

**From:** [Jesse Duhn](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 Budget Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 5:19:09 PM

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Hello,

I am a resident of St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. I am writing to call on the city council *not* to increase the budget of the St. Paul Police Department and ultimately reduce it. It is time to explore alternatives to policing when it comes to public safety. We must reallocate funding from Police Budgets towards programs which serve our most vulnerable residents, a disproportionate number of whom are People of Color.

As a 5-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, I was appalled by the conduct of police departments across the country in response to the protests and unrest this summer. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail; when you're training focuses on subduing violent criminals, it's only a matter of time before the very people you're charged with serving start all to look like violent criminals. Our cities at home cannot be treated like warzones or battlespaces. We must find a new approach to public safety.

Thank you,  
Jesse Duhn  
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