

**From:** [Cora Lund Preston](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** Resident Submitting Written Comment on Proposed City Budget  
**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 1:26:00 PM

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Hello,

My name is Cora Preston, I live in Frogtown at 936 Lafond Ave, St Paul, MN 55104. **I am writing to submit a written comment expressing my disappointment with the proposed city budget and ask you to divest from the police and invest in the community.**

Saint Paul's claim to be "America's most livable city" will continue to be a hollow marketing slogan until Black lives truly matter and communities of color have agency and ownership in creating systems of safety and wellness that actively diminish the terrorizing power of and redirect the out-sized resources of the St. Paul Police Department.

Our path forward is clear. Thanks to generations of fierce and loving leadership from Black and brown communities, there is broad and growing consensus for a life-affirming approach to public safety. But St. Paul's 2021 budget proposal fails to meet this moment of urgency and opportunity. I am joining Root & Restore St. Paul and their signatory organizations (a multi-racial, city-wide collective that believes in proactively funding human well-being instead of investing in failed, racist models of policing and punishment) to [call on the city](#) to divest from the St. Paul Police Department (SPPD) and invest instead in the community in the 2021 city budget.

A **just** budget that funds a community-centered approach to wellness is not just possible but necessary to achieve public safety.

You have said that you support black lives, now put your money where your mouths are. The community will not believe you until you act upon what you say. Divesting from the police and investing in community solutions that will actually work (as it is proven the police do NOT), is the clear next right step. You have an opportunity to vote on the right side of history here. Do not waste it.

Sincerely,

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She/Her/Hers  
[Why share pronouns? More info here.](#)