

The Council received multiple copies of the following email, from the senders listed at the end.

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am emailing in regard to Mayor Carter's proposed 2021 budget. While there is much to commend in it — especially the guaranteed income pilot program, it falls vastly short of rising to the occasion of the current civil rights movement of which the Twin Cities is the epicenter.

To be specific, I have tremendous concerns about the amount of money allocated to the St. Paul police department. Reports earlier in the summer indicated that Mayor Carter would direct a cut of \$9.2 million dollars from SPPD — a pittance, given that the department's 2020 budget was \$105,539,797, just shy of a third of the *entire St. Paul city budget* — but at least a start. Even that, however, has fallen through. Instead, the mayor's 2021 budget proposal cuts only \$801,000 (0.8%) from the SPPD budget. This is both by percentage and absolute value a smaller cut than those to the public library agency; public works; safety and inspections, and parks and recreation. In the middle of a pandemic and recession which has led to rising homelessness and poverty, it is frankly despicable that two services those who lack access to a safe place to sleep or work depend on most — libraries and parks — are being cut more than the already bloated department which is responsible for the murders of Philando Castille, Ronald Davis, and many others.

Police departments are definitionally reactive. They respond when a call is made, not before. And in many, many cases, especially when they are interacting with Black citizens of the city, they perpetuate violence instead of stemming it. What St. Paul needs is prevention, and the hundred million dollars that are currently being funneled into the police department should be reallocated to programs that promote social good, not punishment. That money should be preventing libraries from being defunded; should be funding the guaranteed income pilot, mental health support, programs to get guns off of streets, youth programs, schools, COVID-19 testing — funding, in short, *the proactive needs of the community*. This is a moral issue. The St. Paul Police Department has been able to escape the spotlight shone on Minneapolis, Louisville, and Kenosha because it has not yet had another Philando Castille, George Floyd, Jacob Blake, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, Sandra Bland, or Tony McDade. But it will. That is the nature of American policing, and it must be pulled up at the root.

To that end, I urge Mayor Carter and the City Council to reconsider the currently proposed miniscule cut to SPPD. It should be much larger — at a bare minimum the \$9.3 million Mayor Carter initially proposed. The city of Saint Paul has the opportunity to be proactive instead of reactive. To, as Mayor London Breed has in San Francisco, make a substantial cut and reallocation of police department funds to fund services that will make our city more just and equitable for all of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Senders:

- Conor Broderick, 1712 Grand Avenue #1, St. Paul, MN, 55105. Ward 3.
- Xiomara Lozano Torres
1600 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105 (ward 3)

Please seriously consider Major Carter's decision to not increase property taxes. This has been a struggle for so many of us. Increases in taxes, fees or assessments may drive people out of their homes, perhaps out of the city and maybe even out of our state. Everyone has had to make sacrifices, I am requesting a moratorium on spending in general.

Thank you for your time and service.

Dixie Holland
786 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul, MN 55104