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**DATE:** Monday, June 10, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, June 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** CM Shirese Hursey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Mitten, Elizabeth Hannan, Kyle Kapper, Rich Surles, Larry Boone, Demond Dade, Tarek Azim, Bourema Ouedraogo

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:13p.m.

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

**a. 05-28-2024 City Council Minutes**

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**4. Presentations and Public Input**

**a. Public Input**

*Jenny Goodwine* spoke in support of the adoption of an alternative response model. Read a statement on behalf of Cunningham Township Supervisor, Danielle Chynoweth which stated that the budget proposal is premature and contains a massive expansion in the Urbana Police Department's (UPD) staff. The statement suggested to not increase the UPD's budget, set aside funds for a RFP to fund an alternative response model, convene community stakeholders to discuss alternative response, consider connecting people to other services than police in 911 calls, and build a responder model which connects people to appropriate services. *Ron Kester* urged City Council to consider that the BerryDunn report is incomplete, post-pandemic crime rates are falling, and the City of Urbana's public safety is determined by equitable access to basic resources. Stated that UPD's budget is an issue for discussion as they have many advocates

while incarcerated people and impoverished people have little to no advocates. Stated the UPD is not expected to address social issues critical to the well-being of Urbana residents. Stated the main function of the police is to collect evidence and present as expert witnesses in prosecution. **Brian Maxwell** spoke against the proposed increases in UPD's budget, suggesting that the decision be delayed until the BerryDunn report is concluded. Raised concerns for the BerryDunn report not currently having evaluated alternative response models and addressing the racial injustices within the City of Urbana. Stated an alternative responder model would be a less expensive option to address calls for service and should have more time spent evaluating one. Shared criticisms of recommendations and content from BerryDunn. Stated ARPA funding was not an active investment made by the City of Urbana, but instead a one-time federal payment to address community needs and social services. Asked what the City of Urbana's roadmap to address the 28% poverty rate in Urbana is. Stated it does not seem fair for Mayor Marlin to determine the budget for the total of the incoming Mayor's term through this budget. **Steven MacGuire** raised concerns regarding information and anecdotes shared during the Police Staffing and Hiring Incentives Staff Report by the UPD. Stated that those going through crises need assistance and social services require further funding to provide better support to the community. Applauded Larry Boone, Chief of Police, for stating that he wants to implement mandatory CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training within the department at the 2024 NAMI Annual Family Picnic. Stated despite CIT training helping to save lives, it is insufficient to address gaps in social services. Stated alternative response models should be researched and implemented before considering an increase in the UPD's budget. Raised concern for high UPD staff salaries. Stated faith in law enforcement after 10-07-2023, and the incidents that followed, have been negatively hit. **Chris Zelle** stated alternative responder model discussions have been dismissed by the UPD and the UPD's budget requests were solely supported by anecdotes rather than data. Stated City Council should reject the UPD's incompetent and disrespectful budget proposal. Stated a citizen's advisory committee on police policies should be formed, as per the 21st Century Policing guidelines. **Alexandria Stone** stated proposed increases in UPD's budget is disrespectful to everyone, especially people of color, within the City of Urbana. Stated UPD staff make disproportionately higher than the annual income per-capita within the City of Urbana and asked why they require funding increases despite the crime rate decreasing. Stated the \$2,500,000 could be better spent if directly given to the community. Asked City Council to consider alternatives to funding the UPD to better assist Urbana residents. **Ben Joselyn** apologized to City Council who share similar concerns with the community on police funding and the BerryDunn report. Stated the BerryDunn report has flawed recommendations and is easily proven to be so. Stated the budget presentation from the UPD, which lacked solid numbers and instead used emotional pleas, is unprecedentedly disturbing. Questioned how a hundred police officers can respond to the non-violent protest for a ceasefire at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and only 4 officers can respond to a shooting. Raised concerns for the 30-30-40 model, quoting Michelle Weinzetl saying that it has never been proven to improve public safety. Spoke upon the proposed backfilled positions, stating that the conditions for its consideration when originally brought to City Council have not yet been met and it is disingenuous to bring it forward as part of the budget proposal. Stated the policy behind mandating K9 officers at shootings and replacing a car with a new car every 3 years is questionable. Urged City Council to not pass a budget which limits the exploration of community issues such as alternative response models. **Tony Meneely** agreed with community calls for more social workers, so they could work in conjunction with the police department. Stated the UPD only has 1 social worker and attracting people with a Master's degree in Clinical Social Work with their currently offered salary, as opposed to a salary within the private sector is difficult. Spoke in favor of the proposed budget as more assistance is required for patrol officers such as himself. Stated a shift averages 20-30 calls for service from his personal experience. Stated a 24/7 service to respond to calls for service can only be from a police department. Stated CAHOOTS still requires police officers on a certain percentage of calls for services and there is always potential for escalation in crisis situations where it would be

