



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) &lt;michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov&gt;

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## Testimony for Budget Review Hearing on 5/21

1 message

Ash Trull &lt;ashtrull@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 2:58 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov, michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

To Boston City Council,

My name is Ash Trull, and I live at [45 Orchardhill Road](#) in Boston. I'm writing to submit testimony for the 2021 Budget Review hearing tomorrow at 10am.

I am a Boston resident, software engineer at a local education technology company, and community advocate who has lived in the greater Boston area for most of my life. To cut to the heart of my testimony: my largest concern is surrounding the exorbitant spending on the policing and militarization of the city. The City of Boston must reduce the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities. This is a misuse of budgeting and leads to bloated salaries, allocating resources for unnecessary harassment of Boston residents, and reckless allocation of staffing resources. We are in an unprecedented economic crisis and must make some hard and discerning decisions about where the city's limited resources are going.

In my 2 years living in the city proper and my 30 years living in the Boston metro area, I have had far too many negative experiences and observations of the Boston Police Department. Most notably in the past year was their horrific and brutal treatment of demonstrators at the shameful "Straight Pride" parade. The images I saw of the Boston Police department protecting the parade-- a parade largely run by people that don't even live in Massachusetts, let alone Boston, that represented hate, homophobia, transphobia, and racism-- and attacking peaceful protesters holding rainbow flags and joining together in unity against hate were atrocious. That event has made me increasingly certain that this is an institution that's using [too much of our taxpayer resources](#) harassing and harming our taxpaying and contributing residents.

I was also completely disgusted and disappointed by the allocation of resources to "Operation Clean Sweep" a cruel and dangerous program last year that has certainly lead to increased harm, illness, instability and even death on our streets. This is not what good resourcing of our city looks like. Add to that list other policies I've seen around [racial profiling](#), the [Gang Unit harassing Boston youth](#), the racism-motivated "[Countering Violence Extremism Program](#)" targeting our Muslim neighbors, the [BPD's info-sharing with ICE](#) endangering immigrant students, and I think it is pretty clear that our resources are being misallocated.

Instead of funding BPD overtime, our community needs housing, rent and mortgage support, food, healthcare, COVID-19 tests, and jobs. Those are all far above police budgeting on my list of priorities. On the top of my priority list is the need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis. Funding community needs could look like housing programs to offer rent and mortgage assistance, or even

housing debt forgiveness for residents struggling in this hard time. It could also look like setting up more pop-up COVID-19 testing sites and resource redistribution centers like I saw Brigham & Women's set up in my neighborhood in JP as well as Roxbury and Mission Hill. (<https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/05/05/roxbury-coronavirus-testing-spot-offers-food-education-housing-resources-to-community/>). It could look like funding supportive re-entry programs for people coming out of prisons in the area. There are so many incredible opportunities in this moment to support the real needs of Boston residents.

As I said before, we are in an unprecedented health crisis and this is certainly going to put immense strain on our economy and budget. It is in this stark and somber time that we need to take a real look at what's going to ensure the safety and health of our residents. And that is most certainly meeting the basic human needs of food, housing, healthcare, and financial stability, NOT increased increased harassment, violence, and harm from a bloated police budget.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ash Trull

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**Ash Trull**

Software Engineer

45 Orchardhill Road

508-265-0479

[ashtrull@gmail.com](mailto:ashtrull@gmail.com)



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## BPD budget

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**MASC coalition account** <masccoordinator@gmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 4:32 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

As a citizen of Massachusetts, we need to spend more on education and our community resources, and this message as follows:

\*We condemn BPD's ongoing racial profiling, the plainclothes Gang Unit who are notorious for violence, the racist Gang Database run out of Boston Regional Intelligence Center that spies on Black residents, the expanding use of facial surveillance in the city, the so-called Countering Violence Extremism Program which targets young Black Muslim people, and BPD's info sharing about immigrant students with ICE.

There is enough violence in our inner cities and nothing like this is solving the problems we need to find a better solution and care about the families and their loved ones. The community is for these people lets help make it better. Stop the violence.

