

From: [Jenny Miller](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Thao, Dai \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public comment for Truth in Taxation Hearing
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:28:33 PM

Hello Councilmembers,

As a homeowner in St. Paul's Ward 1, represented by Councilmember Dai Thao, I do not feel that the Mayor's proposed 2021 budget represents the best interests of myself or our community.

It is a fact that the St. Paul Police Department is the deadliest in Minnesota, and among the deadliest in the nation. Its fatal use of force rate is more than double the national average, and its deadly force rate for Black people is nearly 3 times the national average (<https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/cities>).

When it comes to the 2021 budget proposal, it makes absolutely no sense to continue to pour over 1/3 of our general fund budget and 20% of our overall budget into failed models of policing. At least \$20 million should be cut from SPPD's 2021 budget and used to create a medical and mental health dispatch system that is entirely separate from police. In the past year, more and more city leaders have said they are committed to Black lives and to racial justice. But it is clear that these are empty words, because passing a budget that funds police to the detriment of public health, safety, education, and justice is an unmistakable action that speaks much louder.

In the last 3 days alone, St. Paul police shot two men - one of whom was naked and unarmed in a dumpster; and the other of whom was not only already subdued, but on the ground being bitten by police dogs and tasered repeatedly. Can you honestly say that shooting either of these men was justified? These situations could have been handled with compassion, with methods that would avoid serious and life-threatening injuries, and with an understanding that every suspect is not a threat to be neutralized - rather, that people suspected of a crime are deserving of basic respect and their constitutional rights.

Please, for the health and safety of all Twin Cities residents, reduce SPPD's budget for 2021 by at least \$20 million, disband the K-9 unit, and fund the medical and mental health dispatch system that your citizens so desperately need.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Miller