best practice to have a police officer present. Restated name as Anthony Mineely and shared his badge number, 371, and welcomed the public to further discussion and ride-alongs. **Alyssa Hall** stated providing social workers with increased funding rather than the UPD would have greater impacts on the community, listing their qualifications and sharing personal anecdotes from being a social worker. Shared a quote which stated policing has put many non-violent offenders behind bars, not improved public safety, is a system rooted in slavery, exists to protect those with money and property. Stated those who need to advocate for themselves cannot attend City Council meetings due to having to work 16-hour jobs to survive. Stated trust between communities, especially the Black community, and the police is too broken to be reformed. Shared another quote which stated the crisis in policing is the result of a culmination of thousands of other failures and began with dehumanization within police departments. **Elizabeth Sotiropoulos** responded to statements previously made by Anthony Meneely, stating individual officers are typically not the issue, but the issues of poverty, racism, lack of healthcare, and police violence are systemic. Stated the lack of social workers is connected to the lack of education and workers within the public school district. Stated money should be invested into public education, housing, and mental healthcare to increase the amount of people studying to be social workers. Stated paying social workers a similar amount to police officers would solve the issue of understaffing among social workers. Stated the decline in crime is reported on by the FBI. Shared accounts of the Aleyah Lewis arrest review where the community had protested the City of Urbana to drop the charges against Aleyah Lewis, vote-down Police Chief Bryant Seraphin until the investigation had been completed, hold the involved officers accountable, and reform the Civilian Police Review Board. Stated funds were drawn from UPD staffing to cover the costs for the BerryDunn review which recommended UPD should receive an increase in patrol staffing. **Gwyneth Crepsio** asked City Council if they feel as if they are members of the communities they serve and if they are afraid of any members of the community. Stated members within the community are also working overtime to assist fellow community members in crisis. Asked why people not being able to receive care from social services is not as important as if someone was not able to receive assistance from the police department. Questioned why it is expected for social workers to serve the community at little to no compensation in comparison to police officers. Stated relations between the community and its elected officials does not have to be hostile and can be collaborative. Hoped for City Council to actively listen to public input rather than checking out. **James Kilgore** stated the process for searching for an alternative response model seems backwards as it began with hiring a researcher and then a vote is proposed on its recommendations for expansion before the study has been completed. Stated such a process would never be seen in research conducted at UIUC. Stated a significant amount of time is spent focusing on the UPD while \$20,000,000 in funding is being discussed for the Urbana Fire Department (UFD). Echoed the requests from Minnie Pearson and Danielle Chynoweth for forming a task force and having an RFP for a 24-hour drop-in center. Shared personal anecdote of the difficulties of operating drop-in services at FirstFollowers. Stated a task force to study poverty and inequity in the community should be formed to address the underlying causes of crime. Stated further research on forming an alternative response model which is comprised of social workers and qualified individuals who have been personally impacted by the criminal legal system. Urged City Council to not expand UPD and to instead explore alternatives to policing. **Demond Dade** stated the UPD plays a crucial and essential role in ensuring the UFD can effectively and swiftly respond to emergency situations. Expressed investing into the UPD is necessary and strategic to enhancing the community's public safety and emergency preparedness. Stated criminal elements continue to exist even in utopia scenarios. Acknowledged policing is rooted in slavery and stated despite the original ill intent, it should not be done away with, pointing to the example of currently used medical practices originating from the Holocaust. Voiced support for the UPD and expressed wishes for a collaborative solution with the community to form. **Brad Allen** voiced opposition for an expansion for the UPD. Stated crime in Urbana is declining according to data from the FBI and 72% of calls for service are non-violent. Stated the UPD had only

anecdotal evidence to support their budget proposals. Shared an anecdote of a homeless veteran asking for help in the previous week's City of Champaign City Council meeting, stating the funding going to UPD could instead go to fund programs to assist people like him. Stated healing the relationship between the UPD and the community begins with the police officers themselves, without requiring any additional funding and not by concussing peaceful protesters who are protesting against genocide. **Marina Minette** stated the United States is the most incarcerated and armed population on the planet, questioning the proposed increase in UPD's funding. Stated those in need require greater attention. Asked if any elected officials felt ashamed about the proposed budget and the inhumane abuse of incarcerated people. Spoke in support of improving education, emotional awareness, and de-escalation. Stated the RFP was tailored to match the qualifications of BerryDunn and the research conducted by BerryDunn was to confirm an already established agenda. **Written Public Input in opposition to the UPD's budget increases from the following individuals were read by Mayor Marlin: Anna Victoria, Lilah Leopold, Sharon Irish, Donald Owen, Sana Saboowala. Written Public Input in opposition to the UPD's budget increases from the following individuals were read by CM Evans: Cassidy Short, Alyssa Hall. Written Public Input in opposition to the UPD's budget increases from the following individuals were read by CM Wilken: Matt Turino, Adam. Written Public Input in opposition to the UPD's budget increases from the following individuals were read by CM Kolisetty: Matthew Murrey, Miriam Larson. Written Public Input in support of investments into UPD from the following individual was read by CM Kolisetty: Katie Muir.**

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** thanked the public for their attendance and their feedback. Stated if it seems as though she is inattentive to the public input, it is because she is writing notes on the input. Encouraged Faith Ryan to make an official report on the incident with a police officer that was previously shared during public input. Clarified City Council has no influence over UIUC and UPD police officers' behavior, actions, and policies. Encouraged people to attend the Urbana Public Safety Town Hall at the Independent Media Center (IMC) on Saturday (later corrected to Sunday, 06-16-2024 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and stated she will not be able to attend due to being out of town. Expressed hope for people to continue watching and listening to the remainder of the City Council meeting. Surmised comments on the proposed budget, stating it is unsustainable and responsible. Voiced support for a more comprehensive process for implementing community changes. **CM Wu** acknowledged the discomfort felt when speaking during Public Input, stating everyone feels the same way and hoped sufficient grace is provided by City Council for them to feel comfortable sharing even if unconfident. Addressed comments on the fire stations, clarifying that have been multiple and lengthy processes in discussing the fire station designs. Stated City Council did not know what would be in the BerryDunn report. **CM Kolisetty** thanked the public for their comments, acknowledging the awkwardness of the process. Thanked those within Ward 4 who have provided further feedback on the current budget proposal and emphasized the importance of her duty to represent her Ward appropriately. Stated all of the contact information for City Council can be found at <https://urbanaininois.us/city-council> and her contact information is [jlkolisetty@urbanaininois.us](mailto:jlkolisetty@urbanaininois.us) and (630) 708-6305. Noted all written communications to City Council are public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Stated residents can find which Ward they are in by going to <https://urbanaininois.us/residents/ward-map>. Emphasized the importance of being a democracy representing the people of Urbana and thanked those for sharing information with City Council. Encouraged people to either stay to listen to the later budget discussion, watch the discussion through video, or review the minutes. Stated that she will do her best to be in attendance at the event at the IMC this weekend. Acknowledged the difficulties in speaking during Public Input, stated Written Public Input could be an alternative to speaking, but it has to indicate the input should be read aloud during the meeting as it would be unfair to selectively choose specific input to read aloud. **CM Quisenberry** echoed CM Kolisetty's sentiments, stating Public Input is meant for listening to the public rather than

engaging during that time and it can be frustrating. Stated their contact information can be found online and his email is [jpquisenberry@urbanaininois.us](mailto:jpquisenberry@urbanaininois.us) and his phone number is (217) 282-0255 for people to contact. Shared that he is available to speak with when spotted at the farmer's market (Market at the Square) on Saturday mornings and he is always willing to engage with people. Shared Neighborhood Nights will be in Ward 7 this week at Crestview Park from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. and invited everyone to attend. **CM Wilken** corrected that the Urbana Public Safety Town Hall at the IMC is going to be on Sunday, not Saturday and there are fliers available. **Mayor Marlin** announced the Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by the Urbana Free Library and the Urbana Park District will occur on Sunday, 06-16-2024 from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. (held at Crystal Lake Park) and she will be in attendance and unable to also attend the Urbana Public Safety Town Hall which occurs at the same time. Shared the SPLASH program will be funded through a Youth Services Grant on the agenda for approval tonight. **CM Quisenberry** shared the Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Crystal Lake Park according to the Urbana Park District's website. **Mayor Marlin** clarified that the recommendations on the UFD staffing came from a previous facilities master plan study which began in 2018 with the report issued in 2020. Stated it had undergone planning and had opportunities for feedback from City Council and the public for 4 years.

## 6. Unfinished Business

None.

## 7. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

## 8. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Jaya Kolisetty, Ward 4*)

### 1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-06-032R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Angel's Youth Center – Beat the Street Teen Summit – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$6,000 of funding to support the Angel's Youth Center's "Beat the Streets" Teen Summit which is an anti-gun violence event which advances the organization's objectives, and enhances services to low-income Urbana youth by providing anti-violence and life skills programming.

- b. **Resolution No. 2024-06-033R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois – Community Based Mentoring – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$10,000 of funding to support the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Illinois in providing community-based mentoring services to children living in Urbana.

- c. **Resolution No. 2024-06-034R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Cunningham Children’s Home – Residential Treatment Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$15,000 of funding to support the Cunningham Children’s Home’s Residential Treatment Programs that offer a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of care, designed to be responsive to and flexible for children, youth and young adults with a very wide variety of behavioral health needs.

- d. **Resolution No. 2024-06-035R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Crisis Nursery – Safe Children Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$30,000 of funding to support the Crisis Nursery’s Safe Children program, which provides emergency childcare for children, ages birth through six, whose families are experiencing a crisis.

- e. **Resolution No. 2024-06-036R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club – RIDES – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$10,000 of funding to support the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club’s RIDES (Reach, Inspire, Develop, Empower, Support) program which seeks to address transportation issues that have created barriers to Urbana youth and families in accessing services that Don Moyer provides each day.

- f. **Resolution No. 2024-06-037R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana – Child Mental Health Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$15,000 of funding to support the Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana’s Mental Health Program (Child Focus) which offers health and wellness checkups to address physical health need alongside mental health services.

- g. **Resolution No. 2024-06-038R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Sola Gratia – Education Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$13,000 of funding to support Sola Gratia’s Agricultural Education Program which aims to address food inequity by offering accessible agriculture and nutrition education opportunities through events, classes, tours, demonstration days, and signage, with particular consideration for low-income students and families.

- h. Resolution No. 2024-06-039R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – STEAM Genius – Urbana Lovin’ U Tour – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$30,000 of funding to support STEAM Genius’ Urbana Lovin’ U Tour which is an education enrichment and social development program designed to expose and connect young people to a pathway of career opportunities and leadership development.

- i. Resolution No. 2024-06-040R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – The Urbana Free Library – Teen and Youth Maker Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$20,500 of funding to support The Urbana Free Library’s Teen & Youth Maker Programming in their Teen Open Lab program and Markerspace Jr. program.

- j. Resolution No. 2024-06-041R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – The Well Experience – Well Family Care Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$20,000 of funding to support The Well Experience’s Family Care Program which is a year-round education and systems of care for families with children aged birth to 22 years.

- k. Resolution No. 2024-06-043R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center – Community Study Center – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$16,668 of funding to support the Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center’s Community Study Center which enrolls around 60 youth between the after-school study activities, college and career initiative, and school days out activities.

- l. Resolution No. 2024-06-044R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center – Youth Development Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$12,650 of funding to support the Urbana Neighborhood Connection Center’s Youth Development Program.

- m. Resolution No. 2024-06-045R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Urbana Park District – Youth Scholarship Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$10,000 of funding to support the Urbana Park District’s Youth Scholarship Program which helps families with financial need take advantage of park district programs.