Cassandra Bensahih , Coordinator MASC  
[masccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:masccoordinator@gmail.com)

"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change..I'm changing the things I cannot accept" Angela Davis



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## Boston City Council Meeting 5/21/2020

1 message

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**Cel Cel** <celcel@live.com>

Thu, May 21, 2020 at 2:02 PM

To: "ccc.wm@boston.gov" <ccc.wm@boston.gov>

Cc: "michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov" <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

Good afternoon ,

My name is Cecelia Dawn and I am grateful for the opportunity to give testimony for my community. In particular, with regards to the manner in which we are handled by officers of the law and the Boston police departments 2021 budget.

We especially need to focus on the community based violence prevention fund & how it could improve our community, however ; zero dollars have been budgeted since 2018.

It's imperative we reverse this revolutionary act of war on our youth. The playground to "prison pipeline" due to lack of resources. Our city must extend existing social & economic development. Instead of building a new prison, establish effective mentoring programs for teens in the turning point of their lives transforming the street mentalities. Unfortunately, a large percentage of youth have been disconnected and cant identify with success. They don't foresee a future nor show concern for a successful one.

Who assists families where "role models aren't present? Sadly so, our fathers, sons, brothers and uncles are in imprisoned , deceased or simply just not present in the home Someone to teach them how to love & value their families which ultimately filter our communities.

We cage And condition our loved ones like animals And when they return to society they are x'd out, excluded from normalcy and treated like a criminal further leading to the pipeline of recidivism for failure to design effective reentry programs that reestablish social relationships such as prison to work, prison to homes, prison to PHD programs. Their options should not be limited to returning to a way of life initially causing incarceration.

This does not define our future as an individual or a community! The community would like to see the Boston police department actively engage in Rejuvenating our communities. Regaining trust & respect for authority. Sponsor ongoing city cultural affairs, fishing events, historical trips, sports competitions, monthly meetings promoting initiative programs for families, effective communication with police authority classes. Make an offer our children may never receive . As difficult as it is to believe some of our youth have never left their city. It's discouraging, disheartening and unacceptable. What CAN our children rely on? Most have become accustomed to routine responses when policing our communities, detaining our loved ones and dividing our families for excessive periods of time without full understanding. When Do I children bear witness of productive problem solving & reuniting families. How will they avoid excessive force tactics that provoke negative social behaviors and without arrests whenever possible. Our children are taught not to call the police for fear of prison, fear of losing their families and fears of being displaced from loved ones.

The Trust & respect for police has declined as a nation! We didn't wake deciding to dislike or disrespect police authority. This is a direct result of harm some officers have caused in our communities. Harm caused by the "us against them" vigilante approach during routine foot and vehicle stops but more importantly arrest tactics, particularly in the inner City on our Youth.

This comment in particular is solely for our Commissioner, Mr. William Gross.

Certainly, everyone understands the frustration of violence in our city. While we all respect and support efforts that respectfully and effectively maintain safe communities. It is without judgement I must speak on the unexpected & unnecessary comment our Commissioner made in reference to a recent shooting. I personally was offended by that comment and it definitely enraged not only you're people but the people. Children who respect and honor your heroism were watching. I hope you will agree and I deeply, desperately and humbly encourage you to give a humanizing public apology in hopes those comments were a result of traumatic & unmanaged anger and frustration. We're killing the race! Now more than ever, It's time we all humbly face our humiliation and right our wrongdoings for the betterment of all by regaining trusted communities where everyone is accountable! Please uphold the honorary oath you accepted in leading that position.

How do we standby as a nation, bearing witness of these actions in place. Is this what educating and empowering our future Mayor's, City Council woman, Governor or the next President looks like? Will they lead in the shadows mirrored and fueled by our own images of harm, values and leaderships?

This is a world of crime and its' destruction is impacting our communities. Without guidance & Accountability of "the village"! We are simply preparing our future for another lifetime of hopelessness, disparity and pain! Its my DUTY to make a difference in our future! In closing I ask where will you stand in our Children's Future? Please redirect funds currently in place to fight communities but rejuvenate your hem with resources that promote positive and effective practices to improve their his nation! It's time we UNCAGE love on our communities and restore the VILLAGE!

