From:	Madison Wilson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	Mayor Staff
Subject:	L.E.A.R.N. Missoula
Date:	Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:10:37 AM

Council Members:

My name is Madison Wilson and I am a resident of Ward 3 in Missoula.

I wrote in yesterday about hiring Six Pony Hitch and was pleased to hear that I was misinformed about who is on the team. But a major portion of my message was not addressed.

While I believe the backbone of this project to be inherently well intentioned, it is wholly misguided. The idea that the Missoula Community must first invest funding into the research of systemic racism, oppression, and marginalization is to ignore the reality of our BIPOC neighbors and to divert funding from true action to the all-too-common notion of performative allyship. Our BIPOC community members live every day of their lives disproportionately affected by police brutality, housing insecurities, joblessness, unequal access to social service, bigotry, violence, and every other toxic facet of systemic racism.

I implore you to educate yourself on your own time and your own dime.

It is your responsibility to do so.

By now, it should be clear that members of this community and citizens of this nation are shouting for the divestment and redistribution of police funding to community services that actively protect and provide for true public safety. The calls to action are specific in their nature. Again, if you need more education on this subject, it is your responsibility to listen. However, it is not your place to request public funding for the privilege of your education.

I implore you to hold additional public forums to provide a safe place for BIPOC voices to be heard and to invest in funding into actionable items that are already being begged of you.

Though I believe your intentions to be good-natured, they are indicative of nothing more than the white privilege which founded this nation and brought us to this current precipe.

Thank you for your time,
Madison Wilson
1211 S. 6th St. W., Missoula, MT 59801
Pronouns: She/her/hers
madisonshayewilson@gmail.com
(512) 934-4187