

From: sarahjanekeefe@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 9:35 PM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: Comment on the FY2021 budget

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To the City Council of University City:

My name is Sarah Keefe and I've been a resident of University City for 6 years. I'm writing today to encourage you to redirect excessive funding from the University City Police Department in the proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

It is discouraging to see the budget allocation for the UCPD has continuously increased at the expense of other essential public services. There is no reason for the current police operating budget to exceed 3 times the amount set aside for public works, for example. U City claims to espouse a "community policing" approach but there is no way to justify maintaining a costly armed force at the expense of all other needs of our community.

We must keep in mind that poorer communities of color are disproportionately the targets of police violence. As police budgets ratchet up ever higher and police forces become larger, excessive force by police against citizens will continue to grow and increase in visibility nationwide unless this money is directed elsewhere. Continually increasing police force personnel and resources will not reduce crime rates as officers will increasingly try to meet quotas and justify their jobs and spending. Arming them more only serves to terrorize citizens who are most vulnerable to police violence.

We must improve our wonderful city by dealing with the root causes of crime and promoting community growth. This requires those with power to shift the budget towards services and works that lift up people's lives in a positive way. These funds would be better directed towards community resources that are in need - such as the library, community center, infrastructure improvements, or housing development. Funds could also go towards preventing job and salary cuts to other departments' valued employees during this unprecedented pandemic. It is essential that we cut funding to heavily armed police who have the power to profile, harass, harm, and kill members of our community.

Please decrease funding for the police for fiscal year 2021 and redirect those funds towards building positive change in our city.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Keefe
701 Limit Ave #15
University City, MO

1801

June 15, 2020

To: University City Council
University City Manager

Dear University City Council and City Manager,

During the FY21 Annual Operating Budget and CIP Study Session and Public Hearing, I would like to request that discussion be on the elimination of the one Planner position budget line item.

I am in against the elimination of that staff position. My reasons are that with the elimination of the Economic Development Director and those duties being absorbed by the current Planning and Development Director, there is no staff to support the director with the planning for the Comprehensive Plan. We have major development initiatives going on and hopefully, new developments coming in FY 2021 that adequate staffing is needed. I am appalled that all of that work will be one staff person's shoulder.

We are trying to develop for the future after being stagnant for decades. Keeping the planner position will ensure that monitoring current development and future proposed developments will demonstrate due diligence of the pledge of keeping University City a destination for both business and housing growth. Even though the "buck stops" with the City Manager on any planning decisions, the City Manager should not take on the role of the eliminated Planner position. The Planning Director (and now Economic Director) needs a team member's support (eliminated Planner position) to assist in the Comprehensive Plan process and any other future planning initiatives.

I hope the City Council and the City Manager carefully take my concerns in to consideration. In my opinion, planning developments have taken too long to come to their conclusion. We need a 2-person team in the Planning & Economic Development Director and a Planner. I am okay with creative budgeting to make this happen.

Thank you,

Patricia McQueen

3rd Ward Resident, 1132 George Street

LaRette Reese

From: Dina Worzel of Componere Gallery <dmworzel@componere.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:43 PM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: Non-Agenda Operating Budget Item Comments

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Hello University City Council Members, Colleagues, and Staff,

I hope that all is well and good with you and yours. Let us hope that this COVID-19 virus will be a distant memory, and sooner versus later.

I am a new Delmar Loop employee starting in 10/19 working in a store in the heart of the Loop as well as a frequent Loop shopper and restaurant goer over my many, too many years, now 72 years of age. From my perspective and my long-term Loop going history, the following Delmar Loop negatives need to be seen, budgeted, and fixed in an effort to increase the appearance of the Loop that as a result will increase sales that will increase the University City Tax Revenue funds as well as support the property values of the U City housing stock and its STL suburb desirability.

1. The sidewalk that one must use to exit the parking lot behind Fitz that connects to the walkway to Delmar on the west side of Salt and Smoke is submerged in water whenever it rains. This "puddle" is about 19x19 with about an inch if not more of water. This "big" puddle stays for days post a rain. In this condition, the walker must walk in the water or walk on the saturated muddy ground, since this puddle covers most of the area upon exiting the parking lot behind Fitz's on the way to Delmar by the Salt and Smoke restaurant. This problem is not good for business and shows a lack of respect of folks using that entrance to the Loop.
2. The west side of the Salt and Smoke building along with that area's common use dumpsters is a ugly eye sore and shows again the lack of class by the City in welcoming visitors entering the Loop from the parking lot behind Fitz. Salt and Smoke should camouflage their cooker and all related as Fitz has done on their west side. This same "hiding" remedy needs to be done with the common use dumpsters in that area. Would you have trash cans and cooking equipment piled up in front of your home's main door walk way?
3. The Delmar Loop must build an attractive, convenient, and safe public restroom. This is a critical Loop public service need that the Loop businesses must have, sooner versus later. to stop the constant requests/demands to use their shop's/restaurant's john.
- 4.

Should you have any questions or I can assist in any way, do not hesitate to contact me. I am at your service to improve our Delmar Loop as well as the entire University City.

Thank You and Take Care,

Hal Deuser, 314-800-9642

On Jun 5, 2020, at 11:18 AM, University City Mo <abamberger@ucitymo.org> wrote: