

Edwards,Michelle

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**From:** Jessica Masterson <jessica.masterson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:15 AM  
**To:** Edwards,Michelle  
**Subject:** \*Ext!\* public comment

**\*\*External Email - Think Before You Click\*\***

- Helpdesk

Hello,

My name is Jessica Masterson and I reside at 2126 College Ave in Terre Haute. I wish to make a public comment regarding the use of the funds generated through the Public Safety Local Income Tax:

When people in our city lack the resources fundamental to human survival -- shelter, food, mental and physical health services, etc. -- it is evidence that we are living in a failed state, to borrow from Harvard social scientist Meira Levinson. Despite a surplus in funds generated through the LIT, our city is failing its residents every day. Rather than further criminalize poverty, through an overreliance on policing and the carceral system, I urge you to direct these funds *productively*, that is, toward specialized human services that are far better equipped to address the root causes of the homelessness, drug use, and chronic mental and physical illness that plague our city. Let's show, through our allocation of funds, that we as a populace value *care* over *cages*.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Masterson

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Jessica E. Masterson

She/her/hers ([what's this?](#))

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