

From: [Kimberly Nightingale](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Invest in Community-centered safety and divest in Saint Paul Police
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:51:17 AM

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Dear Saint Paul City Council members,

I am requesting that the 2021 Budget dramatically reduce police spending and increase community-based public safety protocols as described by Root & Restore STP.

Saint Paul police culture does not reflect the culture of our city. Currently, Saint Paul police are predominantly male, white, and officers who do not live in our city. Saint Paul police culture is patriarchal and militarized, and ends up being a dangerous organization for our city residents to engage with, particularly for our Black residents. The power of the police union and police culture combined with a large amount of financial resources (20 percent of the Saint Paul City budget) makes it very hard to make changes in that culture. Chief Axtell is doing a good job trying to change it, but, unfortunately, one leader alone cannot transform an organization that is so deeply flawed.

Root & Restore STP has community buy-in and data to back up a new vision and plan for Saint Paul where residents, community leaders, and community organizations work collectively to build a truly safe Saint Paul through directing resources currently used by the police to a community-based safety plan.

Please support the Root & Restore STP Plan.

Thank you,

Kimberly Nightingale
Ward 8