

December 10, 2020

Dear City Council,

I am again writing to voice my support for one, all the work you do! Frankly, without you we would not have a working city. I'm not able to tune into your live meetings but very much appreciate the YouTube recordings I can catch up on when time allows. Thank you for your love of our city and willingness to commit so much energy to making our community better!

That said, I'm sorry the topic of Sheriff Brown has become such a "hot topic". It seems clear to me, many don't listen to your meetings and jump to quick conclusions on defunding. There was no talk of defunding but in determining how funds should be used. I think all sides would agree with that protocol.

It's clear that our community needs mental crisis support and I expect this need will continue to grow. Forecasting budgets is all about looking at the need now and what future needs for 2021 might be. I'm pretty sure we can all agree mental health/mental crisis care needs are growing and will continue to do so.

Furthermore, I was very disappointed in Sheriff Brown's response to diversity training. His comment made it abundantly clear that diversity/anti racism training is needed within his agency. I'd like assurance our sheriff's department is involved in diversity/race sensitivity training. If not, another area I'd like to see funds directed.

I'm in no way for defunding the police but I'm in full support of full transparency of where and how budgets are allocated. I think the Sherriff and his department need oversight as does any government agency.

The Sherriff's office is a reflection of our community. Not supporting the mask mandate/Covid protocol may appeal to some but it's very off putting to others and is it really how we want our community viewed. I'm proud of our little community and wish to think of it as welcoming, caring and safe. For our downtown to thrive we need tourism dollars and "welcoming, caring and safe" will keep tourist coming and spending. Along those lines, I am aghast at the lack of professionalism on the Sheriff's Facebook page. This is a public facing media that should represent our community with a professional tone and messaging. I looked up a few other city Sherriff Facebook pages. They are focused on positivity and helping their community. Not once did I find a divisive comment or lashing out at the sheriff or community commenters. If our sheriff's department can't "police" their Facebook page it should be closed to public comments.

Thank you again for your time. I recall one of you said something along the lines of "if we're not here doing this who will, you'd all run unopposed". Thank you, we need you and deeply appreciate your service to our community! Please include my comments in the city council meeting packet.

Sincerely,

Angela Lindbo

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