From: Josephine Parker
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Missoula City Budget 2020
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I, and many others in the Missoula community are not pleased with the possible increase in police budget as proposed by Mayor Engen for the Missoula City Budget of 2020. Increasing the police budget while investing less towards housing and community development does not reflect our values as Missoulians. By investing more towards housing and community development, we can provide positive change rather than disciplinary action. Due to the current economic recession and the Corona Virus pandemic, many citizens jobs have been negatively effected. Healthcare and social programs are simply way more imperative than the police budget at this moment. At our core we are NOT a city that supports or is complacent in a system that is proven to disproportionately effect POC communities and impoverished communities. Mayor Engen and those on the City Council would make a reprehensible mistake in investing more towards the police budget, especially in the social climate currently associated around the American policing system. I hope that this is considered when moving forward in deciding the Missoula City Budget of 2020.