- n. Resolution No. 2024-06-046R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Urbana School District 116 – SPLASH Afterschool Program – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$21,692 of funding to support the Urbana School District 116’s SPLASH program which is an extended day program open to all 6-8th grade students who attend Urbana Middle School.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Wilken.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

## 2. Regular Agenda

- a. Resolution No. 2024-06-042R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Youth Services Agreement – Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center – IMC Youth Culture Advisors – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$14,000 of funding to support the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center’s Youth Arts and Culture Leadership Academy which provides programming for Urbana youth to build leadership skills and explore arts, media, and entertainment careers.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** Evans



- b. Resolution No. 2024-06-047R:** A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Subrecipient Agreement Community Development Block Grant Agreement – Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services – Survivor Services-Trauma Therapy – CD

This resolution seeks the approval and authorization of a Subrecipient Agreement for a Youth Services Agreement which would provide \$30,000 of funding to support the Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services (RACES) in providing trauma therapy to youth by devoting one of the agency’s therapists to youth services so 75% of their appointments will be specifically for Urbana youth.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** Kolisetty

## 9. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 10. Reports of Officers

None.

## 11. Mayoral Appointments

### a. Mayoral Reappointments to Boards and Commissions

#### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission*

– Sarthak Prasad (term ending June 30, 2027)

#### *Historic Preservation Commission*

– David L. Hays (term ending June 30, 2027)

#### *The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees*

– Erica Bellina (term ending June 30, 2027)

– Glen Layne-Worthy (term ending June 30, 2027)

– Daniel Urban (term ending June 30, 2027)

#### *Urbana Arts & Culture Commission*

– Sarah Buckman (term ending June 30, 2027)

#### *Human Relations Commission*

– Pete Resnick (term ending June 30, 2027)

Motion to approve all, except Pete Resnick by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.  
Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

Motion to approve Pete Resnick by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** Kolisetty

## 12. Discussion

### a. Budget Discussion

Mayor Marlin clarified for those in the room that there is no final action being taken tonight regarding the budget and this is a continued discussion from last week's meeting. Stated the previous meeting was ended with Councilmembers asked to consider the changes to the budget they would like to see and bring for discussion tonight to allow for the Finance Department to prepare a budget ordinance. Council discussed using strawpolls to gauge Council consensus, also noting that it may not be accurate due to incomplete attendance.

Council discussed and reached consensus on the addition of 1 Full Time Equivalent Arbor Technician position.

**Strawpoll:** Addition of 1 Arbor Technician.

**AYE:** 6

**NAY:** 0

CM Evans quoted previously released City documents stating \$10,000,000 of debt would be issued to fund the fire station construction. Proposed it would be appropriate to return \$1,000,000 to the budget for Councilmember spending initiatives in the FY25 budget from the General Operating Fund that was budgeted for use toward the fire station construction, reverting the \$9,000,000 bonding back to \$10,000,000. (The entirety of the statement and following funding proposals can be found attached following the meeting minutes). CM Wilken thanked CM Evans for having detailed his proposal for providing further funding for social services and strategic goals through sourcing it from the Fire Station construction bonding. Shared approval for items such as the \$50,000 toward re-entry services for those returning home from prison. Voiced hesitance for verbiage of "\$5,000 grants for 10 individuals" and it would be preferable to keep the terms generalized. Expressed support for establishing a certain amount of funding to put toward addressing Council goals that had been previously set. CM Wu proposed if there is a pot of funding, it should be distributed through RFPs for each specific strategic area. Voiced opposition to setting funding for each specific strategic area. Questioned if there would be staffing available to support the disbursement of funds to specific strategic goals. CM Kolisetty echoed CM Wu's statements and voiced support for streamlining the distribution process. Stated Council should still consider fiscal responsibility and long-term financial sustainability rather than doing a one-time round of funding. Elizabeth Hannan stated the proposed small business grants and the downtown entertainment district would be able to be funded through TIF rather than from the General Fund. CM Quisenberry stated his statements from the previous week still stand. Voiced discomfort with procuring and allocating

the funds in this manner. Stated it is, operationally, not ideal to fund these proposals through borrowed money. Stated borrowing money for the construction of fire stations is more fiscally sound due to it being a long-term investment into an asset. Voiced appreciation for CM Wu and CM Kolisetty's statements, as well as CM Evan's detailed source of funding for the presented proposals. Stated the proposals regarding Parkland College are a good method of elevating youth within the community. Stated he could support funding one or two of the areas in a more targeted manner. CM Kolisetty stated opposition to using debt for funding social services and desire to find a more sustainable funding source for them. Stated the items eligible for funding from TIF should be considered separately as it can use readily available funds rather than pulling from the General Fund. Mayor Marlin asked where the pool of funding available for social service should be sourced and how much should be allocated to the pool. CM Wilken stated the \$2,500,000 increase in recurring funding for the UPD is where the recurring funding could be sourced if there were a reduction in the proposed increase for the UPD. Elizabeth Hannan stated the 25% fund balance policy and 98.5% recurring expenditures to recurring revenue implemented with a previous Council and were deliberately designed to keep the City fiscally safe. Expressed that being close to those limits is financially sound. Mayor Marlin asked if Elizabeth Hannan could address the concern around future flexibility within the proposed budget. Elizabeth Hannan stated the General Fund is consistently a moving target and an increase in recurring revenue by \$500,000 per year is anticipated to come from the Special Census and there is potential for growth in other revenue sources. CM Bishop asked if there would be funds available in the proposed budget to implement or explore a recommended co-response or alternative response model from BerryDunn once the study has completed. Elizabeth Hannan stated an answer could not be provided due to the unknown cost of such a request. CM Bishop asked if there would be funding to implement recommendations from BerryDunn. Elizabeth Hannan stated the proposed budget is at the policy limit for recurring expenditures and without revenue growth, it would not be possible.

Council discussed the need for a fiscally responsible budget that sets the future Council for success. Council discussed the loss of recurring revenue from the loss of the grocery tax and that the final revenue will be noted as a one-time revenue.

Council deliberated on how to set the funding amount for Social Services by basing it off of the existing Youth Services funding.

