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|---|---|
| **From:** | Naomi Siegel |
| **To:** | Heidi Bakula; Grp. City Council and City Web Site |
| **Cc:** | Ginny Merriam; Jessica Miller |
| **Subject:** | Re: Please fund social services, not police |
| **Date:** | Sunday, August 16, 2020 1:56:42 PM |

Thanks for your response, Heidi. But I want to reiterate that during this pandemic and time of economic hardship, it is of the utmost important that we fund social services over upgrades in police gear and facilities. Social services (housing, crisis support, domestic abuse support, mental health support) need to be a priority now more than ever. I hope the mayor and city council will see to it that they are doing their part in supporting Missoula and especially our vulnerable communities during this pandemic.
Best,
Naomi

On Tue, Aug 11, 2020 at 8:42 AM Heidi Bakula <BakulaH@ci.missoula.mt.us> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Siegel,
>
> Thank you for your comments. I will pass your message along to Mayor Engen. Mayor Engen and our Police Chief gave a department presentation at the Budget Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, August 5. Mayor Engen wrote a letter to introduce the Police Department budget presentation, which explains his budget requests. In it, he discusses what actions we've taken so far and what we plan to do in the future to meet the needs of the community. His letter explains his reasons for continuing to invest in our police officers, including training needs, two additional officers for better community policing and digital forensic evidence, basic safety equipment, and the replacement of outdated rolling stock. He also discusses what the City has done so far to meet the other needs of our citizens, such as housing.
>
> You can find additional details for the new budget requests in the Police Department presentation or you can watch the committee meeting for the full discussion. The budget public hearing begins at City Council on August 10 and will continue through August 31. You can watch those meetings, learn how to participate, and submit comment online on the meetings page of our website. We also have detailed budget information and public participation tools at www.EngageMissoula.com.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Heidi J. Bakula
>
> Executive Assistant

Mayor's Office

435 Ryman

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 552-6001

**From:** Naomi Siegel <naomi.siegel@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 4:58 PM
**To:** Ginny Merriam <MerriamG@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>
**Subject:** Re: Please fund social services, not police

To follow up on my last email, here are some stats that may be of use and are a telling picture of social services that are desperately needed to support our community. Police will not address these issues - in fact they will only exacerbate them

These stats are based on the 2019 Montana Point-in-Time Survey.

In Montana, BIPOC make up 33% of the homeless population and only 15% of the general population.

49% of homeless children in BIPOC are homeless. BIPOC children experience homelessness at 5x the rate of white children

Please do the work to support our WHOLE community, not just the whiter, wealthier part. IT will only make Missoula better and stronger.

Thanks for diving in to this work and doing the right thing

Naomi

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 1:36 PM Naomi Siegel <naomi.siegel@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Mayor Engen and the Missoula City Council,
>
> As a Missoula resident and voter, I'm writing to say please do not increase the budget for the Missoula police. What is far more important at this critical time is increasing funding for social services like mental health services and affordable housing. Please make a decision that is reflective of supporting our WHOLE community, not just the comfort of a few.
>
> Thank you for your work,
>
> Naomi

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