

The Future of Public Safety Webinar Series: Re-imagining How We Invest

Moderator:

Emily Kieliszewski, Member Programs Lead, Michigan
Municipal League

Speakers:

Branden Snyder, Executive Director, Detroit Action

Monica Galloway, Council President, City of Flint

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michigan municipal league



Abolition: The Movement To Defund The Police

— What is abolition really about? —

Inspired by and developed from materials from Movement For Black Lives, The Freedom To Thrive Report and Dream Defenders

About Detroit Action

Detroit Action is a grassroots member-led organization fighting for political power, racial and economic justice for working class Michiganders..



Detroit Action's Origins



Vision



We envision a vibrant and thriving economy in which all Michiganders have access to good jobs, safe streets, excellent public education, reliable public transportation, and affordable quality housing regardless of their background.

To achieve this vision, we engage in neighborhood-based organizing throughout Metro Detroit. Through relational organizing, we build power to affect change in our state, our city and our neighborhoods.

Our Organizing Model

- Deep Community Organizing
- Key Survival Services
- Policy Reform and Innovation
- Transformative Political Education and Training
- Celebrations of Culture and Life
- Radical Civic Engagement



Values

- Centering the most impacted
- Leaderful movements
- Holistic organizing
- Intersectionality and Interdependence
- Anti-capitalist/anti-racism
- Pan-Africanism and Internationalism
- Multiple strategies for power
- Embracing Radical Politics
- Abolition
- Radical Love and Tenderness

Multiple Strategies for Power:

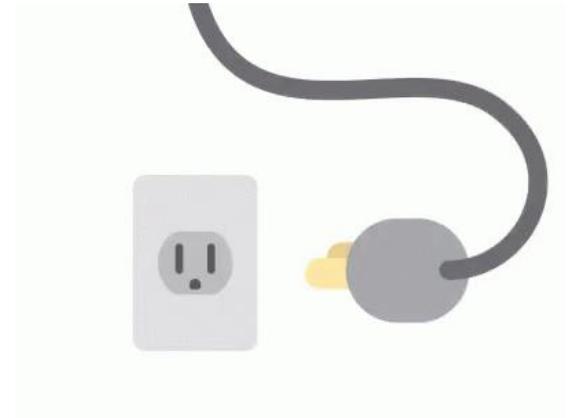
Re-Envisioning Democracy in Michigan

Three-pronged approach:

1. Issue Organizing and Corporate Accountability
2. Leadership Development
3. Radical & Transformative Electoral Organizing

Goal: Create Relational Power for Justice

This means the ability to be at the decision-making table and negotiate on behalf of our interests and values; make and enforce deals ; organizing our people and our money.



THANK YOU

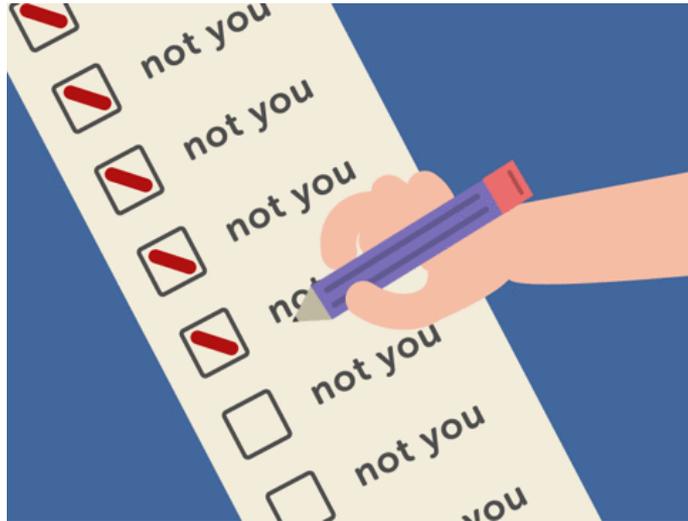


Imagine a Thriving Neighborhood

- ★ What does it look like?
- ★ What does it sound like?
- ★ Who lives there?
- ★ What's your favorite place?



