



How can we #FundCommunitiesNotCops in Minneapolis?

There's a lot of talk about the financial crisis facing the city Minneapolis because of COVID-19, and that is reflected in [Mayor Frey's proposed budget for next year](#). At the same time, communities are currently funding each other's basic needs out of our venmo accounts. Does the city really not have enough money to help people with the things we need to feel safe like food, housing, and mental healthcare, or are the city's priorities in the wrong place?

The resident nerds at Reclaim the Block read through the Mayor's proposed budget. Here are all the places we think money could be reallocated from the police department and put into what communities really need.

Guiding values for these cuts:

1. Immediately cut all services that do not require a transition to alternative response, including but not limited to items that fund police violence & surveillance against protesters, image management/ "community policing" initiatives, and unnecessary staffing.
2. Focus on transferring or eliminating positions and ongoing funding sources out of MPD, not just cutting one-time allocations. This sets us up to sustainably invest in alternative programs that are less subject to the changing whims of elected officials or department head turnover.
3. Do not grow the police force. This includes recruitment.

What can we cut from Jake's proposed budget?

All figures from opengov: <https://minneapolismn.opengov.com/transparency#/49410> and the [Mayor's Proposed 2021 Budget](#). Lines in yellow indicate new programs proposed by the Mayor.

Line item	2021 Cuts	Notes
Items that fund violence & surveillance against protesters and community members		
Mounted Patrol	\$898,723	In 2020, the city of Minneapolis does not need to be maintaining a fleet of horses.
Canine Unit	\$3,094,288	Canine units are primarily used to perpetrate fear, especially against young people. Their effectiveness in drug detection is limited , while the cost of the program is extremely high.

Special Operations and Intelligence	\$6,994,326	(Unit total minus canine unit) This is the fund that covers things like SWAT, surveillance riot cops, tear gas, "less-lethal" weapons, etc. that the MPD used to brutalize protesters this summer. If Minneapolis cut this funding, they could still call the National Guard, this money is just extra padding (we would advise they don't militarize situations at all.
Image Management/ "Community policing" and toothless reform		All of these programs get to the false promises of community policing
CSO Program	\$3,199,138	Mayor wants to restart this program that was put on hold in the pandemic budget adjustments. This is the city paying people to become cops.
Chief of Staff	\$1,171,826	
Backgrounds	\$1,404,466	
Community Engagement Team	\$629,053	
Strategic Analysis	\$698,372	
Community Navigators	\$654,911	
Crime Prevention Specialists	\$1,500,000	(Not listed in budget detail, approximation based on city input)
Recruiting and Hiring	\$503,531	The city must focus on transitioning functions away from police so we need fewer police officers, and identify mid-term strategies to avoid growing the force (e.g. right now MPD sends two officers in every squad instead of one). The recommended budget includes room for 104 individuals to go through training academies. 76 should matriculate in 2021 and 28 will matriculate in 2022 (the academy starts at the end of the year and graduates the following spring).
Police Activities League (PAL)	\$64,746	(Figure from opengov budget tool for 2020 adopted minus wage freeze from adjusted. Unclear how much MPD is allocating this year) On the outright, seems unnecessary bc of COVID, but more deeply, PAL is a part of dangerous community policing strategies
Pilot Programming Fund - Criminal Justice Reform Work	\$50,000	Reform does not work.
Early Intervention System	\$230,000	It is a waste of money to invest in a program that relies on police being the ones to punish police. The trial of Mohamed Noor showed that the Blue Code of Silence is pervasive. This works to expand the department's overall budget, which we know MPD can direct as it chooses.
Unnecessary staffing		
Chief's Detail	\$820,309	
Pre-Service Training	\$4,969,929	No new cops. Since we should not hire new officers, we do not need pre-service training.
In-Service Training	\$3,630,961	No new cops. (This would be for cadets)
Co-Responders	\$685,000	This recommendation is in direct opposition to the recommendations coming out of the 911/MPD Workgroup that was tasked at looking at MPD's duties to see if there is opportunity to remove duties and reassign them to folks with different expertise.

Homeless Outreach department	\$93,000	We saw MPD's violent evictions of encampment residents all summer. Police should not be addressing homelessness issues, instead advocates and <i>housing</i> should be funded. This money could pay five families' rent for an entire year.
Budgets of all precincts + patrol line item	\$19,870,216	20% reduction The total budget of all precincts is \$99M. In the middle of a pandemic and looming super-recession, we need to reallocate resources from the bloated police budget to things like securing housing for community members and providing direct economic relief.
Overtime allotment due to attrition	5,000,000	Through Frey's proposal, MPD is due to shift an additional \$5m towards overtime (on top of the regular \$3.5m). With reduction in response times and general interaction with the public (barricading themselves into precincts) there is no need to more than double their overtime expenses. Until they resolve how they are attending to the expected duties, which they are being paid to do, there should be no pay or benefit increases.
Total	\$53,308,662	

Where do you think we could reinvest that money?

- Access to low-income housing...
- Harm reduction & prevention for the opioid crisis...
- Direct economic relief...

What does your community need?

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Stay tuned to the Reclaim the Block [mailing list](#) and [social media](#) for updates on the budget process and the People's Agenda - coming soon!

Want to learn more about the budget process? Check out this recording of our budget teach-in: <https://vimeo.com/468663507>.

Sign up to testify at upcoming budget hearings: bit.ly/testifyMPLS

November 16th @10am

December 2nd @6:05pm

December 9th @6:05pm