
DATE: Monday, December 4, 2023
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin; Darcy E. Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Carol Mitten, Dave Wesner, Larry Boone, Michelle Brooks, Femi Fletcher, Elizabeth Hannan, Rich Surles,

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting to order at 7:53 PM

2. **Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a. 10-16-2024 and 10-16-2023 Public Hearing Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes by CM Wu and seconded by CM Wilken.
Voice vote:
AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry
NAY: None

3. **Additions to the Agenda**

None

4. **Public Input**

Peggy Patton expressed concerns about the request to fund additional police officers before the public safety study is released. *Martel Miller* expressed concerns about the training of police and their treatment of minority residents. *Adam Nichols* discouraged the City Council from approving additional funding for adding police officers. *Derrick Briles* spoke in opposition to the item asking for additional police funding. *Steven McGuire* encouraged the funding proposed for the police budget be reallocated to mental health and community services. *George* expressed concerns about the increase in police funding over the last few years. *Robert Naimen* noted the passing of Rev. James Holimen. *Deshawn Williams* encouraged community involvement in budgetary discussions to address community needs and shared the importance of balance. *Jerome Naples* spoke about the utilization of de-escalation tactics and alternatives to policing. *Mark Enslin* spoke in opposition to the additional police department funding. *Chris Elli* spoke in opposition to the additional police department funding. *Miriam Larson* spoke in opposition to the additional police department funding. *Danielle Chynoweth* expressed concerns about the timing of the budget request coming before the public safety study has been made public. *Jane McClintock* suggested modifying police interactions to focus on community engagement. *City Clerk Sandefur read input from the following individuals: Sharon Irish, Marya Ryan, Ben Joselyn, Julie Watkins, Julie Laut, Bram Osterhout, Allan Max Axelrod, Eli Allison, and Shelley Masar.*

5. **Staff Report**

None.

6. **New Business**

a. **Ordinance No. 2023-12-045: An Ordinance Regarding the Paid Leave for All Workers Act - HRF**

Presented by Michelle Brooks and Femi Fletcher of the HR department. Item ensures the City meets the requirements of the Paid Leave for All Workers Act but is exempted from additional obligations. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Quisenberry and seconded by CM Wu. Further discussion ensued.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: Wilken

b. **Ordinance No. 2023-12-046: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #5 - Police Staffing) - HRF**

Presented by Elizabeth Hannan, Larry Boone, and Rich Surles. Item would authorize amending the annual budget to include the addition of four positions in the police department including an additional deputy chief of police and three officers in the office of community engagement costing \$542,000 annually. Elizabeth Hannan explained the financial impacts of this budget amendment. Chief Boone presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing why the Urbana Police Department needs to adopt a 21st century policing model including community engagement. Boone shared video examples of community engagement and then shared a proposed organizational chart. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to divide the question into two items separating the deputy chief of police and the community engagement department by CM Wu and seconded by CM Quisenberry. Further discussion ensued.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Hursey, Quisenberry

NAY: Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

Motion failed.

Further questions ensued.

Motion to approve item to the regular agenda by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Quisenberry. Questions and discussion ensued. Motion amended to be kept in committee of the whole until the Berry Dunn Community Safety Review is available.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry, Mayor Marlin

NAY: Kolisetty, Wilken

Motion to extend the meeting to 11 pm by CM Wilken and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

c. **Resolution 2023-12-095R: A Resolution Adopting Guidelines for Redistricting City Council Ward Map – Exec**

Presented by Mayor Marlin. Item would adopt guidelines for the redistricting City Council Ward Map that allows for the public to submit draft proposals for consideration. Questions

and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

7. **Council Input and Communications**

CM Wilken expressed concerns about the way in which the public was addressed this evening by the Chief of Police. **CM Kolisetty** shared concerns about the way in which the public was addressed this evening and hopes that further conversations can be had about skateboarding options within Urbana. **CM Wu** explained that the taxes levied for the City are taken from a small portion of property taxes. **Mayor Marlin** provided further clarity about taxes. **CM Hursey** announced upcoming Plan Commission meeting regarding HOPE Village.

