

Lee, Chris

From: Stevie Reimer <stmreimer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Public comment for record on Milwaukee Budget, Finance & Personnel Committee
MTG 10/18/2025

My public comment for the record regarding the Milwaukee budget is as follows.

My name is Stevie Reimer and I'm a constituent from Wuawatosa in Milwaukee, WI.

The 2026 proposed budget provides 36.4% for the police department but only provides 2.7% to health, 3.0% for neighborhoods, and 3.9% to the Libraries in Milwaukee.

This bloated allocation to the Milwaukee police department is the root of many of Milwaukee's problems with police brutality, institutionalized racism and overt oppression. It is this imbalance of funding that favors the militarization of the MPD. It is the militarization of the MPD that oppresses, murders, and terrorizes our communities. It is the oppression, murder, and terror at the hands of the MPD that builds mistrust, that breaks families apart, and traumatizes our communities.

Last week at a Fire and Police Commission meeting there was a discussion about the ongoing crisis of deadly police chases in Milwaukee. MPD gave an abhorrent presentation about the potential solutions and the officer giving the presentation suggested in response to FPC questioning a helicopter for MPD to assist in these chases, quoting that's what the Los Angeles Police Department uses. MPD does not need to be further militarized using LAPD as an example.

MPD suggests further surveillance despite their ongoing push to continue using FRT (facial recognition technology) which has been found to have been used against any SOP. FRT has been found to be run on fundamentally racist algorithms and is statistically more likely to wrongly identify black and brown faces and marginalized genders. This results in false arrests and a lack of privacy. The MPD does not need more surveillance tech, it does not need cop copters, it needs to be defunded. They spent \$40 million on settlements over the last decade due to MPD misconduct. I'm paying for cops to terrorize my neighbors and for them to settle on the lawsuits when the community fights back? Why is that money not going to the community directly in the first place?

The percentage breakdown is alarming given the recent budget cuts to health care, national services, the arts, the media, and so much more. The police have only gotten more brutal and we continue to beef up their budget while neglecting our community. We have no plan to care for the individuals through healthcare, neighborhoods, and more. I am sick of working hard for my paycheck for a fourth of it to be used to pay for the violence at the hands of MPD.