Respectfully and Thankfully!

Sent from my iPhone



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) &lt;michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov&gt;

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**testimony submission for budget review**

1 message

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**Cole Papadopoulos** <nikoleta.papadopoulos@gmail.com>  
To: ccc.wm@boston.gov, michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 12:38 PM

Dear Boston City Council,

I am a Boston resident and I am testifying to plead with you to assess the BPD budget critically, with the goal of decreasing criminalization and increasing the budget for programs that the community really needs.

Working class, POC communities in Boston are not only under assault from the COVID pandemic, but an increase in surveillance, incarceration, and other violence from our local law enforcement practices. The budget you are reviewing will have a huge impact on Boston communities and I urge you to put money into community-oriented solutions, directed by grassroots organizers, and NOT into prisons and policing. The Boston Police Department budget is already overly inflated and this budget you're reviewing allocates too much to the BPD. For example, the Mayor's budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime! Meanwhile, the BPD are using facial surveillance, sharing information about immigrant students with ICE, compiling a racially biased Gang Database, committing violence routinely via the plainclothes Gang Unit, racially profiling, and targeting our young Black Muslim neighbors (especially Somali teens) with the "Counterint Violent Extremism Program." The excessive overtime budget also just gives incentive for police to continue to over-criminalize the community. Meanwhile, Boston is in desperate need for funding for programs that will actually help our communities stay safe from COVID and heal from decades of cumulative gentrification and incarceration: vouchers for hotels and apartments for the homeless and incarcerated people who should be released to prevent prisons from further becoming hot spots of COVID; affordable housing in general; better school budgets; trauma recovery and transformative justice programs; and more.

Far too many times I have seen BPD violently arresting my neighbors who were simply living while Black or poor (both). Yet I don't see the city pouring those kinds of resources into programs that actually help and heal and keep us really safe.

In short, please defund the BPD and start funding our working class, Black and Brown communities.

Respectfully yours,

Cole Papadopoulos  
Boston, MA



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## Testimony for tomorrow's hearing

1 message

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**david weimer** <david.weimer@gmail.com>  
To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 4:19 PM

Re: Dockets #0609-0611

My name is David Weimer and I live at [67 Hooker St](#) in Allston.

I am writing to encourage council members to reduce the Boston Police Department budget rather than approve any further increases or maintain its current levels.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. The City Council should refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in our communities, especially the communities of color that have been disproportionately affected by over policing.

The policing issue that concerns me most is how the city's approach to policing relies on racist notions of public safety that demonize Black residents as threats to our city. You need look no further than Commissioner Gross' comments that people who are accused of crimes deserve to get sick, suffer and die of COVID19. Arrests and incarceration do not keep our communities safe; in fact they only cause more harm.

I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, and economic development—including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Weimer



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## BPD Bond testimony

1 message

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**Elijah Patterson** <Eli@newgreyhair.com>  
To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 4:51 PM

My name is Elijah Patterson and I live in Roxbury.

As a white person living near Nubian Square, the beginning of the most-incarcerated corridor in the Commonwealth, I know that I am treated differently than my neighbors, who must also pass the B2 station house throughout the day and hear sirens they may wonder are wrongly intended for them. My Somali neighbors in particular, as Black Muslims, and my Black and Latine neighbors are under attack by TVTP, BRIC, YVS, and gang enforcement that requires zero evidence and follows a person for decades. In other neighborhoods, other races are profiled for involvement in acts of terrorism and harrassed or arrested, fundamentlly, because of their color, migration status, or religion.

I am deeply opposed to the BPD receiving another dime and we can start by rejecting overtime, requiring the police to work within their actual approved budgets and not depend on constant bailouts. We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis.

Instead of funding BPD overtime, my community needs fully funded-- that is, free-- substance use and mental healthcare, as well as community supports that truly address their economic needs.

