
DATE: Monday, August 24, 2020
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: *Held virtually due to Governor and Mayoral Emergency Orders

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session August 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: City Council Members (CM) Maryalice Wu; Julie Laut; Shirese Hursey; Bill Brown; Dennis Roberts; Bill Colbrook; Jared Miller

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY: Sheila Dodd; Kay Meharry; Carol Mitten; Lorrie Pearson; Bryant Seraphin; James Simon

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Public Input via Zoom: Adam Rusch; Billy Keniston; Lena Walker; Tracy Chong; Austin Hoffman; Christopher Hansen; Julie Watkins; Tony Temple; Ann Marie Esposito; Meghan McDonald; Allan Axelrod; Karen Medina; Rita Connolly; Brandy Vale; Ameena Payne; Justin Hendrix; Angel; Beau Harber; AJ

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

CM Miller moved to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2020 special meeting. Motion seconded by CM Wu and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown; Roberts, Colbrook, Miller

Nay: None

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mayor Marlin announced the Hillard Heintze report would not be presented at this meeting as previously announced, as it was not yet available. She said it will be presented at the September 8 meeting.

D. *PUBLIC INPUT AND PRESENTATIONS

Public input via Zoom

Mayor Marlin announced public input would begin with anyone who wanted to comment on the two ordinances on the agenda or the appointments to boards and commissions.

Comments pertaining to the items on the agenda included: Emergency Order 20-09 is not fair to those around campus area, especially when large fines are included, punishes rather than promotes; emergency orders are heavy handed and the ordinances should not be approved; in favor of the emergency orders because police are not enforcing; question about whether emergency orders apply include families who live in multifamily residences in addition to multifamily student residences; emergency orders discriminate against students and minorities.

Other comments included: defund police and use money for social services; appalled at change in public input in the middle of a meeting; low income utility assistance should be increased; stop disparity in juvenile arrests; drop charges against Aleyah Lewis; Urbana lacks transparency.

Public input via email

The following submitted public input via email: Jon Hays; Carol Inskeep; Katherine Majewski; Sophie Meyn; Ameena Payne; Adam Rusch; Nate Wahl.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Of The Whole

1. CONSENT AGENDA

2. REGULAR AGENDA

There were none.

G. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were none.

H. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Administrator Carol Mitten announced Trinitas, the developer for the Union Gardens project will not be pursuing that, due to a lack of uncertainty in student housing and the pandemic. The property for that project is still owned by the trust.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. [Ordinance No. 2020-08-042](#): An Ordinance Ratifying Emergency Order 20-08 (Emergency Order Phase 4 Operating Guidelines Governing Seating and Occupancy in Bars and Restaurants and Use of Face Coverings)

Mayor Marlin presented this ordinance and said that the City of Urbana, City of Champaign, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District and University of Illinois have met and planned for the past several weeks to try to have a plan for the re-opening of campus. She said it has been difficult because of the constant change in Covid cases. She said this would be a collective effort on the part of residents and students to try to keep down the number of new Covid cases. New cases are expected because of the number of people coming back into the community, but the plan is to keep the spread at a minimum by following strict guidelines and by keeping guidelines consistent across the two cities and campus.

Mayor Marlin went over the details of Ordinance No. 2020-08-042. She and City Attorney James Simon answered questions from council members. There was extensive discussion about the fine amounts and security videos.

CM Laut moved to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-042. Motion seconded by CM Brown.

Discussion continued. CM Miller moved to amend Emergency Order 20-08 to reflect a change in language in Section 4, subsection d, from “must provide immediate and unrestricted access to footage” to “may provide access to footage”. Motion seconded by CM Roberts. After further discussion, votes to amend the wording of Emergency Order 20-08 were as follows:

Aye: Roberts, Miller

Nay: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Colbrook

The motion to amend Emergency Order 20-08 failed.

