From:	Madison Wilson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	"Our budget is a reflection of community values..."
Date:	Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:37:55 AM

To the Missoula City Council:
My name is Madison Wilson and I am a resident of Ward 3 in Missoula. I am writing again to demand that you reevaluate the budget for FY21, and consider one that actually prioritizes community well-being and redirects funding away from the police.

Many Montanans may be tempted to think the unique nature of such a vast, yet sparsely-populated state minimizes the likelihood of police brutality in our small city communities. However, as reported by the Billings Gazette last year, Montana ranked ninth in killings by police per capita. In 2017, the Great Falls Tribune reported Montana police killings reached a total higher than the previous six years. These figures are alarming but don't tell the full story. Under Montana Code § 2-6-102 and Article II, Section 10 of the Montana Constitution, police disciplinary records are exempt from disclosure if there is an "individual privacy interest that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure." Montana police forces operate within a culture of impunity, and as the members of the communities they are supposed to be protecting, we can't even begin to grasp the scope of their violence.

Additionally, *right here in Missoula* the case from June 5, 2020, has not been properly addressed. How can you possibly justify giving the police more money when in the midst of creating this budget one of your own civilians has been mistreated by them? I am demanding proper action and accountability is taken for this incident, as well as all other attacks on BIPOC in Missoula! Our community members do not feel safe, and you are not listening to them.

It seems very plain where the values of city council and Mayor Engen lie if this budget that proposes $19 million for police and only $2 million for housing and community development passes. To show the community you care about *them* and not the police, please consider putting more funding into:

- additional, permanent funding to the mobile crisis response team
- additional funding for the affordable housing trust fund
- mental health
- emergency and transitional housing
- local substance abuse support
- promoting racial equity in public schools
- creating community programs that allow people to police themselves

These alternatives get to the root of the problem and reflect our community values. Funding the police does not.

Thank you for your time,
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