

August 12 Policing

Multiple Emails asking council not to defund the police – listed name and address where appropriate and if comments were more extensive listed them to follow with the guidelines we have previously used.

Lisa Young ,1539 East Emmaus Ave

I am hearing that there is a push to defund our Allentown Police Department, I am a business owner in the city, my family all live in the city of Allentown, we depend on our Allentown police when violence arises, please do not defund our police department.

Melissa Moyer-Schneck, Teri Moyer-Miller, Darren Moyer, Matthew Moyer, Fred Moyer
224 N. 10th Street – No Defunding

James Lisicky 1929 East Pennsylvania Street

I do not want the police defunded , I support the apd. I have a blue lives matter flag, we need more funding for police.

Mark McDermott, 1929 West Cedar Street

I add my name to the list, as I do not want our police department defunded. I fully support the Allentown Police.

Christine Dakes, 1054 N. Ott St.

I urge you and Allentown City Council to NOT defund the police! In fact, quite the opposite is needed due to increases in crime and lawlessness! I am a life-long supporter of the police, and they need our support and funding! Citizens fear the chaos, anarchy, lawlessness we are seeing! We need our police more than ever!

I am life-long resident of Allentown, first on the South Side, and now on the West End since 1990. I have seen the decay of Allentown, and crime creep into my neighborhood.

DO NOT DEFUND THE POLICE!

WE NEED THEM NOW MORE THEN EVER!

We need more police and police funding! not less!

Do not act to defund the police at this upcoming Wednesday city council meeting.

I vehemently support the APD and oppose defunding.

David Seng of 2405 Tilghman Street

My name is David Seng of 2405 Tilghman Street, 18104. Please do not in any way reduce the funding of our Police Department. I am a 100% supporter of our law enforcement and as many citizens, I find this idea of defunding to be completely ridiculous and short-sighted.

Frank E Griffith, 36 S. OTT STREET

Public office positions should be defunded. All representatives should volunteer their time and hold a Job that would allow them to do so. We should be able to kick them out of office should they not keep there campaign promises they run on. We could use that money for any assistance the men in blue need in regards to the mentally ill aspect of things.

Who in their right mind wants to have less protection?

I support the Allentown Police Dept and want more men in blue not less.

Defunding the Police Department would only jeopardize Allentown's ability to protect itself from any and all Criminal activity. The suggestion to defund the police is absurd. Their Job description has not changed and these times seem to be getting worse not better.

Why ask our residents to give up their societal protection? Because of them we agree to live in peace. That would be like asking us to give up our guns. Next it will be our God given rights.

If you defund the police there will be no equilibrium/ equalizer. Oh I forgot about open carry laws. We don't have to open carry so far because of the police. We do not need another Wisconsin or Chicago..... or New York or New Jersey.

Please do not try and fundamentally transform Allentown.

We are Pa Proud.

We love and support our Allentown Police Department.

We also love and support our Allentown Sheriff Department.

LAURIE HORTON, 1701 SARATOGA CT

I DO NOT WANT TO SEE MY POLICE DEPARTMENT DEFUNDED. I OPPOSE THIS MEASURE THAT WOULD INSURE THE FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF OUR CITY

Brad Piatt, 707 N Muhlenberg St

I understand there will be a discussion concerning defunding the APD. I support the APD and if anything they need additional funding for a few more officers and equipment. They have done well but struggle with the limited number of officers. I support INCREASED funding of the APD. The idea of defunding is without merit.

John Zimmerman, 1917 W. Congress St.

Thanks for working for our city. I would like to voice my support of our Allentown Police Department. I have always had good experiences with them, and I feel that they have worked very hard to keep our city safe. I know that our country is going through a period where a handful of events, often twisted and inflated by the media, have reflected negatively on Police across the whole country. I know many communities think that they are “Progressive” or “Woke” by defunding the police, allowing criminals to have more freedoms, while handcuffing law enforcement.