After additional discussion, the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-042 carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Hursey, Laut, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook

Nay: Miller

2. **Ordinance No. 2020-08-043**: An Ordinance Ratifying Emergency Order 20-09 (Emergency Order Phase 4 Operating Guidelines Concerning Numbers of Attendees, social Distancing and Use of Face Coverings at Parties and other Gatherings)

CM Roberts moved to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-043. Motion seconded by CM Wu. There was discussion by council members about whether this ordinance should have more public input, if it was over-reaching and the necessity of council to make decisions sometimes without public opinion for the safety and well-being of the public. An end date for the ordinance of September 28, 2020 was suggested, which would allow the public to have input and give suggestions for renewal of the ordinance.

CM Wu motioned to amend Section 4, Duration of Emergency Order 20-09, to have an end date of September 28, 2020. Motion seconded by CM Miller and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook

No: None

CM Brown suggested a change in wording to make the ordinance more applicable to all residents, rather than mostly the student population. He moved to change the wording on page 4, Section b, Item 1, to read, "Private property covered by this Order includes any residential setting, building or unit located anywhere within the City or common areas or parking lots related to any such residential setting, building or unit." Motion seconded by CM Laut and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook

Nay: None

After further discussion, the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08-043 as amended carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook

Nay: Miller

3. **Mayoral Appointments and Reappointments to Boards and Commissions**

- a. Traffic Commission Appointment – term ending May 1, 2021

1. Julie Laut

- b. Arts and Culture Commission Reappointment – term ending June 30, 2023

1. Stacey Robinson

Mayor Marlin presented the appointments and reappointments to boards and commissions as listed.

CM Wu made a motion to approve the appointment of Julie Laut to the Traffic Commission to replace Eric Jakobsson, and the reappointment of Stacey Robinson to the Arts and Culture Commission. Motion seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook, Miller

Nay: None

At 10:25pm, CM Miller moved to extend the meeting to 10:45pm. Motion seconded by CM Wu and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook, Miller

Nay: None

4. **Discussion** – Extending Governor’s moratorium on evictions and housing and utility assistance and available housing assistance programs in response to Covid-19

Mayor Marlin began this discussion by saying the governor extended the state moratorium on evictions for one more month. She said City Attorney James Simon was looking into local moratorium options.

Grants Manager Sheila Dodd told council member that the homeless shelters, Champaign County, Cunningham and Champaign Townships, United Way, and the Cities of Urbana and Champaign meet on a regular basis regarding homeless, shelter and housing issues. She said the 50 potential evictions that are pending will not move forward until the moratorium is lifted. Ms. Dodd said \$375,000 available county-wide for rent assistance. The Home Consortium will provide \$175,000 for Covid impacted families, and an Emergency Solutions Grant will provide an addition \$700,000 to the community for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing programs. Ms. Dodd spoke further about available funding and various agencies involved in providing funds.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Dodd and City Attorney James Simon questions and concerns from council members, which included questions about utility shut-offs, evictions and the possibility of a local eviction moratorium.

At 10:43pm CM Miller moved to extend the meeting until 11:00pm. Motion seconded by CM Wu and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Laut, Hursey, Brown, Roberts, Colbrook, Miller

Nay: None

Discussion about evictions continued, and it was suggested that Mr. Simon draft a local eviction moratorium, which would include utilities, to be in effect in the event the statewide moratorium is lifted by the governor.

Mayor Marlin told council members there would be something drafted concerning this issue and brought back to them for their consideration.

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, Mayor Marlin adjourned this virtual meeting at 10:53pm.

Kay Meharry

Assistant City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is [viewable on-demand](#).

Minutes Approved: September 28, 2020

From: [Carol Inskip](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Input
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:03:21 PM

My name is Carol Inskip and I live at 606 East High St in Urbana. I wanted to say that I'm still watching and hoping for real change in the approach to public safety in Urbana. I truly believe we'll be a safer and healthier community when the police are no longer the community response to people dealing with addiction, homelessness, and most mental health issues. Let's fund resources and support for people instead of criminalize them.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT: 08/24/2020
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 12:11:12 PM
Importance: Low

Deary City Council and Mayor Marlin,

I am here to continue iterating my support for Aleyah Lewis and the 27 protestors. Please request Julia Reitz to drop the charges.

