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All quotes attributable to Defund WPD

Statement in Support of Pa'Lante's Demand that Worcester City Council Re-Do Budget Vote

Defund WPD stands in solidarity with Pa'Lante and the protesters standing outside city hall tonight demanding the Worcester city council re-vote on the FY 2021 budget. In the FY 2021 budget, the city will provide a \$254,000 increase to the Worcester Police Department and will allot \$861,000 for School Resource Officers. (Defund WPD can make someone available to discuss research on School Resource Officers with news organizations.)

We, along with Pa'Lante, expect that the councilors will listen to the hundreds of residents that have flooded their offices with phone calls and emails, and who have given public comment at the last three city council meetings. Councilors need to take all community members seriously, not just the voices that have the time and resources to attend neighborhood watch meetings.

More policing at the literal expense of community agencies that provide stable housing, access to education, and opportunities for youth to engage in sports, arts and the workforce makes our city less safe and stands in contrast to the underlying principles of the Black Lives Matter movement.

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