From:	Peggy Schmidt
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Invest in housing and social services
Date:	Wednesday, June 24, 2020 6:48:15 PM

Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of the City of Missoula (Ward 4), I urge you to prioritize housing and social services over police funding. We need to re-envision public safety.

There is a successful program in Minneapolis (started in the last few years and being expanded in Minneapolis and copied in other cities) that pairs a social worker with a police officer for 911 calls involving mental health.

Often times, the person just needs to talk to someone. They do not always need to be hauled off in handcuffs or go to the hospital in an ambulance.

There was a lengthy article about it in the Minneapolis Tribune a few years back. The social worker in the original pilot project is my cousin. So if you need more information, I could ask him to point you in the right direction.

I hope you will consider this idea. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Margaret Schmidt
806 W Hallmark Lane
Missoula MT 59801