This issue is important to me because I believe in a world where we don't meet harm with more harm. I believe we can find meaningful ways to address when someone harms the community, and that policing is never a part of that response. We can begin by scaling back use of policing that intrudes to out community, like the \$60.8 million dollars to pay armed police officers to direct traffic at construction sites. As we see bills for new prisons, jails, or lock-ups, we can start to imagine less incarceration by continuing the lower arrest rates that COVID19 has brought us. That has not been accompanied by an increase in crime.

I echo the demands of Families for Justice as Healing and the Building Up People, Not Prisons coalition.

I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you  
Elikah Patterson  
31 Juniper St

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they/them/their  
"[W]hile there is a lower class, I am in it, and while there is a criminal element I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."  
--Eugene Victor Debbs | [blackandpink.org](http://blackandpink.org)





Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## Written testimony re: BPD budget

1 message

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**Elizabeth Adams** <ladams31@hotmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 3:54 PM

To: "michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov" <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Adams. Though I now live in Arlington, MA since July 2019, I lived in Boston (Dorchester and the South End) from 2004 through mid-2019. Although I do not currently live within the city limits of Boston, Boston affects all surrounding towns and suburbs and continues to affect me.

I am writing to ask the City of Boston to please reduce the Boston Police Department budget. There has been an over-investment in the criminalization and surveillance of Black and Brown communities and an under-investment in programs that would actually help these communities thrive.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. Please refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities. That money could be used to invest in youth jobs so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis. Where we put our money is where we put our priorities.

I don't want to live in or near a city that is known for disproportionately surveilling and stopping Black and Brown communities. I don't want to live in or near a city that demonizes these residents as threats to our city. I don't want to live in or near a city where the police commissioner says that he doesn't care if people released from pre-trial detention get sick from Covid-19 and die. That is not what someone says whose goal is to protect and to serve.

Please consider cutting the Boston police budget and investing instead in what Boston communities really need - housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development. We have a chance right now to do things differently - to prioritize differently so our future looks different from our past. Please help do the right thing!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this.

Elizabeth Adams  
10 Magnolia St. Apt 2  
Arlington, MA 02474  
617-968-1445



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## BPD Budget

1 message

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**E.E. Rucker** <enviropacifibinarchafeminist@gmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 2:51 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Cc: michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

My name is Elizabeth Rucker and I live at 31 Juniper St, Roxbury.

The City of Boston must reduce and eventually eliminate the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address and re-dress the decades of disinvestment in predominantly Black and Brown communities' infrastructure, health care, community programs, education, and more paired with exorbitant investment in policing and surveillance.

In particular, the racist Gang Database, the use of facial surveillance, drones, and license plates readers, and violent plain clothes officers to target, brutalize, and kidnap Black and brown people must be ended.

We must invest those funds in a youth jobs program, increasing its funding to \$15,000,000 so that young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this crisis.

We must also make other services and programs available - BPD funds can be successfully reinvested in Black and brown residents' treatment programs, re-entry, and trauma recovery programs. There are many such projects run on a shoestring budget by brilliant individuals who have direct experience of the criminal punishment system and thus can truly support their communities in healing and transformation.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime alone - from watching the actions and practices of the BPD, residents like me can only conclude that these and other funds allocated to the BPD are investment in brutality, racism, and extreme surveillance.

The bloating of the BPD budget also has an important impact on freedom of expression and assembly in this city. At the height of the mass marches for Black Lives Matter, BPD regularly brutalized community members, in particular Black people, who were raising these very same concerns about Boston's priorities and the racist track record of the BPD.

More recently, in August, hundreds of BPD (and other) officers instigated a police riot against LGBTQ+ and their allies at the so-called "Straight Pride" parade. This violence and BPD's consistent choice over the past 4 years to provide extensive police protection to open white supremacists and neo-fascist clearly indicates who the BPD protects and serves.

