

**From:** [Theresa Beckhusen](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** defund SPPD  
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I'd like to again voice my belief that the SPPD's budget should be decreased in favor of increasing investment in other areas. Saint Paul can support public health, education, housing, and so much more. These are measures that would truly foster safety and well-being for Saint Paul residents. As Root & Restore Saint Paul wrote in an [article from early this November](#), "We believe a just budget that funds a community-centered approach to wellness is **not just possible but necessary to achieve public safety.**"

The organization's article goes on to point out that police do not address or solve problems like homelessness, racialized gaps in access to education as well as healthcare, food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, and more. In previous presentations to the City Council, police chief Todd Axtell has himself acknowledged this truth. Saint Paul's police budget is the largest line item in the city budget. Why not prioritize community health and safety and redistribute that money to the areas named by Root & Restore?

To me, it's clear. Invest in our communities, and they will flourish. Provide long-term support to programs and solutions crafted by those communities, and Saint Paul will flourish.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this message. I call on you to do the right thing to support the people of Saint Paul.

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