To speak about meaningful reform to policing, perhaps one of the most important concerns I have is police accountability.

I am not sure what form exactly it may take, but there should be structures in place that ensure that any officer who has misconducted themselves should be fired, and that they shall not be re-hired at any point. This may seem draconian, but I think it's partially the word 'misconduct' that leads us astray. It can sound quite banal, as if someone has made a simple and even understandable mistake. Yet in the context of a police department, which wields, often deadly, force, misconduct can be injuries or death to citizens. It can mean sexual abuse survivors not having a safe way to report crime. The officers who are involved with harming the public, in so many situations that cannot be justified even by Police policy, should be fired. A grocery store employee could be fired simply for having accidentally broken a couple egg cartons during their shift, but a police officer who has unjustly injured or murdered somebody, all too often is merely suspended, or perhaps fired to simply later be rehired.

I know that many or all of you will read this and counter with the argument that a lot of training, and thus finances and time, go into producing every officer, but this certainly raises many questions. What good was the training if it still lead to abuse of force? And, when the police union will fight so hard for individual police to retain their work, what message is sent to the entire police force? The message is that they can brutalize black people, and probably keep their employment. The structures of the police union, and police policies, and the law, do so much to protect officers, do so much that runs counter to the idea of police accountability.

And so, when the advisory committee is formed, and will seemingly include a prominent police presence, I want you all to think of that. That the UPD may very well have an implicit bias against reforms that can actually hold police accountable. Because if accountability practices are implemented, how many officers might have their employment threatened? Individual officers may have some aspirations to serving the public, but they are human as well, and as such will cling to their positions. Structures that hold police accountable are too few and structures that protect police are too many.

Thank you for reading

Jon Hays
Champaign Resident



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [K.M](#)
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - 8/24/20 meeting
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 3:25:08 PM

Dear members of the City Council,

I am writing once again to urge you to defund the police and seek and promote community-based alternatives to policing.

Members of this community have repeatedly made our concerns about UPD clear.

Cops should not be in schools, contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline.

They should not be frontline mental health responders. Speaking as a person with mood and anxiety disorders, any plan that includes or condones this as a step is unsafe for people like me (and drastically more unsafe for those of us who don't benefit from white privilege), and should be rejected out of hand.

They should not be given a lion's share of the city budget to perpetuate brutality against citizens such as Aleyah Lewis.

Yesterday in Kenosha, police responded to a dispute between white women only to instead shoot Jacob Blake, who had been attempting to stop the fight, seven times in the back as he was entering his car. His children were watching. Do you not understand the trauma it causes for people to see that they can be brutalized for even a presumption of disobedience? Do you not see why your citizens are afraid?

We need solutions for conflict resolution and community care that are actually accountable to that community. Police nationwide have repeatedly proven that they have no interest in being held accountable, or even in holding each other accountable. Many of you claim Urbana is an exception. I assure you it isn't.

Black lives matter. If you believe this, you must act, rather than making farcical claims like "The biggest issue in Urbana is its deferred maintenance."

Thank you,
Katherine Majewski

From: [Sophie Meyn](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 8/24/20
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 12:46:34 PM

Dear Council,

My name is Sophie and I grew up in Urbana, was a student at Leal school then the Middle school and High school here. I want to share my experiences and tie them to the present day.

The schools have not been a very healing place for a long time. I believe that if a teacher is able to teach, heal, inspire, motivate at this point - It is in spite of the barriers and limited resources and we all have let slide for far too long.

I am a survivor of childhood sexual assault, I was preverbal and it was not addressed until I was out of the school system. It would have been nice if anyone would have realized this was happening to me. I was treated like a problem. I see that happening with our traumatized youth when you are continuing to fund the police and allow funding SROs in schools and completely disregarding the more compassionate, healthful, sensical resources.