8. **Adjournment**

With no further business before the body, Chair Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:53 PM.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 02-27-2024

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Sharon Irish [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 9:18 AM
To: !City Council; !City Clerk
Cc: Marlin, Diane
Subject: hold off on further funding of police

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear Council Members and Mayor Marlin,

Thank you for your hard work and thoughtful grappling with Urbana's challenges.

I would like this statement read into the record:

I have lived in Urbana for 38 years and worked with various local groups over the years, including the PTA, school mentoring programs, Urbana Public Art Task Force, Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, Dream Girls Academy, STEAM Genius, and the Campus-Community Compact to Accelerate Racial Justice. I participated in the BerryDunn survey and I attended one of Chief Boone's listening sessions. All that is to say, I am invested in Urbana-Champaign and plan to attend the Council meeting this evening.

The BerryDunn public safety evaluation apparently has the full support of the Urbana Police Department. I understand that the BerryDunn report is due in the spring of 2024. Given Chief Boone's commitment to data-driven decision making, I am puzzled by the current push to hire more police officers even though we have not yet received feedback from the BerryDunn effort. Since Urbana contracted with BerryDunn to obtain presumably rigorous and broad evidence about public safety, I believe we should delay any decisions about hiring more police until further information is available. The current police proposal seems premature and not aligned with the Council's decision to work with BerryDunn.

I applaud the Urbana Police Department's willingness to examine alternatives such as Eugene, Oregon's emergency response unit, CAHOOTS, <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4508/CAHOOTS>. It is also good that the UPD is working with local partners, such as First Followers. These partnerships--which I think offer better outcomes for public safety--will also need robust funding. Given the realities of tight budgets, I urge you to hold off on voting to fund further staffing of police.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon Irish

[REDACTED]
Urbana, IL

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Marya Ryan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 7:41 AM
To: !City Council; !City Clerk
Subject: Police Proposal

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I would like for this statement to be read into the record at this evening's meeting.

I recently learned of a proposal to add add 4 more officers to the Urbana Police Department in the near term, with a longer term goal of adding 15 officers. I encourage you to consider the proposal from a number of perspectives before determining whether adding more officers to the Police Department is the best use of limited City funds for keeping the peace in Urbana.

I believe it is important to have police staffing levels at a point where not much overtime is needed to ensure that officers are not overworked in an already stressful job. As many of you are aware, there may be a number of ways to ensure reasonable workloads. Of course, one of the ways is to increase the number of officers in the department. Others are to deploy mental health professionals and advocates as well as other outreach workers to handle nonviolent incidents. Another is to support community groups committed to improving the day-to-day quality of life for residents and to growing capacity for peaceable conflict resolution.

I hope you will give careful consideration to the proposal and to alternate ways to achieve the shared goal of maintaining peace and order in our community.

Best,
Marya Ryan

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Ben Joselyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 4:52 PM
To: ! Evans, Christopher; ! Wilken, Grace; ! Bishop, Chaundra; Marlin, Diane; ! Kolisetty, Jaya; ! Wu, Maryalice; ! Hursey, Shirese; ! Quisenberry James; !City Clerk
Subject: Public comment regarding FY2024 budget amendment #5 - Police Staffing

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Hello city clerk and city leaders,

I'm traveling today and will not be able to be at the meeting but I would like my comment included in the record of public input. Thank you for your time and consideration

The police budget in 2021 was 10.77 million dollars. The approved budget for the police in 2024 is 13.76 Million. That is a 27.8% increase in the past 3 budget cycles. There is not a compelling argument that crime is going up nor is the population of urbana going up. I do not know why these increases are happening on an annual level at such high levels and this mid-year amendment would make that acceleration even greater while other sectors of the city get neglected and taxes go up.

The city has hired a consulting firm, BerryDunn, to assess our police budget and services. I find it highly unprofessional that the police and city administration are considering voting on a raise for the police and a restructuring of the department before those reports are widely shared and processed by the community.

