

## Budget—Rational for Defunding and Possible Cuts:

- Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners are exempt positions, and, therefore, the Mayor can reduce those salaries for future savings. Actual numbers is less than 798, but it's important to consider these are the number of positions that are budgeted, so they can be filled at any time.
- *"Approximately 38% of murders, 66% of rapes, 70% of robberies, and 47% of aggravated assaults go uncleared every year."* Brookings Institute.<sup>1</sup> In line with BPD statistics.
- The evidence in *Floyd, et. al. v. City of New York*, a stop and frisk <sup>2</sup> case revealed that 90% of the stops produced were unwarranted.
- Significant cut in the police force is overdue; less money on police brutality settlements. The Fund Balance currently has about 3.8 million set aside for settlements (amount depends on what legal department thinks will be needed). Per Colleen, average amount of officers per 10,000 people is 18.7 officers. When calculated for this region, that's approximately 411 officers.
- One thing to keep in mind is that more retirements (increase in attrition) don't necessarily translate to the same amount in savings. Currently, there is a 37% increase in budgeted fringe benefits for retirees.
- Cell block attendant positions (total of 44)<sup>3</sup>
- 1.2 million of other contractual services- unclear what this is
- \$300k for equipment
- Clothing allowance- unnecessary
- OT for public safety & civilian officers (approx. 10-11 million total)
- Budget was revised from about \$700k to \$1.8 million in police vehicles for 19-20; 1.3 million used to date. Another \$750k budgeted for 20-21.
- Other figures: Projected appropriations for Road Repairs \$450k, Youth Programs \$401k, Parks Department \$487k.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/06/19/what-does-defund-the-police-mean-and-does-it-have-merit/>

<sup>2</sup> Id.; <https://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/our-cases/floyd-et-al-v-city-new-york-et-al>

<sup>3</sup> For article discussing cell block attendant low wages, high turnover, and other issues, see, [https://buffalonews.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/low-pay-main-cause-of-buffalo-s-cellblock-attendant-shortage/article\\_9793c35f-cb81-5402-bdab-131f7186da17.html](https://buffalonews.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/low-pay-main-cause-of-buffalo-s-cellblock-attendant-shortage/article_9793c35f-cb81-5402-bdab-131f7186da17.html).

### Possible Next Steps to Take in the Budget Process:

1. Pressure on Council President/ Finance Chair (currently Wyatt) to meet with key stakeholders to discuss budget early.
2. Review capital budget when proposed for equipment allocated to the police department and ask for justification of expenses.
3. Related-Call on Council to pass a resolution to demilitarize the police and work with local state lawmakers to submit and pass a bill in New York (needs Assembly sponsor)- Montana Law<sup>4</sup>; New York Law<sup>5</sup>. From a budget perspective, this can bring transparency to equipment purchasing process [different models require publication of intended purchase and approval].
4. Call on Council to pass a resolution requiring police to change policies that provide disincentive for officer participation in the community-policing program. An idea for the budget process by replacing bloated high paid positions with more community police positions. This will cut costs and potentially change the relationship between the community and police.
5. Call for removal of unused positions. The budget of salaries with attrition leads to limited transparency in discerning positions that are active and those that are not (e.g. how do we have 95 police Lieutenants across five districts in mid-size city, or do we?)
6. Art. 78's may be a tool to gain information within the Comptroller's office and other areas that can further shed light on what the police department is spending in within their department, more detailed workplace statistics, and to put political pressure on the Mayor and the Common Council to take calls for reform seriously.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://blog.tenthamentendmentcenter.com/2015/04/montana-bill-to-help-block-federal-militarization-of-police-signed-into-law/>; <https://legiscan.com/MT/text/HB330/2015>

<sup>5</sup> <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2020/06/10/bills-seek-to-demilitarize-police>; Alessandra Biaggi S8512 (prohibiting tear gas)[other bill prohibiting use of federal funds for military equipment is not yet proposed, but expected to be]. See also, <https://newrepublic.com/article/144600/trump-wants-re-militarize-police-montana-none-it>.