We don't need more crime in our city, and defunding the police will obviously invite more crime. I want to share my support for our brave men in blue and request that any mention of defunding our police be overturned or stricken from any votes at the City Council meeting this week, or in any future meetings.

As an Allentown taxpayer for 23 years, I have no problems with my tax money going toward law enforcement. Let's defund the criminals instead.

Kevin D. Westgate, 1714 W Greenleaf Street

Please be informed that as a taxpaying resident of the City of Allentown, PA, I am opposed to any defunding or and reduction in the budget for the Allentown Police Department. The Police Department is already understaffed and the quality of life suffers without our full budget allotment for the Police Department.

Linda Kind, 1045 N. Main Street – No to Defunding

Jessica Pooley, 341 N 8th

There is a Marxist organization called Black Lives Matter that has infiltrated our country and has been using violence and rioting to push their agenda to defund our police.

I'm absolutely furious that this is something that is being considered in Allentown and that these people have been screaming their messages into the ears of our council members.

Our city is plagued everyday by drugs, violence, and other criminal activities. I see our wonderful officers on the streets every day supporting our community while keeping us safe. We need more police on our streets not less. I advise you to take a look at the criminal activity reported on NextDoor and the Neighbors by Ring App. I see vehicles being broken into, property being stolen, and now even drive by shootings (<https://neighbors.ring.com/n/DLVQ32o0O3>). I'd love for you all to explain to these citizens plagued by these activities how defunding our police is going to help them.

Similar actions have been taken in cities like Chicago with detrimental consequences. If you will not allow our police to protect us you will see this city devolve into similar states of chaos. Gun ownership has skyrocketed in the wake of these protests because people are terrified and they're afraid to speak up because Black Lives Matter members participating in doxxing and violence against those who speak out against them.

I will say it again, listen to the silent majority not the screaming mobs of children who contribute nothing to this city. Only criminals want to see the police defunded.

Carol O'Donnell, 921 Belford Rd – No to Defunding

Linda Slifer 724 N St Lucas – No to Defunding

Joanna Blose, 314 S. 23rd) – No Defunding

Hongfu Ding, 731 N 29th st

I support law and order. Don't defund the police

Barbara Vadas, 2920 W Highland St – No Defunding

Douglas and Vicki Hensinger, 945 Meadowbrook Circle – No to Defunding

Paul Evans, 5 N 18Th Street, Apt.3E

As a resident of Allentown, PA. I fully support the police department. Allentown Police are 100% instrumental to each and every resident in this city. Does the city council realize how much this will affect non-residents who work in this city? Does the council know the businesses that reside in this city will pull out/move!

Dear APD, Thank you for all you do!

All the following No to Defunding: -

Philip Corvino, 817 N 28th Street No to Defunding:

Bob and Marilyn Martin, 824 N. 28th St No to Defunding:

Lindsay Simock and Jason Simock,925 North main street No to Defunding:

Isabelle Wessic, 1425 Coventry Rd No to Defunding:

Carmie Martino at 1037 N St Elmo St, No to Defunding:

Janette Denil, 133 S. Miller Street No to Defunding:

Phyllis Trower. I live at 4134 Primrose Drive No to Defunding:

Sharon Schneider, 1221 Whitehall Avenue No to Defunding:

Paul Breitfeld. 1020 E. Tremont Street No to Defunding:

I'll make this short and to the point - If you do anything to put our town in danger by tying the hands of the police, I will form a Vigilance committee.

Jane Avate, 2038 W.Livingston St. no to defunding

Carol Mickley, 2667 Mosser St. no to defunding

Mira and Boris Slizovskiy 2558 Covered Bridge no to defunding

Sharon Billington,1509 Chew St.