CM Evans asked if the \$1,000,000 reduction to the \$10,000,000 bond for fire station construction to \$9,000,000 came from the General Fund balance. Elizabeth Hannan confirmed it did. CM Evans asked to confirm that the \$1,000,000 funds would not be considered borrowed money since it originated from the General Fund. Elizabeth Hannan stated the amount of debt was reduced by \$1,000,000 due to concerns of debt and the availability of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund. Further stated General Fund money was used to reduce the debt from \$12,000,000 to \$10,000,000 before. CM Evans expressed openness to collaborate on moving forward with providing funding for social services. Council continued discussion on how to set the funding and whether it should be recurring or a one-time expenditure.

Council discussed methods to determine the amount of funding to put toward social services, keying it off of a comparable amount of funds sent to Youth Services from the General Fund. Further discussed if it should be set as recurring or one-time funding.

**Strawpoll:** Recurring Social Services funding instead of one-time.

**AYE:** 4

**NAY:** 2

CM Wu stated other parts of the budget should be discussed before concluding on the amount

of funding to set aside. CM Wilken clarified this is ultimately not final action, but to gauge a general consensus.

Elizabeth Hannan stated in order to consider the recurring \$270,000, where it will be drawing that funding from. CM Wilken proposed conducting the strawpolls for the TIF eligible items. Council discussed the implementation of the proposed small business grants using TIF funding and the option of supplementing currently existing small business grants instead. Council discussed if the TIF small business grant funding had to be resolved within the budget and concluded it can be amended in later on as well. CM Wu proposed holding off on the items eligible to be funded by TIF and that the Social Services funding be \$200,000 because it is now recurring.

**Strawpoll:** Social Services funding amount of \$200,000 instead of \$270,000.

**AYE:** 4

**NAY:** 2

Council discussed UPD staffing concerns and discussed constituent concerns regarding UPD staffing increases. CM Wilken stated police response is not always safe for individuals, especially those with mental health issues, involved in response to the statement on non-criminal calls for service not always being not dangerous. Council discussed potentials for decreasing overtime for UPD officers and if the recommended staffing levels from BerryDunn stand to reduce overtime spending. CM Wilken proposed to hold strawpolls regarding the proposed UPD budget. Mayor Marlin asked if each proposed idea should be polled individually and confirmed proposal wording with Councilmembers. Council discussed the logistics of backfilling the Training Sergeant and Deputy Chief of Police position additions.

**Strawpoll:** No increases in the UPD budget.

**AYE:** 3

**NAY:** 3

**Strawpoll:** No increases in the UPD budget, until the BerryDunn report is concluded in its entirety.

**AYE:** 3

**NAY:** 3

**Strawpoll:** Backfilling the additional Deputy Chief of Police and Training Sergeant positions and adding 2 new patrol officers.

**AYE:** 3

**NAY:** 3

Council discussed the proposal for a Social Worker from UPD and potential changes to the service model using lessons learned from the outgoing Social Worker from Rosecrance that was funded through a grant. Council deliberated between whether it should be a staff position housed within UPD or if it should be a contracted position instead. Council discussed the budgeting process for contracting a Social Worker as opposed to an internal staff position.

**Strawpoll:** One-time, one-year Social Worker.

**AYE:** 5

**NAY:** 1

Council discussed the proposed Community Engagement Office structure from UPD and expressed potential to support a 3-year pilot program with 2 Community Engagement Officers

instead of the originally proposed 3 Community Engagement Officers. Council questioned and discussed the adherence of the Community Engagement Office to the guidelines of 21st Century Policing.

Motion to extend the meeting to 11:00p.m. by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken.

Voice Vote:

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

**NAY:** None.

Council discussed the need for further community input in the development of proposals on public safety such as the Community Engagement Office and a potential for a delay in the consideration of the Community Engagement Office.

Council and Chief Boone expressed disappointment in the budget discussion process and spoke on fiscally responsible public safety models.

**Strawpoll:** 2 Sworn Community Engagement Officers and a Community Engagement Office in a 3-Year Pilot Program.

**AYE:** 3

**NAY:** 3

CM Quisenberry asked for further input on the budgeting of funding to implement BerryDunn recommendations or if it should be done through a budget amendment once the study has concluded. Mayor Marlin stated a better idea of BerryDunn's timeline for completion will become clearer after a call this week. Council discussed further steps on the items polled tonight. Council reached consensus on the addition of 1 FTE Arbor Technician, allocating \$200,000 for Social Services funding (with the tourism and small business grants to come from TIF), and 1 year of non-recurring Social Worker funding. Elizabeth Hannan stated items with consensus will be brought to Committee of the Whole in the budget ordinance, and those that were contested will have further information presented regarding them.

### 13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:37p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

**Minutes approved: 7/8/24**

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION- JUNE 10, 2024**

On page 2 of the February 5, 2024 Memorandum to council regarding Budget Amendment #6-Omnibus, it says:

"As previously discussed, staff expects to issue bank qualified debt for the fire stations. An amount of \$10 million in debt would be issued in 2024 to comply with federal limits on bank qualified debt."

On page 21 of the proposed FY2025 Budget, it says:

Under category 200 in the revenues over \$500,000 section, where it describes CAPITAL REPLACEMENT & IMPROVEMENT FUND- line item 46400 "PROCEEDS OF LONG-TERM DEBT" it lists as the FY2025 estimated amount as \$10,000,000.

On page 7 of the executive summary of the Capital Improvements Plan for FY2025-2029 dated May 4, 2024 it says:

"Fire Stations construction will be funded with ~\$2.5M from previously awarded DCEO grants along with \$10M in bond proceeds and \$2M of the one-time general fund transfer to CR&I in FY 25."

THEREFORE, a \$10 million dollar bond for fire station construction has already been approved by staff and council. That a construction bond was somehow reduced down to \$9 million by May 15 does not make restoring the construction bond back up to \$10 million "irresponsible."