Luckily, due to the tireless work of Black and brown leaders from Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Eastie we have been shown how we can move to a better tomorrow. We can stop violence in this city by focusing on community-led solutions and supporting all Boston's residents with the resources they need to heal, feed themselves, attend to their health, and cultivate stable housing. We can invest in treatment centers led by people with lived experience, we can reimagine what it looks like to address and prevent harm - structurally and interpersonally. We can refuse to give open white supremacists platform in our city, and instead celebrate the history and future of Black and brown people, working people, LGBTQ+ folks, and women.

These dreams are not so far away, and one of the first steps the City Council can take is to refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities.

**Elizabeth / Ruckus**

she/her - 405 496 8420

*But the day will come—  
You are sure yourselves that it is coming—  
When the marching feet of the masses  
Will raise for you a living monument of love,  
And joy, and laughter,  
And black hands and white hands clasped as one,  
And a song that reaches the sky—  
The song of the life triumphant  
Through the kids who die.  
-"The Kids Who Die," Langston Hughes*



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## BPD Budget Testimony

1 message

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Riley Smith <emiosity@gmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 7:32 PM

To: michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov, ccc.wm@boston.gov

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Emily Smith. I just moved to Somerville but I have spent the past 5 years living and working in Boston.

The City of Boston must reduce the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities.

We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis.

Instead of funding BPD overtime, Boston needs ongoing rental assistance, expanded food assistance, and more childcare options during and after this crisis. Boston needs more funding for healthcare during this crisis. The homeless population needs housing so they can properly socially distance.

This issue is important to me because my friends, family, and neighbors have all been negatively impacted by the BPD and study after study shows that police do not keep communities, especially Black and Brown communities, safer.

I continue to be appalled by blatant discriminatory practices by Boston police and by their continued violation of sanctuary practices for undocumented immigrants.

The Boston Police Department continues to disproportionately surveil and stop Black people, Muslim people, and immigrants. BPD's own data shows extreme racial disparities in Field Interrogations and Observations, and most of those stops and encounters are not based on probable cause.

BPD also uses facial surveillance, drones, and license plates readers to target Black residents. This invasive and racist use of technology is on top of the harassment Black residents experience from plain clothes Youth Violence Strikeforce officers in unmarked cars who are notorious for violence and disrespect.

I oppose racist notions of public safety that demonize Black residents as threats to our city. I was disgusted by Commissioner Gross' comments that people who are accused of crimes deserve to get sick, suffer and die of COVID19. He is talking about our neighbors. He baselessly connected releases from pre-trial detention with an increase in violence. Arrests and incarceration do not keep our communities safe; in fact they only cause more harm.

We have seen a decline in arrests since the state of emergency was declared. We demand that the city does not return to high rates of stops and arrests once our city reopens. The Boston Police Department should never make pretextual stops with no probable cause.

I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emily Smith



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## BPD Budget Review Hearing Testimony

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Jo Dutilloy <s.j.dutilloy@gmail.com>  
To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 1:09 PM

My name is Jo Dutilloy and I live in Lower Allston

The City of Boston must radically reduce the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass a FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities.

We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis.

Instead of funding BPD overtime, my community needs affordable and accessible housing.

This issue is important to me because we are imprisoning and permanently damaging the lives of young people whose futures are full of potential. While my white and privileged family has not been affected by the harms of imprisonment, I have had the opportunity to make art/song with and hear from incarcerated folks who want respect, second chances, and to not be judged by crimes defined by racist police.

I oppose racist notions of public safety that demonize Black residents as threats to our city. I was disgusted by Commissioner Gross' comments that people who are accused of crimes deserve to get sick, suffer and die of COVID19. He is talking about our neighbors. He baselessly connected releases from pre-trial detention with an increase in violence. Arrests and incarceration do not keep our communities safe; in fact they only cause more harm.

The policing issue that concerns me most is the YPIP and the over surveillance of Muslim people and Somali youth. My Muslim friends are far more likely to be the victims of threats or hate and other kinds of racialized terror than they are to perpetrate it. No one should live in fear because they are supposedly more susceptible to "extremism". Over policing is not the answer to radicalism in any community. Being observed, marginalized, and singled out is permanently traumatizing. One of my best friends from a Muslim immigrant family even received death threats for their identity, but BPS chooses to target and recruit youth against their communities instead of addressing white supremacists who target them.

