

**From:** [Benjamin Ashley-Wurtmann](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward4](#)  
**Subject:** Truth in taxation hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 12:40:32 PM

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Mayor Carter and Council Members:

I write today to ask for a continued priority and sense of urgency in reallocating funding to community safety. Housing, mental health services, and trusted figures in the community can do far more than police in addressing the root cause of crime.

As someone who experienced a significant property crime this year (about 50k in losses), I want you to know that SPPD did not solve my case. They were not able to identify any of the individuals responsible. They certainly will not prevent the next crime from happening, either.

We got a statement taken promptly, and the detective seemed motivated and engaged. I am not disparaging them. I am calling the question about if policing as we know it is an effective response. With the data we have on both effectiveness and racial disparities, I believe there is a clear call for change.

Our safety must be rooted in the health and well being of our entire community. I believe you have an opportunity to take significant steps here. Be bold.

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