

**Lori Martin**

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**Subject:**

FW: Public Comment

**From:** Amy Prindle [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:34 PM

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Hello!

My name is Amy and I am a concerned citizen and advocate for solutions to major problems. As you blatantly saw this past week at the capitol, our police pick and choose when they decide to use abuse and violence. Abuse mostly being towards Black people.

**We NEED to hold all police departments accountable for abuse, misconduct, and murders.**

**Only YOU Can Prevent Cop Abuse!**

It is vital that we take responsibility towards caring for our communities. The police need to know that they will be held accountable for their actions. The best thing you can do for your fellow community members is to always film any situation that involves the police. If you see someone pulled over or being harassed on the street by the police, **START FILMING THE INTERACTION!** So many wrongful deaths and abuse counts are swept under the rug specifically because they haven't been publicly filmed and circulated. Most of the time, if the cop is wearing a body camera, the footage is hidden for many months after the incident occurred. Often, the police body cam footage comes out edited to prevent showing the officers' actions. Our civil duty is to take on the responsibility of documenting this footage. The entire reason why George Floyd's death caused a country-wide uproar is because his 8 minutes-and-46 second execution video was publicly documented. We need to be actively involved in keeping our community members safe by taking on this responsibility.

**What does De-fund the Police actually mean?**

What it actually means is to reallocated community funds back into systems that will help our communities, such as violence prevention programs, education, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatments, social worker organizations, and non-violent mental health responders to take some of the pressure off of the police.

The police are being asked to be responsible for too much. Asking them to do too much is killing our productivity as a society. We need to focus on each societal problem as a separate issue rather than lumping all of our societal problems onto the shoulders of our police department. This is not helpful to us moving forward individually, nor as a community.

By shrinking their massive budgets, we can help end decades of racially driven social control and oppression as well as address social problems at their root instead of investing in an institution that further oppresses and terrorizes communities. We have been putting bandages on these issues for far too long, yet we have not tried healing ourselves yet.

We can demand that our local officials (including city council members and mayors) stop allocating funds for the police to acquire more militarized equipment and instead ask for that money to go toward community-run violence-prevention programs. We need to put focus onto healing our deeply-rooted community traumas.

Funneling so many funds into law enforcement thriving through their oppressive system only continues major abuse rather than bringing some of those same funds to education, affordable housing, and accessible health care. Police violence is actually a leading cause of death for Black men: 1 in 1,000 Black men can expect to be killed by police.

**THIS WILL ULTIMATELY MAKE ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER!**