In both the Financial Forecast presented December 11, 2023 and the Budget Presentation of May 28, 2024, the City of Urbana Financial Director said it was anticipated that Urbana City Council members might have financial expenditures they might wish to include in the budget.

THEREFORE, it is appropriate and expected Urbana City Council members propose expenditures.

All of the below financial proposals align with what the Urbana City Council has adopted as its priorities and goals. To address some Council Member concerns that the expenditures were too specific in enumerating which organizations were to receive funding, identifying organizations have been removed from the proposal. It is asked an up-or-down-thumb-straw poll be taken on simply setting aside the emboldened funding for the already approved goals.

Embolden sections are the proposals to be voted on.

**Return \$1 million dollars back to discretionary spending for council member spending initiatives in the FY2025 Budget from the General Operating Fund that was to be used toward the Fire Station construction, and revise bonding for Fire Station construction from the current \$9 million back to the original \$10 million bond.**

## STRATEGIC AREA #1: PUBLIC SAFETY & WELL-BEING

### 1. Pursue methods to mitigate community violence

a) Continue to fund community partners and projects that address the root causes of violence **by allocating \$50,000 for re-entry services for those coming back home from prison.**

### 3. Promote community well-being

b) Continue to fund community partners and projects that promote health, wellness, drug and alcohol treatment, and that support families suffering from domestic violence; with continual program monitoring and evaluation; and **by allocating \$50,000 toward funding \$5000 grants for 10 individuals each year to access a 30-day in-patient drug and alcohol treatment program and by allocating \$100,000 for housing and re-locating families suffering domestic violence.**

## STRATEGIC AREA #2 HOUSING

### 2. Support housing security and equity

a) Coordinate with housing and social service agencies to reduce homelessness **by allocating \$120,000 toward Tenant-Based Rental Assistance for 10 homeless individuals/families at \$12,000 a year for each household.**

## STRATEGIC AREA #4 ECONOMIC HEALTH

### 1. Support current local businesses

d) **Allocate \$50,000 to Community Development to award small business grants, particularly to minority-owned and women-owned businesses.**

### 2. Enhance Employment Opportunities in Urbana

3. a) Collaborate with Parkland College, RPC, or other partners to create workforce development scholarships for low-income Urbana Residents focusing on trades and hospitality industry **by allocating \$200,000 in scholarships for 20 low-income, eligible Urbana residents to attend 2 semesters at a junior college at \$10,000 per person;**

**and by allocating \$104,000 in scholarships to 20 eligible African American residents of Urbana to receive a \$5,200 grant to attend the Fire Training Institute;**

**and by allocating \$100,000 in scholarships to 20 eligible Urbana residents to receive a \$5000 grant to apprentice in a trade toward union membership,**

**and by allocating \$100,000 for summer jobs to 20 eligible Urbana youth at \$5,000 a piece. (\$13 an hour- 8 hour work days- 5 days a week- for nine weeks)**

**4. Create a Tourist and Entertainment District**

**c) Enhance the vibrancy of Downtown Urbana by working with private entities to increase murals, sculptures, and other physical art **by also allocating an additional \$50,000 to line item 10050504 on page 110 of the proposed FY2025 Budget for Public Arts.****



## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Polski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 09, 2024 12:02 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT JUNE 10th 2024

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

I am writing as a constituent opposed to the proposed plan to expand the Urbana Police Department.

In Urbana, crime is at a historic low, while food and housing insecurity is increasing. It is thus baffling why over the years this council has increased the Urbana Police budget while defunding community programs.

Instead of hiring more officers to respond to 911 calls---the majority of which are non-violent in Urbana---this council should expand trauma-informed community care resources to respond to unmet community needs. Study after study has shown that most crime is related to poverty (De Courson & Nettle 2021). Given that police do not prevent poverty but in fact cause economic hardship by disproportionately targeting Black and Brown bodies resulting in legal fees, job loss, and/or incarceration (Nyaoro 2010), the choice to expand UPD is completely illogical.

I urge this council to reconsider funding UPD and instead expand access to food and housing.

Sincerely,  
Anna Victoria

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Marlin, Diane  
**Subject:** 6.10.24 Public Comment

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the City Council of Urbana and Mayor Marlin,

Please include this email in this evening's public comment. I write to continue to add my support to the voices among you who express concern over moving ahead with the proposed Police Department budget before completing the BerryDunn report and before fully pursuing true alternative responder models with community partners.

It is especially important that the design of alternative responder models be taken seriously and that they extend beyond the purview of the current Police Department operational model. That is to say, the only way to implement an alternative responder model in Urbana need not be to include it in the very department that is currently under review (and of which the review thereof is not complete). The strength of alternative responder models lies in the very essence of their being alternative, and yet no less robust and effective in their handling of community calls. There will need to be close work between community organizations and the police department, of course, but that does not mean that cherry-picking a few positions from the idea of an alternative responder model and placing these positions within the police department itself along with a significant increase in the police budget is a guarantee of anything at all except a larger police force.

I urge you to take the pleas of your community seriously when they call for your urgent consideration of their safety as part of a wholistic view of health and community empowerment--not of increased opportunity for incarceration, violent and potentially deadly interactions between officers and community, and increased surveillance. Now is not the time to short-circuit the research we as a community and you have a council have set out to do. Now is not the time to pass a budget that does not align with the goals of this pursuit. An increased police budget will not be an effective BandAid. It will come at great financial and interpersonal expense that for too many in this community will only further struggle and hardship. We owe each other a better way forward, together.

Sincere thanks for your careful consideration of this matter,  
Lilah Leopold (Ward 4)

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Sharon Irish <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 4:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input, June 10, 2024: budget and police staffing

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this message into the record.

