From: Jay Stanford
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; John Engen
Subject: Message for Budget of the Whole 8/17/20 and 8/24/20
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 2:50:07 PM

I would like this email to go on record for the Budget of the Whole meetings on 8/17 and 8/24.

The Missoulian reported a proposed budget expenditure of $100,000 to address systemic racism in Missoula. As a 30-year resident of Missoula and a property tax payer, I am opposed to taking money from the budget request by the Missoula Police Department.

Some in Missoula apparently believe systemic racism exists here. During my 30 years in Missoula, I have not seen or heard of any acts of racism by Missoula Police officers.

I've never worked for the Missoula Police Department or the City of Missoula, as one caller insinuated. However, I support the budget proposal by Mayor Engen and Chief White.

I suggest that the City Council should pay attention to what is happening in cities that have cut funds from their police budgets and reduced the number of officers. Violent crime is spiking. Businesses are closing. Residents are fleeing because they fear for their safety and for the safety of their children. The tax bases of these cities are shrinking. In fact, New York's Governor Cuomo is begging former New York City residents to move back.

Thank you.

Jay Stanford