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WHY WE SHOULD DEFUND THE POLICE

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NEBRASKA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY
OMAHA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL 2022
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN

ABSTRACT

Ninety-nine percent of the police departments budget throughout the country increases every year into the billions. More money is spent on keeping the “peace” than investing in young students to assure they have a bright future, avoid violence and in return, bring true peace to all communities. Police departments and even some of the population have been conditioned into believing that minority communities are naturally violent, inherently bad and need to be policed heavily. Instead, minority communities need resources and tools to break the cycle of poverty and crime. Defunding the police is a controversial topic and dangerous to bring into fruition, many do not fully understand or are aware of what “defunding” means. Defunding does not mean getting rid of the police. Adjusting and balancing budgets for city services can bring new opportunities and fix many issues that are created by the current imbalance of budget sized of community serviced. Until there is a systematic change in the way police departments are funded and trained, the bad cops will always overshadow good cops and efficient policing will never be plausible. While many police departments throughout the country enjoy their over bloated billion-dollar budgets, the population struggles with homelessness, poverty, and lack of good homes. The minds of every upcoming generation endure the pain of mental health issues and bad schooling due to the bad funding and police brutality in the very streets of their communities.

KEY POINTS

- ❑ Police departments will still receive funds to allow full operations with no hinderances to their ability to protect and serve
- ❑ Defunding means departments will only get the money they need and not money for unnecessary military equipment purchases such as tanks and high caliber weapons used in war.
- ❑ Purchases in military equipment only raise taxes on its citizens and put families in poorer communities at risk.
- ❑ Extra funding can go towards other public services, community projects and funding for minority/less fortunate communities to promote education and the betterment of the people.
- ❑ In 2019 alone, fifteen-thousand people were killed by the police.

CONCLUSION

Police officers are “trained” to do a job, but it is the only profession in public service where a public servant is allowed to pull a gun on someone they were hired to serve. Teachers are public servants, mail carriers are public servants, doctors in county hospitals are public servants. These public servants never pull a gun on a student, resident or patient because they felt their lives threatened or feared for their lives. Police officers receive training, but are allowed to panic and act on impulse, but civilians with no training whatsoever must remain calm while a gun is held to their face.

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 Zerkel Mary is coordinator of AFSC's Commu, Mary. "6 Reasons Why It's Time to Defund the Police." *American Friends Service Committee*, 15 Oct. 2020, www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/6-reasons-why-its-time-to-defund-police.
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