From: AnnaMarie McCorvie
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: FY2021 Budget Proposal
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:33:01 AM

Hi there,

My name is AnnaMarie, I am writing to express concern and shock at the proposed budget increase for the Missoula PD in the 2021 budget. To increase police department funding in the middle of a national movement reckoning with the harm that the police regularly do in our communities is counterintuitive and does not reflect my values as a member of the Missoula community.

I believe that a large part of why police departments perpetrate so much violence and harm is because they wear "too many hats" so to speak. Our police officers are asked to intervene in traffic accidents, violent crime, mental health crises, domestic disputes, and a whole slew of other community issues, without the expertise or training to do so safely, effectively, and without violence.

To begin to solve this issue I strongly encourage a budget amendment that re-allocates funds away from the police department and to other departments that are more suited to deal with these complex community issues. I believe that additional funding for mental health services, affordable and emergency housing, and substance use support will not only be a better use of our dollars but will also make our community safer in a way that additional funding for police simply cannot.

Thank you for considering my comments,
AnnaMarie

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