

**From:** [Madeleine Hallberg](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dec. 9 2020 City Budget Hearing Resident Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:38:53 AM

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Good morning Mayor Carter and Council Members,

My name is Madeleine, and I live in Ward 3.

I'm writing to strongly encourage you to reallocate funds from the city police budget, and reinvest that money in community-first public safety initiatives that promote community health and wellness.

There have been times when I have not called 911 in mental health situations because I can't trust the integrity of first responders to properly care for mental health needs. Furthermore, I would like to underscore my mom Marianne Reis's testimony at last week's budget hearing in which she talked about how her young Black neighbor is convinced he's going to die young, and how every time she hears sirens, she prays for a safe and equitable outcome. This small collection of experiences and habits illustrate the continuous harm of current systems.

Current policing systems have continued to fail people across our city (whether this be increased carjackings, garage break-ins, gang violence, race-based harassment, police dog attacks, and shooting people), and fresh strategies are desperately needed to address increasing racial and socioeconomic disparities.

I hope you will all have the courage and openness to help forge a new path. Many people would be behind you.

Take care,  
Madeleine Hallberg

Madeleine (Maddie) Hallberg  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
612.309.6156  
[mrosehllberg@gmail.com](mailto:mrosehllberg@gmail.com)  
pronouns: she/her/hers  
Beloit College, BA Political Science 2016