I also find that language in the discussion section of the budget amendment to be incredibly worrisome regarding how it is dealing with the BerryDunn consulting. As far as I know there has been one survey and one public listening session conducted by BerryDunn. Since the reports haven't come out yet with their findings, I find it to be in poor taste for the city to be citing their work. Further, I am skeptical about the conclusions that the people writing this amendment are coming to regarding BerryDunn's work.

Without a report, I only have my experience to use as a reference when evaluating the amendment's claim that "based on stakeholder feedback" BerryDunn has "independently recognized community engagement as an area of significant potential for the Urbana Police Department" . I took that survey and I went to the listening session. The survey did not ask about community engagement so it could not have provided evidence that the community wants more police community engagement. At the listening session, constituents focused largely on the root causes of crime and on the necessity of support services and aid programs in the community. BerryDunn offered some guidance in the conversation but constituents were regularly frustrated by how BerryDunn worked to center the police in those conversations and failed to provide suggestions that the members of our community found exciting. If this budget amendment came before the people at that listening session I am confident it would have failed by a wide margin. But somehow, there is an official city document that cites stakeholder input gathered by BerryDunn as supportive of this police budget increase. I don't know how to make this make sense.

I know that there may be more that BerryDunn has done that I have not yet seen. So it may not be that the people writing, reviewing and approving this amendment are being intentionally misleading about their findings . But it breeds mistrust that BerryDunn's work is being cited before it is being published, especially as it is being used in a way that contradicts what many of us may have concluded based on our experience with their work.

I appreciate your time and service,

Sincerely,
Ben Joselyn

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Julie Watkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 1:43 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Comment for Dec 4th Committee of Whole meeting - please read at meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Please read during public comment for December \$th meeting:

To: Urbana City Council
From: Julie Watkins, ward 5

In my last public input I said I expected a budget increase for the police department because the ONLY staff report before the first discussion to revise mayor and council goals ... and here it is, a budget increase for 5 more positions in UPD.

I agree with public comment last week that supported hiring more social workers so there would be staff available on weekends instead of hiring more police.

That is also in agreement with other public comment that I have heard in Council meetings, in listening sessions, and in Public Safety community meetings I have attended. Please consider the community engagement you have already received which prioritized increasing budgets for services other than police.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Julie R. Laut [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 2:05 PM
To: !City Council
Cc: !City Clerk
Subject: Vote no on proposal to add more police officers

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear City Council Members,

I write to ask you to vote no on the City's current proposal to approve the hiring of four additional police officers. There is currently a study being conducted on Alternative Community Safety Models. In response to questions from WCIA about the study, Police Chief Boone stated, "We are committed to transparency and value the insights of our community members. Receiving, analyzing, and acting upon public sentiment is an important step in building and maintaining trust." Making a unilateral decision to expend funds on new officers prior to receiving the results of the survey contradicts this sentiment. Once the results of that study are released in summer 2024, the City will have an evidence-based road map to reference for how to best use our City's limited funds.

Now is not the time to put more armed officers on our streets. As a long-time Urbana resident, I urge the City to think beyond traditional models of community "policing," and use our tax dollars to create a system that is responsive to community safety and welfare based on a more humane, more equitable approach.

I respectfully ask that my statement be read into the record.

Thank you,
Julie Laut

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Bram Osterhout [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 12:00 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - December 4, 2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

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To the Urbana City Council:

As a resident of Urbana, I would like to voice my opposition to FY2024 Budget Amendment #5 on police staffing. The proposed expansion of the Urbana Police Department's payroll represents a substantial, enduring expenditure that is unlikely to serve its stated goal of improving the safety of our community. A city's health and vibrance comes from its accessibility, the upkeep of its infrastructure, the affordability and modernity of its housing stock, and its direct investment in local economic activity. These aspects of municipal governance are what promote community safety most of all, and by diverting resources towards policing instead of towards accessibility, local economic activity, and affordability, Urbana would be hampering its ability to invest in those spheres in the future. I implore the city council not to tie up more of our city's funds in police salaries and to instead consider how this considerable sum of money could be invested directly in the improvement of our community.

I would like my statement to be read into the record.

