

## 2021 Budget - Comments received by Ward 7

From: Ilse Griffin <ilsehogangriffin@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:10 AM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Budget

My name is Ilse Griffin and I live in Ward 4. I'm contacting you to better understand where you stand on shifting resources away from the current police budget into community-first public safety initiatives and other solutions that address overall community wellness especially in a pandemic and an economic downturn. This is what can truly make Saint Paul the most livable city in America. I look forward to working with you to continue pushing our city to move in this direction both in this budget and also as we head into 2021 and beyond.

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Ilse Hogan Griffin  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

From: Jeb Rach <jeb@jebrach.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 5:19 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; \*CI-StPaul\_CouncilBudget <CouncilBudget@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Budget Concerns

Councilmember Prince, and the rest of the St. Paul City Council

I am deeply concerned about the priorities reflected in the proposed city budget for 2021. Despite the desire of the city council to push for community-first public safety, and a need to cut the city budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city budget only proposes a 2% cut to our police department, while multiple other departments are being cut by 10% or more, including departments that will help restore and build community. This is simply unacceptable. The police department is the largest portion of our budget, and the police department should be held, at minimum, to a similar level of cuts that the city is forcing onto other departments. This is doubly important if we wish to have the proper resources to move to a community-first public safety model, which requires moving funds from traditional policing to other resources, including our community centers, youth programming, and libraries.

Thank you,

Jeb Rach  
167 McKnight Rd N Apt 306  
Saint Paul MN 55119

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

From: Julie Matter <user@votervoice.net>  
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:31 AM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

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Subject: DO NOT CUT POLICE!

Dear Councilmember Prince,

Thank you for serving as our city council member.

I love the city and the residents of saint paul. It has always had a down home appeal and a genuine sense of community. I was extremely proud of how our police in this great city defended our streets during this terrible summer of unrest. Civil disobedience and distruction was met with a unified show of force and restraint. These brave men and women, now more than ever, need better tools and resources to do their jobs.

Cutting the police force while crime continues to soar hurts ALL of us.

I'm writing today to express my thoughts about the city's budget, particularly as it pertains to the police staffing levels.

I feel very strongly that EVERYONE in our city - regardless of where you live, what you look like, who you are - deserves a police force able to respond and help them and we can't do it with fewer officers because of budget cuts. I am extremely concerned about how the City Council is approaching dealing with expected shortfalls. I remember last year when a report showed that we needed much more police to respond to the increased crime and population.

We CANNOT remove 40 officers. That's shocking and disappointing. The need is greater than ever. Times are tough, but justice and public safety are critical services the city provides and should be preserved during budget discussions.

Again, thank you for your service and support for public safety.

Sincerely,

Julie Matter  
1537 6th St E  
Saint Paul, MN 55106  
cjdkrmatter@aol.com

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

From: Bobby FinnFinn <user@votervoice.net>  
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 1:26 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: I oppose cuts to the police department

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Councilmember Prince,

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I live in your district, and love living in St. Paul. But the violent crime increases combined with the cuts and lack of support towards the police is making me think twice about some politicians' values. Too many people I know have experienced the impact of crime from cars being broken into, robberies, or knowing someone who has been a victim of violence. If the police don't have the resources to pursue those who commit these crimes, then those who committed the crimes just keep doing it again and again.

My family - and everyone's family - deserves to be safe. It is just wrong to cut the police department during this time of such great need.

I am firmly opposed to any budget moves that leave the police department smaller than it is today.

No cuts!!!

Sincerely,

Bobby FinnFinn  
1360 Point Douglas Rd S  
Saint Paul, MN 55119  
finja22@yahoo.com

From: Gus & Deb Avenido <avenido1072@comcast.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:33 AM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: 2021 city budget

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Jane Prince,  
As St. Paul residents (Ward 5) and leaders in ISAIAH, we are contacting you to better understand where you stand on re-purposing resources away from the current police budget into community-first public safety initiatives and other solutions that address overall community wellness especially in a pandemic and an economic downturn.

We believe that by investing in immigrant justice, housing, worker's rights, alternative responses to mental health crises and Covid relief would truly make Saint Paul the most livable city in America. We look forward to working with you to continue pushing our city to move in this direction both in this budget and also as we head into 2021 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Gus and Deb Avenido  
958 West Nebraska Avenue  
St. Paul, MN  
651-487-1072