

From: [Catherine Cachia](#)
To: [Budget Committee](#)
Subject: Written Deputation Submission Re: City Budget, Defund Police
Date: January 23, 2023 2:26:32 PM

Policing is built on a foundation of slavery and colonialism. It is a “power over” system that dehumanizes people and creates a hierarchy of human value. The idea of police reform (DEI trainings etc) is irrelevant because there is no way of rehabilitating something that never had original worthiness. The word “rehabilitate” means “to restore or bring to a condition of health or useful activity”. But there is nothing of value to return to. Only inherent and discriminatory violence that devalues people who are poor, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer, trans, and disabled.

We all agree the police are being tasked with too much. But this does not make them candidates for heroism or martyrdom. Quite the opposite. Every time they respond to a call they are ill-equipped to deal with, they are denying someone the help they need. This is what psychologists call The Dunning-Kruger effect, which occurs when a person’s lack of knowledge and skills in a certain area cause them to overestimate their own competence.

Imagine asking a nurse to step in and perform brain surgery because the surgeon was sick that day? We all know that could lead to catastrophic injury and even death. And it wouldn’t be because the nurse was a bad nurse. They could be the world’s best nurse but that still wouldn’t make the nurse a brain surgeon.

If you cared about that patient’s outcome, would you ask the nurse to step aside? Would you do whatever it takes to get a brain surgeon on that particular job?

This is not hypothetical life or death. People are dying as a direct result of this city’s police “work”. There is no shame in reckoning with this fact. There is only bravery in acknowledging this and stepping aside and encouraging your comrades to as well.

Every dollar spent on police is a dollar ripped from community resources that actually help. As police budgets increase, community safety decreases. As police budgets increase, racial discrimination increases. At this point, we know you know. You admitted it yourself this past summer when you made your public “apology” to black and brown communities. Let me remind you the Chief of Police at the time actually said these words:

“I think it’s important that data is anonymized if you want to get a true picture of what’s happening. I’d be really concerned if everything officers were doing was identified because I think what would happen is they would be less likely to engage, and that’s not a good thing in policing. If we start creating an environment where officers are going to go “oh no this is just going to mean another point against me because I’m actually going to this call and I’m engaging this person”. That’s not a good thing for anyone.”

I would ask, "Anyone WHO"? Because that seems like a good thing for people who are being criminalized. **The police chief literally admitted that police should not be burdened by accountability.** They carry militarized weapons to every call. Systemic racism is not an abstract boogeyman. It is only possible if individuals are willing to uphold it. No one is exempt here.

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"Take chances, make mistakes, get messy". Miss. Frizzel, Magic School Bus