

Honorable Council

Greetings

My name is Robert Alex Stubblefield and I am a resident here in Montgomery County and I am writing this to demand that a true people's Budget that does not give more money and resources to the police.

Studies show that more policing does not solve crime. Per a study done by the University of Utah and the FBI, police only solve two percent of crime. A similar study done by Yale Law school says it is closer to four percent. Both of those studies found that despite an increase in police budgets over the past fifty years and the militarization of police, police do not solve crime. One only needs to look at MCPD's counterparts in New York City where despite an overwhelming presence, they couldn't deter nor stop the subway shooting. Let's put this into context. If Paint Branch, Springbrook, or Wheaton high school only graduated two to four percent of it's student body, forget being defunded, those schools either get shut down or taken over by the state. If the Metro or the Ride On only gets people tot their destination two to four percent of the time, they don't get any funding. So why is it that despite all the data that is out there on how police not only do not solve crime but they also do not deter it, why would the council seek to provide more funding to the police force. On top of this, many agree with my view that our police force rather commit state sanctioned violence against the Black and Brown communities that they are allegedly sworn to protect and serve but they instead patrol and control. It is stuff like this, that some scholars have said that this is the first time in civil rights history that there has been backlash to the demands of the people.

What we at the Groundroots demand is that there are no cops in schools. I don't care what model you choose to call, cops in schools are no good especially since they are a key cog in the school to prison pipeline. What is needed are fully funded and administered wellness centers that not only have culturally competent and trauma informed mental health counselors and social workers and restorative justice specialists, but also holistic healing such as Yoga, tai chi, and qigong as well as meditation rooms not only in every high school but in every middle school as well. We also demand that Mobile Crisis Teams not only are fully funded but that they're also a 24/7 service for mental health and substance abuse. A fully funded Restoration and Healing Center that has a comprehensive and holistic approach to not only healing communities harmed

by police terrorism, but to also restore the health of the communities. These are just a few things we could do but putting the people first.

As a final word, this body and some in the community need to stop being afraid of the word Abolition. Police Abolition may seem radical but it isn't. For not only is the recognition of the liberation of people, it already exists. If we look in Places like Potomac, Bethesda, Boyds, Chevy Chase, even parts of Silver Spring, we find police abolition. To be scared of that, tells me that the people of this body would be scared of Slavery Abolition on arguing for reforms to a inhumane system. Act like you all passed the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act and truly build a progressive society with the following in mind:

- Demand that not only are teachers fully paid and that schools are staffed with culturally competent teachers, social workers and staffers but also that school are treated as palaces of learning and not as a training and feeding ground for the prison industrial complex and create a school to prosperity pipeline
- Demand that there be established mental health centers fully staffed in every area of the county and that mental health be treated as a health crisis
- Demand addiction sites be established and that addiction be treated as a public health issue
- Demand that housing be declared a human right and funds are used to provide rent control and rent stabilization but also establish community ownership to truly build communities
- Demand that not only marijuana be fully legalized and taxed but that those who had their lives and communities ruined by the failed War on Drugs but that a restorative fund be used to rebuild those communities, have their records expunged and they be given first priority for licensure, capital funds and lines of credit
- Demand that all drugs be legalized and establish a drug court that is made up of health care professionals, lawyers that will work on the source and cause of addiction
- Demand that sex work be legalized as to take power away from sex traffickers but also to establish that all work has dignity.
- Demand that the County re-allocate funds to establish worker owned cooperatives as well invest in thriving local economies that actually invest in the community and build up economic democracy
- Demand a redistribution of the wealth and resources to areas of this county to truly bring about racial, class, gender equity
- Demand that any business that wants to operate and come to Moco have jobs pay a thriving wage so that no one has to work two to three jobs just to make ends meet and that will enable those to build families and hire people from the community where they do business in with full benefits including the option to own.

- Demand that community gardens be established in food deserts to turn them into food oases' and combat child hunger and

Thank you and Remember the Black Lives Matter Both in Life and in Death