

**From:** [Nicolaas VanMeerten](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Cc:** [#CI-StPaul Ward2](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 9:45:56 AM

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Hello St. Paul City Council,

As a homeowner in Ward 2, it is appalling to see how much funding we spend on police. It is clear what our priorities are as a city -- intimidate the less fortunate and marginalized communities through increased policing. We can do better and the City Council has the power to make our city better.

Our communities and small businesses have been devastated by COVID-19. Increased policing will not solve any of our city's most intense problems, including, but not limited to, poverty, housing instability, access to healthcare, or educational gaps.

Now is the time to shift more money away from policing and into community investments that will, as Mayor Melvin Carter professes, "build a city that works for us all."

Thank you for your service to the city,  
Nicolaas

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Nicolaas VanMeerten

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