

Committee of the Whole

To the members of the Missoula Public ^{and} Safety Committee,

I am writing to you as a Missoula resident and a citizen of the United States. It is with respect and a desire for positive change that I ask your committee to begin defunding law enforcement programs here in Missoula and reinvesting money into social safety measures.

Protests nationwide have revealed the urgent need for change around how people, especially those of minority groups and stigmatized backgrounds, are treated by police. While Missoula is safe in many ways and for many citizens, there is progress to be made in regards to how we systematically address crime. I am proud to live here in part because Missoula is so often at the forefront of social change, and we can show other cities and states how to create a more just society through our actions here.

Please consider the implications of taking money away from enforcement and punishment here in Montana and investing it into crafting a place where crime is undesirable. A place where those who need it can get transformative care for mental and physical illness, can find affordable housing, and can be brought in rather than shunned from our community.

Shifting the budget on law enforcement and policing will be central to creating this change. In Missoula and throughout our country.

Thank you for your time,
Madison Murrill

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