From:	Claire Carlson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Suggestions for Missoula City Budget
Date:	Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:33:01 AM

Dear Missoula City Council,

My name is Claire Carlson and I am a graduate student, editor, and fellow citizen of Missoula. I am writing to ask that instead of directing the city's budget toward the police department in order to increase their militarization, we instead invest in housing and community development projects that can help make our city a safer, healthier, and more sustainable place to live for us all. By funneling money to the Missoula police department, you are going directly against the values of a community that believes our collective goal should be to uplift the voices of the unheard and support those most vulnerable, not perpetuate systemic violence. It is vital that projects and organizations that prioritize assisting people most at risk instead of criminalizing them be funded in order to create a safer community. Examples of projects and orgs ripe for funding are the Missoula Food Bank, the Poverello Center, and the Community Food & Agriculture Coalition, to name a few.

Please, listen to the demands of your citizens. We do not want an even larger police presence in Missoula. What we need is housing and community development projects that are given proper funding instead of a measly fraction of what the police department is currently being proposed to receive. Justice and equity in Missoula cannot exist if we are not protecting those most vulnerable.

Thank you so much for reading,

Claire