

DEFUND SPD/REINVEST IN COMMUNITY

July 7, 2020

Decriminalize Seattle

King County Equity Now

DEFUND SPD/REINVEST IN COMMUNITY

- The national and local uprising in defense of Black lives creates a mandate for city officials to act without delay to defund the Seattle Police Department.
 - Nearly 45,000 people and over 300 organizations have signed on to the demands to defund SPD by 50%, reinvest in community, and free all protestors.
- The 2020 rebalancing process provides the opportunity for officials to immediately act to divest from policing and reinvest in real community health and safety.
 - Any cuts from SPD budget should be earmarked for reinvestment in community-led health and safety initiatives.

WHERE COULD CUTS COME FROM?

- Freezing hiring
- Reduction in patrol staffing, with corresponding reduction in administrative staffing
- Remove the Office of Collaborative Policing, including Navigation Team
- End contracts with private firms that defend SPD and the City against police misconduct
- Cut SPD's recruitment and retention budget
- Cut SPD's public relations budget
- Cut SPD's spending on Homeland Security
- Cut SPD's training budget
- Prioritize for reduction those officers with highest number of complaints
- End overtime pay for police officers

WHERE SHOULD REINVESTMENTS BE MADE?

1. Replace current 911 operations with civilian-controlled system
2. Scale up community-led solutions
3. Invest in housing for all
4. Fund a community-led process to create a roadmap to life without policing

THE REINVESTMENTS: I. REPLACE CURRENT 911 OPERATIONS WITH CIVILIAN-CONTROLLED SYSTEM

- Seattle should take 911 out of SPD's control. 911 dispatch should be fully civilianized.
- 911 calls should be referred, where appropriate, to non-police responders. This includes community-based workers who can provide mental health support, family and community mediation, drug-user health, and many other crisis services.

THE REINVESTMENTS: 2. SCALE UP COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

- Many groups in Seattle are already doing work to keep us safe without relying on police, including both violence interruption and violence prevention.
- Many more would jump into this work if given the chance - and the funding.
- The City must invest in scaling up community-based solutions to keep us safe, so we can grow our future without SPD.

THE REINVESTMENTS: 3. INVEST IN HOUSING FOR ALL

- Even as we build towards an SPD-free future, people need immediate assistance.
- The City should immediately invest in housing - rather than criminalizing - chronically houseless people.
- All options should be used until any unhoused person who wants a place to live has one.

THE REINVESTMENTS:
4. FUND A COMMUNITY-CREATED ROADMAP
TO LIFE WITHOUT POLICING

- SPD has had over a century to produce community safety and has failed.
- Seattle residents most impacted by policing must be asked for input on what they think produces community safety and what they want to see more of in their neighborhoods.
- The City should fund a community-led research process to give community members the time and space to imagine life beyond policing.