I developed chronic stomach aches in elementary school that followed me into adulthood and suffered from depression and anxiety and panic attacks since I was very young.

The noise and stimulation in the schools was always too much for me. I was always getting knocked over in the hallways because of my small stature. I was groped, I was cat called, the staff did nothing.

I had an experience a group of boys who were calling me "titty girl" most days in class, culminating in one of them grabbing my bottom, the administrative staff member who addressed it told me that there were only 5 days left of school and there wasn't anything that she could do about it.

At one point the ONE guidance counselor we had back in the early 2000s told me that I could step out to her office whenever I needed a break. I started just getting my work from the teacher and then going straight to the guidance counselors office. I got caught up in a lot of my classes. I felt like I had been saved. Then I realized my Principal was going in and changing all my excused absences to unexcused, and I was on course to not graduate. I was forced back into the classrooms and not soon after I dropped out.

I had teachers call me stupid, one literally threw the school handbook at me for having a hickey my freshman year of high school.

I wasn't a bad kid. I was a hurt child. Who was continuing to be hurt in the schools.

I tried to work with the staff, I wanted to fall in line. I am a people pleaser, to a fault, I always have been. I really felt like a loser and a failure until I gained some perspective.

I had a shock when my daughter entered Kindergarten at Leal when I realized I was scared of her teacher and had a very hard time communicating. To be perfectly honest, this woman was very serious and stern and frankly, unkind. She was close to retiring age, and her diabetes was pretty severe. I had just undergone surgery to remove a malignant tumor from my brain 7 days before school started. I let the whole staff know before she started. My daughter showed up at school traumatized from what had occurred that summer, no one really seemed to care. She was expected to sit still, not be any "trouble", she sat out for a lot of recess and was denied a snack on several occasions. That April my daughter witnessed the teacher tossing another student into her desk for visiting with my daughter, I asked the parent to talk to her child, and she said it had happened, she had a bruise and told the same story. I told the principal that my daughter would not be going back to school unless the teacher was gone, and to let me know because my daughter wanted to finish the year out with her friends. They kept the teacher on during the DCFS investigation and then let her take summer vacation early, not notifying me so that my daughter could come back to the school for a little while. Keep in mind I

am in recovery from brain cancer and surgery and they know this.

I have my own story, and my daughter's story of having our needs and safety completely neglected by the Urbana school system. I endured a lot of trauma at the hands of students and staff. I am also sensitive to sounds and harsh lighting and had to be put on medication at a young age to endure it. I had to drop out when I was a junior.

So here we are, not much has changed it seems except now we have added SROs.

The schools are supposed to be a safe space. But for who? The already resilient? Those without early childhood trauma or living with chronic stress?

We all have so much collective trauma. Putting police in schools will certainly add to it. The presence of police is inherently stressful, especially for BIPOC and disabled people who make up a disproportionate number of those who are arrested, brutalized, and killed by the police.

We cannot ignore the racial component- 89% of suspensions are of Black students, when the Black student population is 37% - discipline isn't evenly distributed evenly among races, so historically the schools are especially unsafe for Black students.

It is a totally normal to be angry right now, it comes out in all sorts of ways, these kids need help learning to cope with difficult emotions and experiences. They need tolerance and compassion and co-regulation with trusted and trauma informed adults.

The youth are not stupid. They don't believe the cops are there to be their buddy. And if they do, you are successfully teaching them to be easily gaslit. Since we all know the cops are there to threaten them into staying in line. It doesn't matter how cute the mission statement you all write up is.

We see what the cops do, we see what they condone, especially this summer. In the least we don't want our students thinking cops are health professionals.

They deserve access to actual mental health professionals.

The students deserve access to healthy ways to express and process their stress and emotions. They need access to social workers, guidance counselors, mentors, community leaders. They need trauma informed EVERYTHING.

