From: Aubrey Love
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Regarding Mayors proposed budget
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:27:51 PM

Hello Missoula City Counsel,

This is Heather Louviere, a new local in Missoula county. I am writing you today to tell you I don't agree with the Mayors proposal to increase police presence/ invest in riot gear.

My main reason, I was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. I can tell you from personal experience growing up in that environment that to militarize police would be folly. It only breeds distrust from civilians towards the police, and actually escalates more altercations for the police if they were militarized.

Other states who have militarized their police have seen a huge increase of police brutality towards its civilians.

Recently there have been more residents showing up to peaceful rallies in support for more community resources, and less funding for the police equipment.

I do not feel the Mayor Engen is listening to his people. Because he's stated, " our budget is a reflection of community values ".

Mayor Engen is only prioritizing a measly 2.2million budget for housing and community development is disgraceful, compared to the proposed whopping $19million for law enforcement.

Mayor Engen is mismanaging resources. I'm confounded by his statement, " We can... and will continue to steer resources to the appropriate responses to folks struggling with mental illness, homelessness, hunger, poverty, and addiction. "
If you're going to make those issues a priority then the budget for law enforcement cannot be 8 times that given to housing and community development.

I am demanding that the Mayor Engen and City Counsel readjust the revenue to reflect the community values Engen has publicly stated, which are to permanent funding to increased mental health and addiction services, increase to emergency and transitional housing to mitigate homelessness, and to promote racial equity in public education.

Sincerely Concerned,
Heather Louviere