I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including

for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jo Dutilloy



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) &lt;michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov&gt;

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## Written Testimony: Concerns about BPD Budget

1 message

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**Jules Yun** <jules@aarw.org>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov, michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

My name is Jules Yun, and I live in Cambridge. As a concerned constituent fighting for justice, I believe that the City of Boston must reduce the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black, Brown, Muslim, Indigenous, and immigrant communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance.

The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. **As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in the aforementioned communities.**

We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis. As a young person without a job right now, I urge you to think about what this \$60.8 million can do for your/our communities. It can really help uplift so many people in our communities rather than policing them.

***I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.***

Thank you for your consideration.

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Jules Yun

*pronouns: they, them, theirs*

Volunteer | Asian American Resource Workshop

email: [jules@aarw.org](mailto:jules@aarw.org)





Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## Resource our communities!

1 message

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**Kristina Jacobs** <kacobs7@gmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 2:25 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Cc: michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

Hello,

My name is Kristina Jacobs, and I am reaching out because the City Council needs to address the lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown Communities. The City of Boston has instead been focusing on criminalization and surveillance.

The City must reduce Boston Police Department's budget. The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities. We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis. Instead of funding BPD overtime, my community needs de-carceration, resources, housing, and less policing.

The Boston Police Department continues to disproportionately surveill and stop Black people, Muslim people, and immigrants. BPD's own data shows extreme racial disparities in Field Interrogations and Observations, and most of those stops and encounters are not based on probable cause. Boston Mothers have lost their sons due to BPD's racist and islamophobic actions.

These dangerous and targeted programs need to be de-funded. BPD uses facial surveillance, drones, and license plates readers to target Black residents. This invasive and racist use of technology is on top of the harassment Black residents experience from plain clothes Youth Violence Strikeforce officers in unmarked cars who are notorious for violence and disrespect. These white officers are terrorizing black neighbors.

We have seen a decline in arrests since the state of emergency was declared. We demand that the City does not return to high rates of stops and arrests once our City reopens. The Boston Police Department should never make pretextual stops with no probable cause.

**I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.**

Thank you



*Ending Incarceration of Women and Girls*

Re: FY2021 Boston Police Department Budget

To the honorable City Council:

Families for Justice as Healing is led by incarcerated women, formerly incarcerated women, and women with incarcerated loved ones. Our mission is to end the incarceration of women and girls. Our office is proudly based in Roxbury.

Our members have experienced incarceration themselves and have loved ones who are incarcerated. Our members are also survivors of homicide victims, domestic violence, and sexual violence. As people who have caused harm and experienced harm we are in consensus: policing and incarceration cannot address the root causes of harm in our community. Continued investment in policing and incarceration will only cause more harm.

Our founder Andrea James, a lifelong Roxbury resident, writes: “Continuing to increase funding to police and prisons while continuing to provide zero funding to communities, is an ineffective and fiscally irresponsible strategy. It is proven to only cause further harm with no economic benefit and no stopping of the deaths in our neighborhoods. If police and prisons funding did stop these things, it would have demonstrated itself by now as a successful strategy. It has not. Either we are working toward intentional and effective ways to advance the lives of all of our residents of Boston, MA, or the power brokers are being clear with us that the only intention is to oppress and control.”

Families for Justice as Healing asks the City Council not to pass a FY21 budget with a single dollar authorized for Boston Police Department overtime. That \$60 million must be reinvested in Black and Brown communities, through a community-led process. Our members have organized against overtime spending for years. Now, in the middle of a global pandemic when Boston residents are still sick, struggling, and suffering we cannot accept the City Council rubberstamping the Mayor’s budget with this level of spending on law enforcement.

Boston spends more per capita on policing than New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Atlanta<sup>1</sup> at cost of \$596 per person for FY21<sup>2</sup>. This spending is at the expense of Black and Brown residents who simultaneously have to live in under resourced communities while enduring racist profiling, unconstitutional stops and searches, constant surveillance which amounts to stalking, and the threat of violence and abuse at the hands of mostly white men in plainclothes jumping out of SUVs. Your constituents want something different.

