



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

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1 message

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**Sofia Urrutia-Lopez** <sofia.urrutialopez@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 9:11 AM

To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Dear Stevenson City Council Members,

First, I'd like to start off by saying "thank you"! I truly appreciate that you all take the time to evaluate contentious topics that can produce a range of emotions and opinions with openness and scrutiny. It's rather important to me that I can depend on a city council that evaluates these topics on a rounded base with critical thinking in place. Keep up the work, it is appreciated!

I've been watching and consuming city council meetings for a number of years now and 2020 seems like the most difficult time to be in a position as such. We are facing much adversity throughout our nation and within our city limits. We are all tired, stressed, and overwhelmed.

Myself and other community members have seen first hand what this does to those in leadership positions and fellow community members.

It's disappointing that mental health services and resources do not seem to be a priority amongst law enforcement. From what I understand, there have been several incidents where a mental health counselor was needed but not called to the scene. One of the main determinants being that we do not have local resources available at a moment's time notice. Our law enforcement officers are expected to enforce the law while also evaluating mental health crises, watching for traffic violations, assessing domestic abuse situations, managing homeless issues, etc. They have a lot on their plate!

I believe that mental health resources are valuable and needed not only in Stevenson but Skamania County. With a higher budget allocated to these resources, in partnership with the Sheriff's office, we could take a load off a LEO's shoulder and help the community at the same time.

An increase in funding for preventative community safety needs, such as mental health crisis responders, access to mental health and substance abuse treatment will stabilize and lead Stevenson and Skamania County into a safer, thriving, and successful community environment.

This can be done with the City of Stevenson's deliverables within the contract for the Skamania County Sheriff's Department. This would need a partnership between both organizations and I am hopeful that this can be done. It is my belief that we all want to see a successful, safe, and thriving community, those in leadership positions and community members.

Please submit this for public comment. Thank you!

**Cheers,**  
**Sofia**