Everyone needs to step it up for these kids, but we need funding for them first. We can't keep asking for those who are responsible for the care of our children to exist on fumes, prayers, and pocket change.

Defund the police. Let's get more in-school and out of school activities for the children. More funding for wellness, less for threats and unnecessary stress. I would venture to say this summer has been traumatic for all of us. Maybe children especially, they must feel so confused and scared.

We need to healing and coming together,

WITHOUT THE COPS, as a community. The cops drain the community's resources and violence has not gotten better with more funding.

It has been said a million different ways that cops aren't the answer to all our problems. You all have stated that cops wear too many hats. Can we please give the cops and the kids a break and draw the line and funding cops to patrol our schools.

AND PLEASE,

Drop the charges against Aleyah Lewis. We have been asking all summer long and the seasons are changing.

Thank you,
Sophie

From: [Ameena Payne](#)
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: 24 August Public Input
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 5:25:38 PM

Dear Council members -

I am writing to encourage action on the data presented last week by Chief Seraphin showing that 82% of juvenile arrests in 2019 were of Black children. When we see data like this, we need leadership and measurable actions, and that comes from you. I would urge you in your next meeting to set aside time to discuss study sessions/put forth amendments/whatever other options for you as council members to do something with this data. Find out the answers and correlations for these trends. I also want to know more about the stores, property owners, and police - about the things that lead to arrests - many are minor retail theft, trespassing land, etc. Very few are violence-related. I also echo Shirese's query: what neighborhoods do these kids live in? Is it a neighborhood deemed a 'low-SES' area?

It is vital to reach out to the parents of these 'at-risk', or 'high hope' students and the importance of liaising with schools to better engage kids. What does this data indicate to you about the levels of engagement in academia? What 'interventions' can we implement?

Crime is lessened with communities work to eliminate poverty. Crime is lessened with equitable access to healthcare; that also includes addressing racism within the healthcare systems; **Crime is lessened with equitable education.** Violence decreased when communities are happy, healthy and aren't fighting for and struggling to have equitable access to resources.

I do hope that you will shed some light on next steps to address this important community issue and also inform us of the sub-committee you have spoken of.

Respectfully,

Ameena Payne, **FHEA**
AmeenaPayne.com

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which I work, and pay my respects to the Elders, past and present.

From: [Adam Rusch](#)
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Public Input 8-24-2020 on Emergency Order 20-09
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 3:45:53 PM

To the City Council and Mayor Marlin,

Last week Mayor Marlin issued Emergency Order 20-09, GUIDELINES CONCERNING NUMBERS OF ATTENDEES, SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND USE OF FACE COVERINGS AT PARTIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS.

I would like to speak out about the way this order was implemented and the way it targets specific groups, both intentionally and unintentionally.

In this order you established rules of conduct that must be followed regarding social distancing and face coverings. You defined the rules as applying to all private homes in the “Campus Area” and all Multi-Family Residences throughout the City of Urbana. And you gave all Police officers of the State of Illinois jurisdiction to enforce this order.

To start, I do not understand why this was issued as an Emergency Order with no prior discussion by the City Council and invitations for public input. The reason given for the order is because University of Illinois students are returning to the community. But this should come as no surprise to any of us. Since 1867 the plan has been that University Students should come to our city every Fall to pursue their education. We have had months to discuss our plan for the sudden increase in residents and make sure everyone was on the same page.

Next, I am disappointed by the fact that this order is entirely a “stick” to compel behavior with no “carrots” to encourage adoption. I’m insulted that this rule is only being applied to the “Campus Area.” Because I live close to campus, I am now - by law - subject to a 4 person limit on gatherings without interference by the City. If my parents come to visit me, my wife, and our two children, we suddenly have a party of 6. That means the Police have the right to come into my backyard and demand that we either produce documentation that proves we are all related or we must stay 6 feet away from each other and wear masks. That is the way this Emergency Order is written.

