

From: [Benjamin Werner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Comments on Budget
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Below is my comment on the budget:

This budget needs serious work. There is a massive amount of funding allocated for the police. So much more than all other categories. And instead, what is cut? The library. Arguably the most important city institution.

This isn't even comparable. The police budget is a third of the overall city budget. It's extremely disproportionate. Cut the police budget and shift that funding into the library, the planning department and the city council.

Why in the world would the police budget, which is already gigantic in comparison to all other categories, receive a 9% increase? The city should be trying to figure out how to fight poverty, instead of responding to crimes that are driven by poverty and desperation. Cut the police budget by 5% per year and over time reallocate it to parks, planning, the library, crime intervention, affordable housing, etc.

Thank you,
Ben Werner