



Leaders Igniting Transformation Demands for Equity & Justice October 19, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to present these important demands for equity and justice in the city of Milwaukee. Leaders Igniting Transformation organizes young people of color to build independent political power for social, racial and economic justice. Our vision is to transform communities through a bold, proactive agenda led by young people so that the movement to respect and value Black and Brown lives is a reality in our lifetime.

Please contact maya@litmke.org with any questions regarding this list.

Policing

1: MPD and the entire state of WI must end the agreement with the Department of Defense under the 1033 program, stop accepting equipment this year, and reallocate those funds out of policing.

Wisconsin law enforcement agencies have received over [\\$45 million](#) in military surplus equipment and we know that a lot of that has been used by officers in Milwaukee, including use against peaceful protests this summer and numerous times before. This year the Milwaukee police department has received [\\$990,868](#) worth of military grade equipment that does not make our communities safer. The Milwaukee Police department must stop purchasing equipment from the Department of Defense through the 1033 program beginning this year. They must remove these funds from their budget indefinitely. These funds should be reallocated by the Mayor and the Common Council to non-police services that promote healthy and safe

communities. We also request that the state formally decline participation in the 1033 program on behalf of all WI law enforcement agencies and believe the Common Council should advocate for this request to be fulfilled by the state.

2: The city of Milwaukee should conduct an audit of the value and impact of defense and military surplus the city has received and make the findings available for public viewing and response.

Conduct and publish a thorough audit of the military surplus that the city has received to date and its use and impact on residents. Milwaukee residents deserve to know what our money is being used for, to have knowledge of what equipment is being brought into our community to be used against us, and to hold the department accountable for investing in deadly weapons over protecting people.

3: The Common Council must vote to divest 25% of the police budget (approx. \$75 million) in 2021 and reinvest the money into various public health priorities identified by a community-led council.

At the expense of critical services that support youth, address poverty, prevent violence, and improve public health, Milwaukee has been funding our police department at nearly \$300 million. The city must divest \$75 million from the Milwaukee Police Department's overinflated budget and reinvest those funds into Milwaukee's potential. Research shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunities, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting safe communities than police or prisons.

Racial Justice

1: The City of Milwaukee should conduct an audit of all government departments which should include a review of practices and procedures for racism, bias, and harm.

We know that to achieve racial justice we need to be vigilant in our critique of public employees as well as systems that we operate in. Institutional racism shows up in the ways that we operate because it predates all of us and is ingrained into the functioning of our society. We can start interrupting racist practices by examining our systems and policies. In order to address these issues we have to first acknowledge them and understand where, why, and how they are happening in our city's departments. There needs to be an audit of all government departments, including but not limited to reviews of hiring practices, staff, departmental procedures, barriers to resident access, and impacts on Black and Brown residents.

2: Recognize racism as a public emergency and fulfill the city's commitment to eliminating systemic racism and racial inequity with the 2021 budget.

In July of 2019, the Common Council adopted a resolution (190098) committing the City of Milwaukee to "take actions toward achieving racial equity and transforming the systems and institutions of racism that impact the health and well-being of the community." We ask that the Common Council fulfill this commitment with urgency. The council must earmark funds for these efforts and fully fund the Equal Rights Commission in the 2021 budget.

Public Health

The City of Milwaukee must prioritize the replacement of lead laterals.

Milwaukee can no longer keep waiting on the State to fund the replacement of lead laterals in the city. In 2018, [9.2%](#) of children tested had

blood lead levels higher than what is considered poisoning. Lead poisoning exacerbates already existing health disparities for Black and Brown residents, causing developmental delays, learning difficulties, and increasing the chance of infant mortality - an issue Milwaukee faces at a higher rate than almost every other city in the nation. Lead poisoning in Milwaukee's youngest residents is a health condition that is 100% preventable, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Milwaukee has taken great steps to fix the problem in the past few years and we encourage the Mayor and Common Council to show more urgency in prioritizing it in our city budget. We believe that more funding can be allocated for Milwaukee Health Department's programs and efforts to educate the community on the problem and work to replace lead hazards in all neighborhoods.