



October 14, 2022

Statement on City Budget

On Monday October 3rd the Common Council chambers hosted the largest turnout for a City Budget Hearing in quite some time. And the citizens that spoke brought a unified Fund the People, not the police message. The Milwaukee Area Labor Council joins our voices with those who ask the question "how much is too much?" when it comes to the police budget. \$300,860,638 is nearly half the entire budget. An increase of \$20 million more over the previous budget. This is an unsustainable path for the City to follow.

The City of Milwaukee should be proud of the investments they make in the Office of Violence Prevention and the Reckless Driving Task Force. Public safety is not measured by the number of officers we have, but by the totality of approaches the City take to create an inclusive community where everyone has opportunity and quality services across the board. The articulated support for libraries, green infrastructure and mental health services expressed on October 3rd all work toward that quality of life in a way that simply hiring more police cannot achieve.

We support the proposed raise of 2% for General City Service employees and the additional 1% aimed at retention. We call for no layoffs of these essential workers. In this way, budget allocation decisions will demonstrate that the work of other departments is valued by members of the Council.