Dear hard-working council members,

When I prepare a budget (which I have often done for grant proposals) I consider how much I have available to spend and then I prioritize what is most needs to be funded to meet the goals of a project. Budgets, of course, show our values and I would prioritize housing, employment and training, healthcare, education and infrastructure maintenance and improvement. As the 2015 President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing noted, policies must reflect community values. Urbana, I hope, defines public safety broadly as including safely-housed people with opportunities for education and training, jobs and adequate health care, with equitable infrastructure. Addressing these areas would be proactive.

Completely aside from considering what "public safety" broadly construed might be, I don't see a responsible way to pay for the proposed police staffing budget. The BerryDunn report recommends "a co-production policing model...to evolve...approaches." This recommendation (to me) offers the opportunity for Urbana to create a broadly-representative task force to collaborate with city departments. The task force would identify goals and create a timeline to meet those goals; figure out whether "alternative responders" should be part of the police department; and make adjustments to the plans as they are implemented, taking into account the costs of each aspect of the plan and the evidence of need for it.

Creating a task force may seem like delay, but I think instead it would strengthen the relationships and partnerships that are crucial to building and maintaining a safety net. It models an ongoing conversation which is central to a healthy, evolving community. If Urbana is going to raise more taxes and/or go into debt, we must be cautious and strategic about committing ourselves to large and perhaps limiting budget allocations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon Irish

[REDACTED]  
Urbana

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Donald Owen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 3:03 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment June 10, 2024 - City Council

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor and Members of Urbana City Council,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting of the City Council, and I ask that you read this letter into the public record.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed \$2.5 Million dollar increase in the Urbana Police budget for next year. It is irresponsible and unwarranted. The City should not be spending down its reserves on positions that will become an ongoing expense. According to the data compiled in the BerryDunn report, crime in Urbana is at an all-time low. Urbana does not need more police.

As the former Superintendent of Urbana School District #116, I was one of the original advocates of the Summer Youth Employment program in Urbana. Communities across this country have demonstrated that economic development and youth programming ultimately reduces crime. Why isn't Urbana talking about investing more in community services, social services, and proactive ways of reducing crime. This year, several organizations that applied the City of Urbana to participate in the Summer Youth Employment program only received partial funding. I am currently the treasurer of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center. The IMC submitted a very strong application to fund high school interns through the Summer Youth Employment program. The IMC was told last week that it would only receive 50% of its original request. Think about how much youth programming you could fund for the cost of one police officer. Think about the lasting impact youth programming could have on our community.

I want to remind you that budgets are moral documents. I want to ask you, what type of community do you want to create with your City Budget? Do you want to create a city that is over policed or do you want to create a city that has a plethora of programs and activities for our youth?

Don Owen, Ed.D.  
Educational Equity, Excellence, Engagement, and Leadership  
[REDACTED]

Follow me in Instagram: [@ddo\\_photo](#)

Connect on LinkedIn: [Donald Owen](#)

## Sandefur, Darcy

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**From:** Sana Saboowala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 1:52 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Please read aloud into public record 6/10

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

Please read my statement aloud into the public record:

My name is Sana Saboowala, I am an Urbana resident in ward 5 and a member of CU Muslim Action Committee. I am sorry I cannot be there to make this statement in person today, but I want to put it on public record that I don't support an increase to the police budget.

The community has made it clear, through the IMC petition, through public comment here at council, and even through conversations mentioned in the first Berry Dunn report itself, that the community is interested in alternatives to policing. The money earmarked for new police should instead go to exploring and experimenting with alternatives.

Increasing the police budget is not justifiable, especially because alternatives haven't even been explored. Increasing police officers won't help to solve any pressing city issues. Alternatives to policing might. Please do not approve increasing the police budget this cycle. There's no need to rush into hiring more officers. Explore alternatives; spend more time finding out what the community needs, because ultimately meeting those needs are what keep us safe.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sana

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Cassidy Short <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2024 6:56 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Input on Proposed Increases to Urbana Police Budget

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed increases in the Urbana police budget. Increased police funding is an irresponsible use of taxpayer funds. Urbana residents want safer ways to call for help that connect people to services. Therefore, I encourage the city to invest in community response models and support services. I will vote for officials who support community responders.

Warm regards,  
Cassidy Short

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Lys <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 9:41 AM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Proposed Urbana budget response to be read into record

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

My name is Alyssa Hall and I am a resident of Urbana.

I've lived here for the past three years and love the area.

There are things that could vastly improve the area and more police presence is not one of them.

Crime in Urbana has been low for the past few years and the majority of the calls have been for non-violent crimes.

What we do know is that many people are ALICE (asset limited, income restrained, employees) who need assistance meeting the bills.

We could spend that money elsewhere on funding subsidized housing, foodbanks, mental health, and job creation.

We could also spend the money on schools, mental health mobiles, treatment for addictions.

So many other things.

What we do know is that more police makes things worse and makes people feel LESS safe.

Please do not spend the money on cops.

Thanks.

Ms. Hall

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt Turino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 7:16 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Read this into the record

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening.

My name is Matt Turino, I am an Urbana resident in ward 5 and have lived here most of my life. I want to voice my opposition to more police being added to our force. Many people in our community have been advocating for years to reduce the scope of the police responsibilities and invest that money into other municipal systems. In stead, we have been increasing the budget in recent years. I would like to see more funding put towards alternative mental health workers and social workers and other staff to support people calling for help, mental health issues or for addressing noise complaints. We clearly have limited funds in a small town like Urbana. We could do so many things to help community members with 2.7 million dollars that would help pull them out of poverty, houslesness or get people services that they need. We do not need these police officers. Reduce their work load and spend that money on our community not on police. There are so many other tools at your disposal that will have better outcomes for Urbana. You have the power to do this.