Our Communities Deserve to Dream



- ★ We can do better than “less poor”
- ★ We deserve to vote FOR something not AGAINST something - How many times will we say “this is the most important election of your lifetime to mask mediocre candidates?”
- ★ We need bold solutions that transform and impact our everyday lives - the — time for reform is over

The Facts:

Violence

- US Police have killed 5,400 people since 2015.
- Black and Brown people are disproportionately more likely to be killed by the police than white people

Budgets

- Over the past 30 years policing budgets have skyrocketed 445%.
- The US spends over \$20 billion dollars more on policing than education

A world without police?





- The system of mass incarceration **targets** Black and Brown communities & cities' **budgets reflect this** deeply
- During the last 30 years there have been drastic cuts to the social safety net --- which disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities
- We have seen the *increased militarization* of police forces across the country and *massive investments* made in arrests, _____incarceration and surveillance

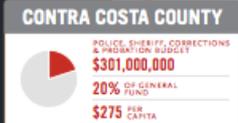
We know the safest communities in America are places that don't center police. What we are looking for already exists - and we already know it works.

Neighborhoods where the wealthy, well-connected, and well-off live, and anywhere there is easy access to living wages, healthcare, quality public education and freedom from police terror.



MAPPING THE COSTS OF CRIMINALIZATION

AMOUNTS ARE FOR FY17 BASED ON LOCAL BUDGETS AND U.S. CENSUS DATA



MINNEAPOLIS



DETROIT



NEW YORK CITY



CHICAGO



BALTIMORE



ST. LOUIS COUNTY



ATLANTA



HOUSTON



ORLANDO



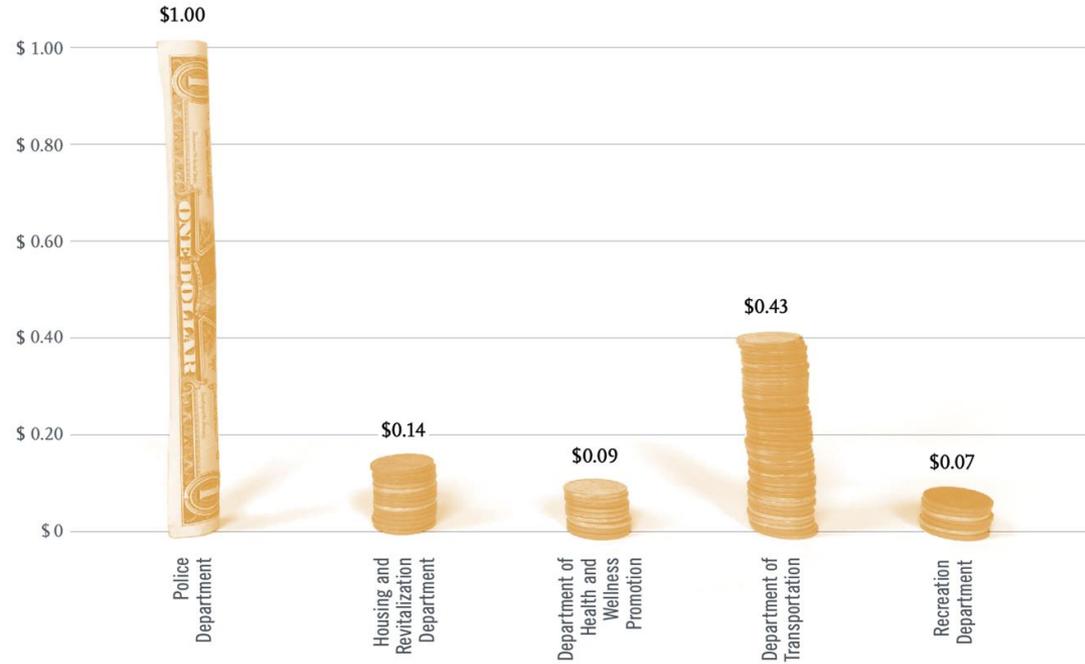
Detroit Spends Too Much on Cops!

