

From: [Elana Dahlager](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Truth and Taxation Hearing Comments
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 8:09:38 AM

Dear St. Paul City Council Members:

My name is Elana Dahlager. I am a lifelong resident of Ward 4, represented by Mitra Jilali Nelson. I am writing with respect to the proposed 2021 budget for the city. As you are all doubtless aware, this summer was marked by an uprising of the people against police violence and brutality. The underfunding of our social safety net stands in contrast with the bloated police budget. You have already received a mandate from the people, your constituents, with regard to police funding and incursion. The St. Paul Public Schools have decided to remove officers from their hallways, thanks to an effort led by students of color who are made unsafe by this incursion of police in their space.

I understand that we are entering a difficult period, sure to be marked by austerity. It seems unconscionable, then, that the police should be allotted 122 million dollars, while other public services-- public services which proactively work to prevent crime, as opposed to the reactive and inefficient nature of policing-- are forced to take huge cuts and serve fewer of the people of St. Paul who are in desperate need of those services.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Elana Dahlager, Esq.