- Bram Osterhout

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Allan Max Axelrod <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 11:34 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Comment to read Aloud

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Good evening, Urbana City Council,

I am an Advocate member of the Regional Advisory Council for region 6 and am part of a statewide coalition on efforts to fund a CAHOOTS-style alternative to police response for behavioral health calls to 911. This body, as well as all other regional advisory councils and the state advisory council, is charged with providing key steps for the implementation of the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act (also known as the Stephon Edward Watts Act). Over the past year, disability activists have attempted to implement this policy in good faith, and this struggle is ongoing. At bare minimum, our hope is to change how 911 calls are responded to such that another Stephon Edward Watts would know have been shot to death by police in Illinois. That has not happened yet.

The region 6 body has not held a meeting in over a quarter and is supposed to meet monthly. Meanwhile the state advisory council has rejected disability activist demands to meet the bare minimum criteria. The situation I would like to outline to all activists hoping for a more equitable balance of resources in our community, is that we need your help. Thank you for showing up to Urbana City Council and voicing your support for Illinois' already-passed law to mandate behavioral health response instead of police response. We disability rights activists need your support to ensure that the law is implemented well.

This also means winning over behavioral health service providers, who have the power to pursue a funded behavioral health response service that does not require a police co-responder. This is called an alt-responder system.

Despite repeatedly talking to fellow activists, no one has come forward as of yet to publicly comment at the regional advisory council for region 6. It is not at a time easy for members of the working class to attend and we desperately need your voices, which would help not just our region but also our entire state.

Representatives for the City of Urbana have made promises regarding police funding. They have multiple votes on the record of where they stand. They are subsequently going to be subjected to the political theater of Automatic License Plate Readers that has already played out in Bloomington, Peoria, Decatur and Champaign. Thank you for residents coming together tonight. Please stay informed and do what you can sustainably and safely.

Solidarity,

Allan Max Axelrod

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Eli Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 4:21 PM
To: !City Council; !City Clerk
Subject: City Council Meeting 12/4/23, Police Budget Proposal

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council Members,

I have lived in Urbana for most of my life, and I am writing to request that you vote no on the proposal for the City to approve the hiring of 4 new police officers. Crime in Urbana has decreased dramatically in the last 2 years without additional officers, and I believe that this is a poor use of our city's limited resources. Alongside an increasing policing budget, Urbana has recently reduced the budgets of Social Services, Community Development, and other programs that help our residents live better lives and are also known to reduce crime.

We should not be expanding the presence of armed officers in Urbana, and instead we should address community safety in more evidence based and humane ways. Please vote "no" on this proposal.

I would like my statement to be read into the record.

Thank you,
Eli A.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Shelley Masar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 10:19 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: For the meeting tonight

*** Email From An External Source ***

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To citycouncil@urbanaillinois.us

Dear Member of The Urbana City Council

I am writing to urge you to spend the \$550,000 you are considering to hire four more police officers on other things.

Perhaps in cooperation with the city of Champaign on research, provision and maintenance of a pair of pods for the unhoused people who are wintering in our cities.

Would you share my email and this photo of the homeless pods used in Ulm Germany with the meeting tonight?

I thank you again and the people who have come to the meeting tonight for your time and attention.

Shelley Washburne Masar

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Matt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 03, 2023 7:26 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 12/4/2023

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

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The proposed "FY2024 Budget Amendment #5 - Police Staffing" goes against previous statements made by both the mayor and council. It was stated earlier this year that allowing a thorough and complete public safety review was essential before any significant changes were made to department staffing or infrastructure.

If this is the case, why is such a change being proposed at a point in time when the review is incomplete?

Simply put, attempting to hire additional officers at the tail end of the year is underhanded.

Please vote no.