I have two areas of concern regarding R-94:

1. Regarding the possible releasing of body cam footage to the public, does an individual's right to privacy supersede the public's demand to know? Bystanders, witnesses, victims and possible offenders may at the very least be uncomfortable with their image being

accessible and available, potentially forever, on virtual platforms for all to see. It also could subject these individuals to negative social media comments, misuse of their image, opportunities for retribution, and potential for physical and emotional harm. This could then present liability issues for the City if permission from all on the film are not secured before releasing the footage for mass viewing. If a person does not want footage released, then the City needs to have effective communication in place so that the public is aware of the circumstances behind the non-release.

2. Regarding the final paragraph of the document, the reviewing of "priority budgeting and allocation (reallocation) of resources as they relate to community needs", it must also be required that there are expectations of accountability and transparency for the supports, services, sectors, and agencies receiving these funds. This is necessary to ensure that the prioritizing of these funds is not creating unintended consequences or ineffectual in their goals. Therefore a quarterly or bi-annual report should be required and include the following:

1. The names of the services, supports, sectors, or agencies receiving the prioritized funding,
2. How this service, support, sector or agency was vetted and why it was chosen,
3. The amount of money that was appropriated,
4. How the designated funds were spent or are intended to be spent as well as what was spent to date,
5. How many citizens will this funding target and benefit and are there specific demographics to be prioritized,
6. Identify rubrics for measuring success, both initially and on-going,
7. Is this a self-sustaining or renewable program/service,
8. Is it a one-time funded investment,
9. Will it be able to continue if public funds are no longer available,
10. Are grants available and is there a designated person to pursue these options,
11. Since it is assumed that this prioritized funding may come from the Allentown Police Dept. budget, has the enhanced funding to these services and supports reduced total police calls, police interactions, and/or arrests in these focus areas,
12. Has any reduced funding of the APD, due to changes in funding priorities, caused longer police response times, inability to meet the needs of the residents (whether criminal or quality of life), or reduced the ability to investigate law violations in a timely, effective, transparent manner.

This Resolution specifies accountability, transparency, and discipline requirements for the APD, therefore, there should be the same standards and expectations for any service, support, sector, or agency receiving the prioritized funds. As the saying goes, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions". Wherever funding is directed, we need to make sure that it is maximized for improving the quality of life and safety of all the residents of Allentown and that it is not wastefully or ineffectually utilized.

Sue Gowdy, 901 N Glenwood St

Just putting my 2 cents in about defunding the police. As a former Deputy Sheriff for Lehigh County I am appalled at the current state of affairs in this country. Do not bend to the vocal minority and take any money away from the police force. You have an excellent chief in Glenn Granitz. You can work with him to make the department a great department. His community policing efforts have been amazing. I want to support APD in every way. Thank you!

Theresa Geiger, 621 N. 20th Street – No to Defunding

Lindsay L. Taylor, 2639 W. Washington St.-No to Defunding

Barbara and Eugene Cathy, 2722 W Washington St.

My husband and I are Allentown residents and disagree with any measure to defund the police. Additional funding: YES, if the police deem it necessary.

Defunding: NO.

Richard Harris , 2608 W Tilghman

Jill Schralla-Stephens, 826 N 22nd St

Jayne Wasilewski, 3031 W Greenleaf St

I am against defunding the police. After all what are we paying taxes for? To let lawlessness overtake our community, businesses & property? Who will be there to protect us? Defunding the police that unselfishly put their lives on the line daily to protect those they do not know is a fundamentally bad idea.

Ethan Burda, 415 N 23RD Street – No to Defunding

KATHLEEN M DUNN 426 N.BROAD STREET ALLENTOWN,PA. – No to Defunding

Jan Tarulli-Bush, 1939 W. Congress St. – No to Defunding

Lynne Robinson , 2314 W Livingston St– No to Defunding

Anita Eaves, 214 N 40th St

Ken Roth, Vicky Roth- 625 N. 29th St. – No to Defunding

Mary Nagle, 3831 Highpoint Drive– No to Defunding

Lawrence F Walsh, Michelle R Walsh , [716 N Saint Lucas Street](#)– No to Defunding

Mary Smitreski, 425 North Hall Street– No to Defunding