Families for Justice as Healing members are leading a transformative justice project from the heart of the most incarcerated neighborhoods in the Commonwealth. Community members are working on alternatives to dealing with interpersonal harm that don’t involve the police, courts, and jails. Black women are leading a beautiful process that will transform our neighborhoods. Most impacted residents have the solutions, and just need the resources.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/08/07/how-much-do-u-s-cities-spend-every-year-on-policing-infographic/#565bcaae7b7>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2020/04/V3%2012-%2021%20R%20Public-Safety-Cabinet.pdf>



*Ending Incarceration of Women and Girls*

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross' recent comments embody the culture of law enforcement in Boston. Commissioner Gross said he doesn't care if people get sick and die, just because they are accused of a crime. The Boston Police Department dehumanizes and demonizes residents while blaming and shaming our communities. Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan are represented in the media as bad, dangerous, and violent neighborhoods.

What is never acknowledged by the Commissioner, or represented in the media, or funded by the City of Boston is residents working together to feed each other's families; residents organizing to protect each other from eviction; residents caring for each other's children; residents raising money for each other's health care; residents supporting each other to heal from trauma; residents stepping up for each other to resolve conflict; residents coming together when one of us is facing a court case; residents funding a small business we depend on; residents meeting on nights and weekends to discover what different looks like; residents surrounding each other with love and support in spite the city's disinvestment and disregard.

This is the year to demand accountability and transparency from the Boston Police Department, including data collection and reporting. This is the year to end pre-textual traffic stops. This is the year to insist that we don't rely on the Boston Police Department for public health and mental health services, and do not allow arrest rates do not return to pre-COVID19 levels. This is the year to make housing a right, not a reward. This is the year to make it Boston city policy that we don't respond to poverty and addiction with policing. This is the year to stop funding police overtime, and start investing in what communities really need to be safe and healthy: housing, education, and economic development.

Families for Justice as Healing staff and members have the lived experience and the expertise to talk with members of the Council about what's happening on the ground in in our neighborhoods, what different looks like, and strategies to reinvest in our communities.

Sincerely,

Mallory Hanora  
Executive Director



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) <michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov>

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## Re: BPD Budget

1 message

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**Maya Kratzer** <maya.kratzer@gmail.com>

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 4:57 PM

To: ccc.wm@boston.gov

Dear Boston City Council,

My name is Maya Kratzer and I live in Brighton. I am writing today to voice my concerns about the Boston Police Department Budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance. For example, the Boston Police Department continues to disproportionately surveil and stop Black people, Muslim people, and immigrants. BPD's own data shows extreme racial disparities in Field Interrogations and Observations, and most of those stops and encounters are not based on probable cause.

While funding for vital community resources suffers, the Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities. We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis.

I am a survivor of sexual assault. What would help me and my community is access to affordable housing, transportation, and healthcare, not funding for police overtime.

I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maya Kratzer  
A very concerned Brighton resident

## Testimony Regarding Boston City Council Dockets #0609-0611

My name is Melanie Patten and I am a voter and constituent living in Roslindale.

The City of Boston must reduce the Boston Police Department budget. It is well past time that our City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance.

Mayor Walsh's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending. Instead, our city needs to reinvest that money into resourcing Black and Brown communities.

***Instead of funding BPD overtime, we should be using this money to provide the resources that our most vulnerable communities need to stay safe and healthy. We must ensure that our Black and Brown neighbors have the food, housing, and healthcare they need to survive, as well as the education, enrichment, and economic opportunities that build thriving communities. These are the people being hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic instability, and continuing to fund the police who strategically target these people instead of resourcing their communities only perpetuates institutional racism.***

***We must provide support and stability for people who are unemployed and under-resourced, including support networks to sustain our formerly incarcerated residents as they work to rebuild their lives in a way that is meaningful and sustainable. Formerly incarcerated people have already been carved out of the federal relief efforts. We must do all we can on the city level to make sure that people in the most targeted Boston neighborhoods, regardless of past convictions/legal system involvement, have everything that they need to care for their families, and if they are business owners, can continue to pay their employees and have an opportunity to remain viable after the pandemic and resulting economic crisis are over.***

The Boston Police Department continues to disproportionately surveil and stop Black people, Muslim people, and immigrants. BPD's own data shows extreme racial disparities in Field Interrogations and Observations, and most of those stops and encounters are not based on probable cause.

