From:	Haley Erickson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Missoula Police Budget Proposal: Community Values??
Date:	Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:03:39 PM

As a tax-paying community member of Missoula for 5 years, I am not impressed with your current budget plans. As Mayor John Engen stated, "...our budget is a reflection of community values...", the budget that the City of Missoula is proposing to increase the police department budget by $633,356 is not reflective of community values. Why do we need to increase police presence and riot gear? This budget proposal does not reflect our community values, as I know you have had an outpour of community members wanting to decrease the police budget. I do not support the increase in funding the police. I do support the funding/ investment in the services that promote health and the wellbeing of our community.

Instead of investing in the police, Missoula should invest in areas like permanent funding to hte mobile crisis response team, additional funding for the housing trust, mental health services, emergency and transitional housing, local substance use support, and for racial equity in public schools.

Diverting funding from the police department to these areas would actually improve community health. If you fund in these community areas, it would prevent police calls in the first place. They would be less of a need for police. There have been countless times in which I was driving past the Poverello Center or Reserve and there were more than 2+ police officers addressing issues with homeless people. This would not be a continuous issue if there was housing, mental health services, and substance use support. Sending police to "problems" like homelessness could be prevented in the first place.

I am severely disappointed because you do not represent the constituents of Missoula and our community values. I urge you to listen to the folks that live in Missoula. We are crying out and the Mayor and City Council are blatantly not listening. I will be contacting the City Council members as well. Apply pressure on the Mayor to make the right decision.

I will see you at the upcoming budget meetings.

Haley Erickson