

Edwards,Michelle

From: Emma Crossen <emma.crossen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:24 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: *Ext!* Public Comment - June 11, 2020

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- Helpdesk

Dear City Council,

At the Vigo County Council meeting on Tuesday, there was much attention given to the county's plans -- or lack thereof -- for spending millions in projected surplus from the Public Safety Local Income Tax levied in 2018. While a smaller portion of this comes to the City, it is still a significant revenue stream, estimated to reach nearly \$4 million by 2020, and as much as \$9 million by 2023.

So tonight I bring the question to you: What are the City's plans for using its portion of the LIT - Public Safety revenue?

I hope the answer isn't to spend more money on the Terre Haute Police Department. The City of Terre Haute has profound needs, with a poverty rate twice the state average. There are so many things we could do with those public safety dollars that would actually make our communities safer and more prosperous -- for example, investing in more mental health services, drug treatment and rehabilitation, and restorative justice programs. And we know how to do this. Terre Haute is also a city of gifted care providers and brilliant problem solvers. As County Councilmember Lisa Spence-Bunnett stated so compellingly in Monday's Tribune-Star: "We have really good bones for this: caring judges; a very active problem-solving, treatment and rehabilitative community; a number of recognized, successful programs, like our problem-solving courts; and a strong record for these groups working together."

Members of the City Council, please don't make the same mistake that city leaders have made for generations, squandering away our public safety dollars on more punitive policing that ruins lives. Please, let's do better.

Sincerely,

Emma Crossen
2151 Crawford Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803