Now, obviously the scenario I just described to you is ludicrous - my house is owner-occupied by a single family. We are the “good people” in the West Urbana neighborhood. The Police are not going to harass us and even if we did want to have a party of 15-49 people, I am privileged enough to have several friends outside the City Limits who would be willing to host us on their property.

But that’s exactly the problem with this Emergency Order. It does not treat people the same. It was written to be a “stick” to beat on the students, in the places where they live, in case they are doing things that the City Government deems not good for the community.

We all know that COVID-19 is a serious virus and that it is particularly dangerous for our elders, the immuno-compromised, and other people with certain conditions. As a society we need everyone to do their part to slow the spread and protect the vulnerable. But I’m going to tell you right now that using the “stick” is not the answer, we need people to voluntarily adopt good practices.

The College Students in our community already know the risks that come from the novel Coronavirus. They know how it could make them sick, they know that they could infect a friend or loved one if they are asymptomatic carriers of the virus. And if that's not enough to make them consider their actions, they know that they will lose the privilege of accessing the University of Illinois campus if they become infected - even if they don't have any other bad symptoms.

They are being tested twice a week, so it's not like they are going to hide it. They are being asked to live up to a certain standard and I believe they will do so. According to data released by the Illinois SHIELD Testing program during Illinois move-in days, our COVID Test positivity rate for the entire campus community is only 0.74%. Everyone has been tested and everyone who is infected has been warned so that they can quarantine. Arguing that we need this special order because the student population is a threat is discriminatory and ignores the precautions that students are taking.

Yet there is another population that will be affected by this order, as it extends to all Multi-Family Residences throughout the city. This order applies to the poor, the renters, individuals of lower socio-economic status. As a society we are trying to deal with conflict between lower-income communities and the Police. This City Council has been working to regain the trust of all its residents so that everyone will know that they will be treated equally under the law. But this Emergency Order gives the Police a direct order to scrutinize people who live in apartment buildings rather than single-family homes. They would face fines of \$750 - more than a month's rent for many.

This is a Civil Rights issue. I think the order is ill-advised in the way it seeks to punish non-compliance rather than promote voluntary action. But if the City Council believes that such an order is really necessary to safeguard the health of our community, then you need to extend this order to cover the entire city instead of just the "Campus Area" and apartment buildings. For all the fear that the College Students who stayed on campus last Spring would spread the virus, we have probably had more High School students cause outbreaks at Unofficial Proms and Graduation Parties that were hosted by their parents. Don't give a special pass to Single-Family Homeowners while you unfairly scrutinize renters and people who live in apartment buildings.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope you will do the right thing and treat everyone in Urbana equally under the law.

Adam Rusch
Resident of Urbana

Adam P. Rusch, PhD
Adam@Rusch.me
<http://Adam.Rusch.me>
Education Technology Research & Consulting

From: [Nate Wahl](#)
To: [J. Brown, Bill](#); [J. Colbrook, William](#); [J. Hursey, Shirese](#); [J. Laut, Julie](#); [J. Miller, Jared](#); [J. Roberts, Dennis](#); [J. Wu, Maryalice](#); [J. City Clerk](#); [Marlin, Diane](#); [Mitten, Carol](#)
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - 24 Aug
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:15:16 PM

Dear Urbana City Council - Alternatives to policing are predicated on the understanding that crime often arises out of unaddressed needs. Here are some ways our community can build need-based responding: 1) Ending drug use incarceration - instead, provide services and support networks to combat drug addiction. 2) Remove SRO's - instead, train staff on restorative justice techniques, increase the number of available counselors, and grow programs (i.e. art, music, science, etc.) meant to engage students during/after school. 3) Stop policing homelessness, intoxication, domestic disputes, etc. - instead, build community intervention strategies like CAHOOTS in OR 4) End citations for things like broken tail lights (which further strain financial situations) - instead create the means to fix the issues immediately (e.g. hire city mechanics) so as not to prolong the danger posed to other drivers. 5) Addressing violence - crimes such as sexual assault are underreported.