

Edwards,Michelle

From: Lain Mathers <mathersalaina@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:34 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: *Ext!* Public Safety LIT funds comment

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Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of Terre Haute, I want to know how the Public Safety LIT funds be spent in our community. The last thing we, as a community, need is to put more money toward police. Officers with weapons do not do anything to support mental and emotional health in our communities. Terre Haute needs to confront how police, yes even here, are tied to the history and role of policing as a fundamentally racist and classist social institution in the U.S. I urge the city council NOT to put any Public Safety LIT funds toward anything having to do with policing. Instead, these funds should go toward efforts to better the mental and emotional health in our community. This includes supporting non-stigmatizing mental health services, housing for the houseless, and support for those who are navigating addiction. These efforts should not be tied to policing and should instead center harm reduction and restorative justice practices. Counselors and drug addiction interventions that turn to police are just as harmful as the police themselves. We need care, not cages to keep our community safe and healthy. No more money for police in Terre Haute.

Sincerely,
Lain Mathers
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