Thanks you for your time,  
Matt



## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Adam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 7:00 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input for meeting 2024-06-10

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comments into the public record.

I would like to try to make sure we are all working from the same set of facts though.

Mayor Marlin claimed that the statistic of "73% of calls are for either non-criminal issues or noise or music complaints" was incorrect. It is not. I can explain where the 73% comes from.

Page 80 of the Berry-Dunn report shows 5,322 calls were about crime. Of those, 543 were for music and 348 for noise complaints (page 66). This means 4,431 calls about crimes other than noise or music complaints. That makes up 27% of the 16,264 total calls (back on page 80). The remaining 73% were non-criminal, non-music/noise complaints.

All of these numbers come from the Berry Dunn report who credited deputy chief Surles as being one of the primary people who provided the information.

Next, James had a question about public comments saying that the proposed budget increases police spending on by 61% which is a far cry from what it looks like in the budget that has been proposed. I can also help resolve this discrepancy.

As was alluded to a week or two ago by city staff, it depends on whether the context of what has happened over the past few years is taken into account or not.

The police budget in 2019 was \$10,253,245

\$16,529,669 has been proposed for 2025

$\$16,529,669 - \$10,253,245 = \$6,276,424$  increase from 2019

$6,276,424 / 10,253,245 = 61.2\%$  increase from 2019

If we ignore the past 5 years of increases to the police budget and limit our view to just this budget cycle, it's a 20% increase.

It was \$13,762,561 in 2024

$\$16,529,669 - \$13,762,561 = \$2,767,108$  increase

$\$2,767,108 / \$13,762,561 = 20\%$  increase this year

We can debate about whether the city should budget to hire a mediator to handle noise complaints. Opinions may differ on whether we should spend the maximum amount allowed by policy or leave room for any future efforts without raising taxes or cutting programs. Those are all matters of opinion and should enjoy a healthy public debate.

But I'd encourage everyone to be looking at the same set of facts, and refrain from accusations that critics of your proposed budget are citing incorrect numbers when the reality is that you don't understand where those numbers are coming from. Lets try to have a constructive conversation.

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Matt Murrey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 6:39 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Police Department Budget - for the public record

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

(Please read into the record).

My name is Matthew Murrey, I live in Ward 5, and have lived in Urbana since 1992. I STRONGLY oppose any vote by the city council to approve hiring additional police officers.

I think it is a good thing that the Urbana Police have received training in dealing with people suffering mental health issues and are often good at de-escalation, BUT our police department should NOT be used as a substitute for providing social work interventions and mental health assistance to people in our community. Unfortunately that is what is often happening.

I would definitely support the city instead spending a large sum of funds to create and operate a non-police Alternative Responder Team that would be sent to non-violent, non-criminal situations that are phoned into the 911 Metcad dispatcher. That team would only request the involvement of law enforcement if the situation demanded it.

Thank you.

Matthew Murrey

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Miriam Larson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 6:51 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Collaborate with the Community First

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this into the record for City Council. Thank you!

Staying focused on what is positive and constructive is not easy. That is why we look at data to help us assess what we have accomplished and where we need to focus problem-solving energy.

Looking at the FY25 budget, it is clearly positive that this administration and council have created a significant increase in the unassigned fund balance. This was no small amount of work.

Careful decisions over the past five years put us in a position in 2023 to have 27 million in reserves (as of June 30th, 2023). For context, this is up from 13.9 Million in 2022. Pre-pandemic, in 2019, reserves were 15 Million.

You have built the groundwork for us to be flexible, creative and constructive in our programming.

If we continue in this vein of looking at what is going well in our community, we cannot help but look at crime statistics. According to the FBI, we are at a 10 year historic low. Certainly this isn't a reason to become complacent.

But we still must ask, where are the most urgent needs at this moment?

The Mayor's FY25 budget links to a shocking graph that shows the housing price index change over time. These have been steadily rising and there is an alarming spike occurring right now.

The Mayor also states that "we are underfunding our infrastructure needs in the amount of about \$20 million annually."

From personal experience, I'm also hearing from local families and youth that there are simply not enough activities for youth and that we are losing a critical after school program in the SPLASH program, which is funded by a federal grant that is coming to an end.

While I appreciate the increase in the social service grant budget to \$300,000, this is a drop in the bucket to subsidize youth services in the area. When the IMC's grant was approved - we were awarded half of our \$28K request - I heard many council members comment on the strength of all the submitted proposals, of which IMC's was just one. This is a clear space to build, to construct, to set up our youth for success.

These organizations, as well as those organizations funded through ARPA grants, are key collaborators for an Alternative Response Model. And collaboration is most successful when collaborators are involved from the beginning of a new program.

Therefore, I do not think it is appropriate to move forward on any alternative response model or Police Budget increase in the FY25 Budget. First, you must convene and meaningfully involve community organizations and leaders. BerryDunn is slated to do this next in phase 3 and 4 of their study. We are mobilizing as a community to determine what we want to see happen. Now is not the time to lose all the flexibility you have built up. It is the time to maximize outreach, community-building and creative conversations.

Thank you for your service on council.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Larson  
UCIMC Executive Director

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**Miriam Larson (she/her/hers)**  
Executive Director  
Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center (IMC)

*"Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar."  
"Wanderer, there is no path, the path is made by walking."  
-Antonio Machado*

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Katie Muir <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 8:23 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input - June 10, 2024 City Council Meeting

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my following public input during tonight's public meeting.

If the poverty rate in Urbana has consistently been 27% percent since 2020 and, the rate of crime (aside from the rate of violent crime) has consistently decreased in Urbana since 2020, doesn't it stand to reason that the investments we are making in our police force is working?

Katie Muir  
Ward 7