BPD also uses facial surveillance, drones, and license plates readers to target Black residents. This invasive and racist use of technology is on top of the

harassment Black residents experience from plain clothes Youth Violence Strikeforce officers in unmarked cars who are notorious for violence and disrespect.

I oppose racist notions of public safety that demonize Black residents as threats to our city. I was disgusted by Commissioner Gross' comments that people who are accused of crimes deserve to get sick, suffer and die of COVID-19. He is talking about our neighbors. He baselessly connected releases from pre-trial detention with an increase in violence. Arrests and incarceration do not keep our communities safe; in fact they only cause more harm.

We have seen a decline in arrests since the state of emergency was declared. This is a good thing, and we should demand that the city does not return to high rates of stops and arrests once our city reopens. The Boston Police Department should never make pretextual stops with no probable cause.

***I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.***

Thank you for your consideration.

Melanie Patten  
15 Symmes St. #1  
Roslindale, MA 02131



Michelle Goldberg (City Council) &lt;michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov&gt;

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## Written Testimony

1 message

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**Michelle Stockman** <michelle.d.stockman@gmail.com>  
To: michelle.a.goldberg@boston.gov

Wed, May 20, 2020 at 1:19 PM

Re: BPD Budget

My name is Michelle Stockman and I live in downtown Boston near Fenway. The City of Boston must reduce the Boston Police Department budget. The City Council needs to address a lack of investment in predominantly Black and Brown communities and an over-investment in their criminalization and surveillance. The Mayor's FY21 budget requests \$60.8 million for police overtime. As a first step, the City Council must refuse to pass an FY21 budget that allows for a single dollar of police overtime spending and instead reinvest that money in Black and Brown communities. We need to invest in a surge in youth jobs, increasing funding to \$15 million so young people can support themselves, their families, and their communities during this economic crisis.

We need to take deliberate and thoughtful action to combat the racial disparity in this country and in our own community. Changing the status quo can seem overwhelming and terrifying, but it's no excuse to continue practices that disproportionately benefit the white community and harm the black and brown communities. These disparities have been significantly heightened due to the pandemic which is impacting people of color at much greater rates. We need to focus on supporting these communities and this reasonable reallocation of extraneous spending is one way we can make a difference.

The Boston Police Department continues to disproportionately surveil and stop Black people, Muslim people, and immigrants. BPD's own data shows extreme racial disparities in Field Interrogations and Observations, and most of those stops and encounters are not based on probable cause. BPD also uses facial surveillance, drones, and license plates readers to target Black residents. This invasive and racist use of technology is on top of the harassment Black residents experience from plain clothes Youth Violence Strikeforce officers in unmarked cars who are notorious for violence and disrespect. I oppose racist notions of public safety that demonize Black residents as threats to our city. I was disgusted by Commissioner Gross' comments that people who are accused of crimes deserve to get sick, suffer and die of COVID19. He is talking about our neighbors. He baselessly connected releases from pre-trial detention with an increase in violence. Arrests and incarceration do not keep our communities safe; in fact they only cause more harm. We have seen a decline in arrests since the state of emergency was declared. We demand that the city does not return to high rates of stops and arrests once our city reopens. The Boston Police Department should never make pretextual stops with no probable cause. I am asking the City Council to take a stand. Real public safety comes from cutting the Boston police budget and investing in what communities need: housing, healthcare, treatment, education, youth jobs, and economic development - including for formerly incarcerated people who need housing, healing, and economic stability after prison or jail.

Thank you,  
Michelle