Duggan Makes it Rain

- 1. According to data released by the city of Detroit we will spend \$330 million dollars on the Detroit Police Department and Project Green Light.**
- 2. According to the same report the City Of Detroit will spend over 1.7 Billion dollars from 2020-2024 on policing.**

DETROIT

Cents to the Dollar: Investments in Policing versus Selected Investments in Community



Source: FY2017-FY2020 City of Detroit Four-Year Plan

“Freedom To Thrive: REIMAGINING SAFETY & SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIE”, 2007

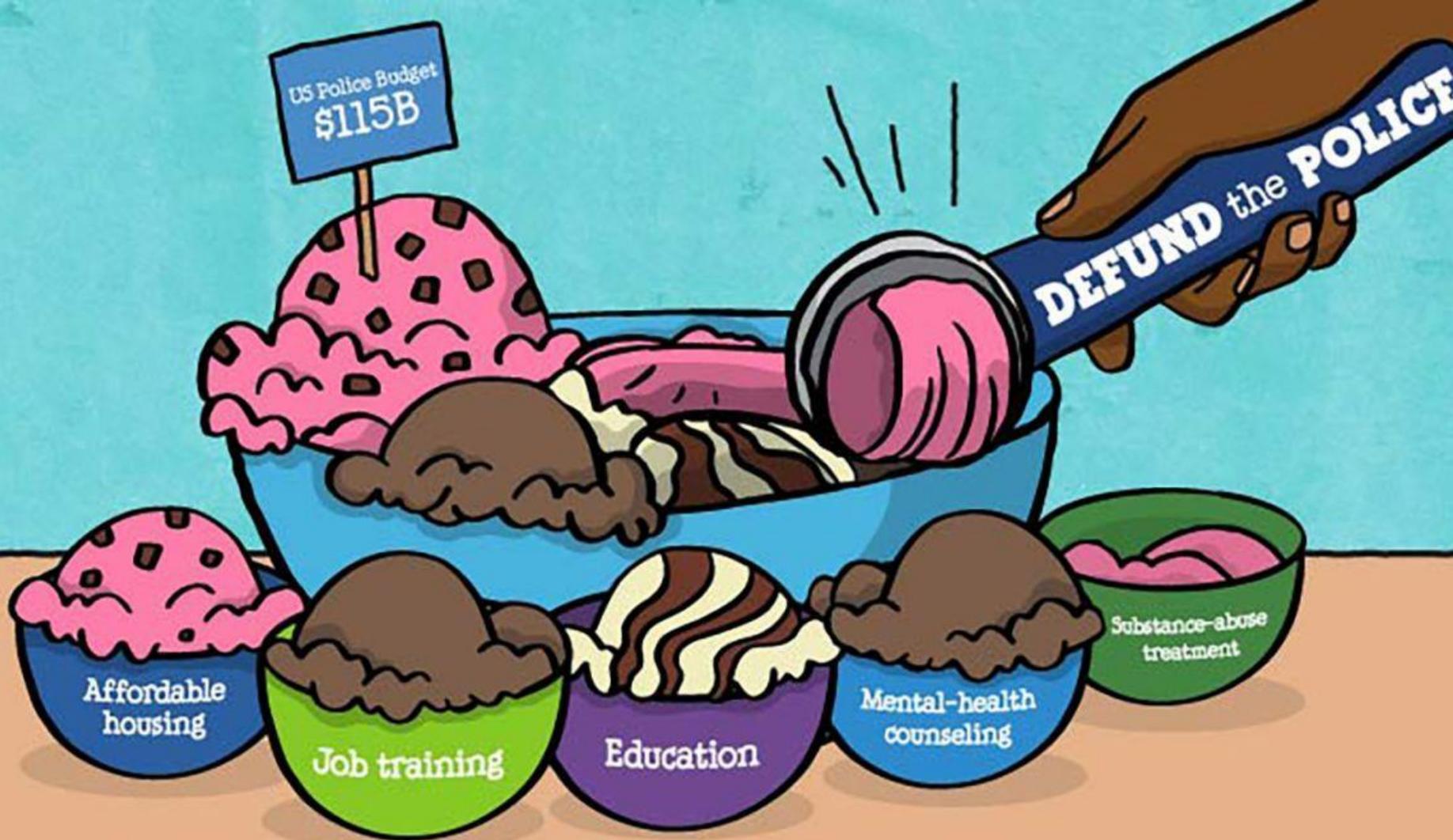
What Do We Mean By Defund The Police?

1. **Literally** spend less money on cops, AND more money on things the community actually needs.
2. Abolish the police system over time piece by piece and replace it with community led initiatives that center healing and restorative justice.

