and weekend for downtown Madison, it was a day of High school homecoming celebrations, Badger game in town, and a Saturday night when many youth and college students were out for a good social time. Madison Police put many lives at risk that night when they did this operation without thinking of the dangerous situation and possible weapons involvement this ended up having. Businesses owners and students are still traumatized and shaken by that night.

The police we already have needs to do better and work on training and protocol when doing operations like this, they did not served or protected those who were out innocent and completely uninvolved with the suspect.

This is not the only situation that reassures why we do not need more police, we can get specific and detailed on many, but this is short but clear message to amplify the demands of our communities that are screaming for resources, safe spaces and many other priorities we see lacking in our city, not more police.

Reshaping Madison Together

From: [Stephen Dennison](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:12:57 PM

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I find it very strange that the police budget in Madison continues to increase, up to 84 million. It's almost as if the events of the last year, and the police brutality around the nation, did not occur.

Madison deserves better, and reprioritization away from more policing towards affordable housing, public health, libraries, and shared spaces.

Stephen

From: [Sophie Wolbert](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Comments on Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:27:27 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Sophie Wolbert and I am a concerned, life-long resident of Madison. I am writing to express my disappointment with the 2022 budget that Mayor Rhodes-Conway and the city of Madison recently released.

The funding disparities present in this budget show Madison's priorities clear as day. It makes no sense to me that the police department would require over \$84 million (which is a \$2 million increase from the previous year) while affordable housing and public health would only receive around \$7 million each. Why are we giving the police more than 10 times the amount of money that we're giving affordable housing and public health? This is an unacceptable use of the city's funds and I am firmly in opposition to the way the budget currently looks. Madison claims to be a progressive city that cares about its residents, but this budget shows that it is prioritizing a certain subset of its residents over others. We should be funding things that lead to better quality of life for more people, like affordable housing and healthcare. It is so disappointing to see the city encouraging folks to paint "Defund the Police" and "Fund the Community" on the capitol square and then release a budget that so drastically inflates the funding for the police department. This contradiction is not lost on me, nor is it lost on the thousands of Madisonians who will be directly affected by racist policing, lack of affordable housing, or underfunded public health in this "great" city.

These are my comments. I hope you choose to invest in the people, not the police.

Thank you,

Sophie Wolbert
745 E Gorham St, Madison, WI 53703

From: [Timothe Catlin](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Item 1. 67496 "2022 Executive Operating Budget"
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:58:41 AM

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

Regarding Item 1. 67496
"2022 Executive Operating Budget"

Increasing funding to the police while we have homelessness, and the most racial inequality per capita in the country, is a moral failure.

If we fund social programs and fix inequality, crime will drop naturally.

Apparently you won't let people register to speak on this so we have to email you.

-Timothe Catlin
Madison resident

From: [Tris Cushman](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: 2022 Executive Operating Budget
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:44:09 AM

Regarding
Item 1. 67496:

84 million dollars to MPD?! That's \$2 million more than last year! On top of which, you believe 8 new MPD officers are needed, for what? assaulting people doing nothing?! Releasing neurotoxins (CS Gas) on your own citizens?. Meanwhile, funding for new affordable housing will only receive \$6.8M, public health only \$7.2M and libraries \$18.9M.

At this moment you are not letting us register to speak, which is clear suppression of our voice and civic duty, and our first amendment rights.

Fucking do better. Your constituents do not want this. It is literally your only job to represent what your constituents want/need. Please reevaluate this unacceptable increase in the MPD budget.

A very tired and annoyed Madison Citizen