-Matt Soyland

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Melissa Lyke [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 03, 2023 7:33 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 12/4/23

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Hello,

My name is Melissa Lyke and I am a member of the Champaign-Urbana community. I do not think that we should be increasing the police budget anymore. I think we should invest in community services that don't involve the police at all. Thank you for your consideration.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: patricia reichard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 9:38 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT Dec. 4, 2023 Meeting of the whole

*** Email From An External Source ***

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Dear Urbana City Counsel,

I am writing to urge you to approve hiring more police officers for the city of Urbana. I listened to the council meeting online in which Chief Boone outlined his plans to lower crime in Urbana. I think the Chief has a comprehensive and holistic plan that includes increased community outreach and involvement of community social services, neighborhoods, schools and churches, as well as more police officers being needed to carry out these plans. You hired Chief Boone because you thought he had the experience and knowledge to bring improvements to policing in Urbana. Now you must give him the resources to carry out those plans.

I attended the Ward 7 meeting with residents and Chief Boone this past Thursday evening. The increased crime statistics for Ward 7 were of great concern to me. I have lived in Urbana for 46 years, in and around Colorado Ave., on McHenry St. and now in Stone Creek subdivision. These used to be very safe areas of town. I raised my children here and they could ride their bikes around these areas to parks, swimming and the baseball card shop at Sunnycrest Mall. It is no longer safe for children to do such things in these neighborhoods where there are regular shootings, assaults, burglaries and rapes. In 2013 my elderly parents moved to Urbana so they could be closer to me. They were about to purchase a condo at Eagle Ridge and I told them if they moved there they should not ever go to County Market which was still open at that time, or Walgreens after dark. I told them, in fact, don't go to County Market at all, because I had been approached 3 times in the parking lot there from people asking for money. They ended up not purchasing that condo. The crime in Ward 6 has decreased property values.

The most important function of city government is the protection of its citizens with adequate staffing of fire and police departments. From my own experience I do not feel confident at this time that the Urbana Police could respond to my call for help in a timely manner to prevent a home invasion or perhaps even a homicide. The city council approved the hiring of 6 firefighters and now you need to find the funds for more police officers to decrease the amount of mandatory overtime being paid to officers since the department is currently understaffed. This needs to be done without raising taxes. I understand from information supplied to me by Christopher Evans that there is a request by the Fire Department to construct two new fire stations at a cost of \$20 million. I suggest you postpone funding the building of new fire stations at this time and instead allocate increased funding to the police department. Fire and police protection are both public safety concerns and thus should be your top priorities in allocating funds. If you want to increase the population, and thus the tax base of Urbana, people must feel like it is a safe place to live. Currently, people don't feel that way. You have people wanting to move out of Urbana to safer communities like Savoy, St. Joseph and Mahomet. The two main reasons people give for moving out of Urbana or not moving here in the first place are high taxes and high crime. These should be the top two priorities of the city council.

Sincerely,
Patricia Reichard
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Robert Naiman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 7:36 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT: December 4, 2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

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I wish to call the attention of the council to the passing of Rev. James B. Holiman of Urbana on Sunday, November 26, 2023. According to the obituary in the Sunday, December 3 News-Gazette, visitation will be 1-3 pm Friday at Morgan Memorial Home in Savoy. Memorial services will be 10 AM Saturday at University Place Christian Church in Champaign. From 1963 to 1999, Jim Holiman was Executive Director and Campus Minister at the Illinois Disciples Foundation in Champaign. In this position Jim helped generations of University of Illinois students shape their lives in the direction of peace and social justice. He counseled students who opposed the Vietnam War who faced the military draft. He was a leader of the movement to provide Public Sanctuary to undocumented refugees from the U.S.-backed civil war in El Salvador. He helped found the Common Ground Food Co-op at the IDF, which is now an anchor at Lincoln Square, across from the City Building. He is survived by his wife Deloris and all the people whose lives he shaped. I urge the Council to take note of his passing.

Robert Naiman
[REDACTED]

Sandefur, Darcy

From: S K [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 8:22 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Re: PUBLIC INPUT 4 Dec 23

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I would like to amend a typo:

"properties" should say "proverties"

thank you

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023, 8:21 PM S K <kish2521@gmail.com> wrote:
to Urbana City Council,

The city needs to not invest this money toward expanding police operations in any capacity

Rather, the council should be advised in other methods of reducing crime and the many properties of community members through methods of community support, food and housing security. A plan of alternate action should be put in place of this proposal to increase policing budget.

Sincerely,

Soop Kish