Organized People With an Organized Demand



- Divest from criminalization/Invest in comprehensive community safety
- Communities will have ownership over funds and decide what safety priorities they want to invest in
- This could constitute BILLIONS of Dollars in investments in our communities
- Detroit organizers are _____demanding \$60M to #DefundDPD

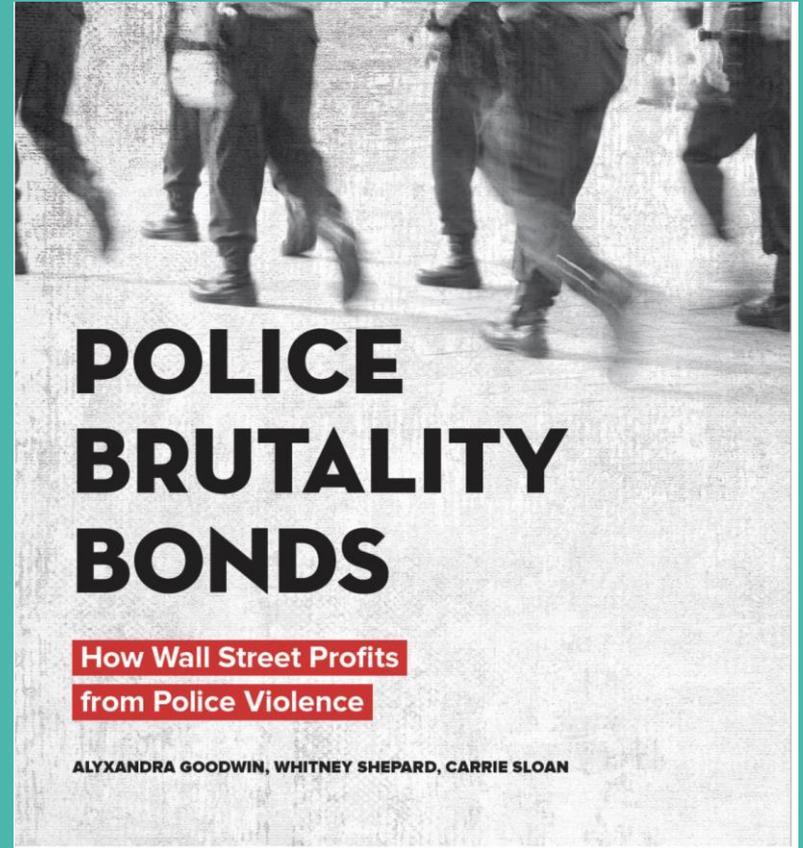


What Can We Do To Defund Police Today?

- Withdraw policing department from state and federal programs that provide surveillance tech, military gear and weapons training
 - Deny benefits and pay to officers under investigation for using excessive force
 - Require officers - not cities - to pay from misconduct lawsuits
 - Remove police from schools and universities
-

Police brutality bonds

Cities have raised taxes to cover costs of police settlements and judgments.



Ex-Inkster cop guilty in Floyd Dent brutality case

Elisha Anderson, Detroit Free Press Published 10:48 a.m. ET Nov. 19, 2015 | Updated 9:29 p.m. ET Nov. 19, 2015



(Photo: Regina H. Boone, Detroit Free Press)

CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN COMMENT EMAIL MORE

As ex-Inkster police officer William Melendez stared ahead in a Detroit courtroom today, he heard the word guilty, twice.

A jury convicted Melendez of two felonies — misconduct in office and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder — after watching patrol car dashcam video during

his trial showing Melendez punch motorist Floyd Dent, who is black, 16 times during a traffic stop on Jan. 28.

Shortly after the verdict was announced in the packed courtroom, Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda Evans revoked Melendez's bond and he was taken into custody.

The jury, made up of eight women and four men, including seven African-American jurors, deliberated for about five hours and acquitted Melendez on a third charge of assault by strangulation.

the job network

Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Detroit, MI

FIND JOBS

\$1.37M cop beating settlement will cost Inkster taxpayers

Elisha Anderson, Detroit Free Press Published 7:33 p.m. ET June 1, 2015 | Updated 12:48 a.m. ET June 2, 2015



Floyd Dent was reportedly protecting himself from being beaten and choked when he was arrested in January by Inkster Police.



CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN COMMENT EMAIL MORE

Inkster property owners will soon face a one-time tax hit to cover a settlement reached between the city and a man beaten by a police officer during a traffic

the job network

Keywords (ex. registered nurse)

Detroit, MI

FIND JOBS

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These SUVs Are So Cool It's Hard to Believe

THE ROLE OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE PROBLEM OF POLICE BRUTALITY

VICE NEWS

Wall Street Is Making Millions Off Police Brutality

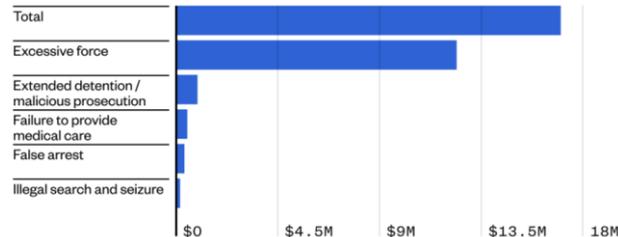
So-called "police-brutality bonds" are a transfer of wealth from Main Street to Wall Street.

By Brooke Sweeney

Jun 24 2020, 4:29pm [Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Snap](#)



COSTS OF CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT SETTLEMENTS Jan. - April, 2020



Source: City of Chicago DOL Torts Division

Recommendations?

1. Defund police departments and invest in community safety.
-

Recommendations?

2. If cities must borrow to pay for settlements and judgments, the Federal Reserve should lend them that money without charging interest or fees.

Recommendations?

3. Governmental bodies at the local, state, and federal levels must account for and provide full transparency about the total costs of policing.

If We Defund the Police Who Will We Call?



- Police are called for everything from a car being parked in the wrong location to violent crime - we need unarmed first responders!
 - Imagine having trained mental health professionals responding to mental health emergencies
 - What if we paid people FROM communities to be violence interrupters we helped BEFORE violence happened?
-

WHAT WE KNOW IS HAPPENING

INSTITUTIONS grappling with TRUMP's violent response to protestors

MILITARY
REPUBLICAN PARTY
FOOTBALL

AMERICAN VOTERS are SUPPORTING M4BL
SHIFTING BELIEF SYSTEMS around systemic racism & oppression

ABLE to negotiate narratives around riots & looting
"BAD APPLES"

WE ARE WINNING

WHAT WE MEAN

When we say "DEFUND the POLICE"

BROAD "US"
POLICE escalate VIOLENCE
POLICE DON'T KEEP US SAFE!
NO private COPS

REFORMS are insufficient + don't change cultural attitudes + ideas on ANTI-BLACKNESS

RAD LOMMS + M4BL

TOPLINES

- SCHOOLS
- JOB
- HEALTHCARE HOMES

SHIFTING \$\$ from BLOATED POLICE BUDGETS
INVEST in BLACK COMMUNITIES
→ To community & public resources that make people safer

Use this moment as an OPENING + PORTAL to talk about PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

BIG LISTENING allows us to see Beyond the algorithm

DIVEST/INVEST

WHAT we DON'T want AND what we need

GOALS

- USE MEDIA as a TOOL
- ENCOURAGE & CONSOLIDATE local support
- ARTICULATE a clear, values-based vision for concrete actions

VALUES

- SAFETY
- TRANSFORMATION
- DIGNITY
- BLACK LIFE INHERENTLY VALUABLE

POLICE prevent violent crime

A TRANSITION REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES

WHO WILL KEEP US SAFE?

This is not an immediate end to all law enforcement

UTILIZE RADCOMMS resources + net work

ARTICULATE what PUBLIC SAFETY looks like to your organization & community

CRIME

#DEFUND THE POLICE

primary conversation space

- leading arguments lead to an end of law torder
- What we need to do: protecting Black LIVES
- INVESTMENT in Black FUTURES

NARRATIVE weather

Conversations around POLICE increasing
PREPARED to face about PROTESTS + COVID
COVID also a part of NAT'L CONVO

TRUMP + RESIGNATION

REDUCE SIZE + SCOPE

Many ways for different communities

HOW?



WHO WILL answer 911?
FIRE FIGHTERS
MENTAL HEALTH experts

TOUGH QUESTIONS



A photograph of a field of purple lupine flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing bright yellow centers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a grassy field. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing text and a quote mark.

*Abolition is about presence,
not absence. It's about building
life-affirming institutions.*

RUTH WILSON GILMORE