

From: [Emma Harrison](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Divest from the St Paul police and fund community based solutions! Please!
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:23:52 PM

Hi there,

My name's Emma. I'm a college student here in St Paul. I understand that the proposed city budget for next year prioritizes police funding over public health and other key investments in community wellbeing. I'm writing today to urge you to reconsider.

The rally cry that erupted from our community this summer was unwavering: police do not keep us safe, they contribute to the harm against our people. Police don't prevent harm, desperation, and violence. Instead, we must invest healing and transformative resources into our community! In a case where a substance abuser steals property out of financial desperation we should not look to that person as a criminal. Rather, we should interrogate the social systems that have failed them. We should invest in their rehabilitation, in keeping them housed and fed through their healing, and the so-called "crime" will wane.

The city of St Paul expressed a great deal of lofty solidarity this summer and positioned itself as the more progressive twin. Now is the time to take meaningful action to transform our city and lead by example. Policing harms our communities. Policing kills our people. Please, reallocate the budget allocations for next year such that people and wellbeing are the priority. Especially as we brace for the worst we've experienced yet of the COVID-19 pandemic, the disproportionate divestment from health services is galling.

Invest in community wellbeing, please.

Hopeful,
Emma

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