

Chris O'Brien

From: Charlotte Cheshire <charlotte@cheshirefamily.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Comment for House Finance Committee Meeting today 7/21

House Finance Committee,

My name is Charlotte Cheshire and I am a resident of Providence at 2 McCann Place. I am writing to demand that the members of the city council prioritize reallocating funds in the city budget away from the police department and towards community support programs, such as education, local business, housing, healthcare and community-led organizations.

Police forces have always perpetuated the oppression of residents who are Black and POC, undocumented, mentally ill, disabled and LGBTQ. We need to LISTEN to our community's fears and act appropriately and this needs to be reflected in the City Council budget. We are pouring our money into a system that is DESIGNED to uphold inequality. There are so many places where that money could do real good for the community.

We need quality, sustainable, genuinely affordable and permanent housing for ALL RI residents by making sure we set the budget for affordable housing design at least \$8 million in FY21.

We need to compensate RI's essential workers industry standard hazard pay and provide professional grade protective equipment for this and future public health emergencies by raising the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 15% - 20% for tax year 2020.

And we absolutely need to decrease the state's prison, jail, immigration detention, and youth corrections population, including parole and early release, as well as broad criminal justice reforms that result in fewer Rhode Islanders sentenced to jail and prison time. We must cut \$20.1 million dollars for the construction of new prison facilities and cut \$35 million dollars for the construction of new State Police barracks.

We feel extremely strongly that our city's fund would be put to better use if removed from the police budget and directed towards community resources and we will continue to fight for this change.

Thank you for your time,
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