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

We love where you live.
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

Community Organizing: Spectrum of Demand for Change

Direct Service
- Soup kitchens
- Homeless shelters
- Trash clean-up

Self-help
- Purchasing healthy foods
- Opting to ride a bike

Education
- Writing a blog
- Sharing news clips

Advocacy
- Speaking w/ people in power on behalf of a community

Direct Action
- Speaking w/ people in power on behalf of the self

Good Jobs Now! + Detroit Action Commonwealth =
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?

How to Abolish the 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
- Police Budget: $183,200,000
- 35.8% of General Fund
- $408 Per Capita

DETROIT
- Police Budget: $110,200,000
- 30.0% of General Fund
- $450 Per Capita

NEW YORK CITY
- Police Budget: $4,891,900,000
- 8.2% of General Fund
- $561 Per Capita

Baltimore
- Police Budget: $460,700,000
- 21.6% of General Fund
- $172 Per Capita

CHICAGO
- Police Budget: $1,440,000,000
- 38.0% of General Fund
- $537 Per Capita

St. Louis County
- Police Budget: $132,500,000
- 31.8% of General Fund
- $353 Per Capita

ATLANTA
- Police Budget: $216,300,000
- 29.1% of General Fund
- $486 Per Capita

HOUSTON
- Police Budget: $850,400,000
- 35.0% of General Fund
- $383 Per Capita

ORLANDO
- Police Budget: $553,810,000
- 31.3% of General Fund
- $380 Per Capita

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
- Police Budget: $161,000,000
- 20% of General Fund
- $715 Per Capita

OAKLAND
- Police Budget: $262,500,000
- 61.2% of General Fund
- $394 Per Capita

LOS ANGELES
- Police Budget: $1,483,800,000
- 25.7% of General Fund
- $381 Per Capita
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.
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 to 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
KEY INSIGHTS:

US Police Budget $115B

DEFUND the POLICE

Ice cream bowls:
- Affordable housing
- Job training
- Education
- Mental-health counseling
- Substance-abuse treatment
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

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 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 Skenes

Jan 34, 2020, 4:29 pm  Share  Tweet  Shop

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excessive force</td>
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<td>Extended detention / malicious prosecution</td>
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<td>Failure to provide medical care</td>
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<td>False arrest</td>
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<td>Illegal search and seizure</td>
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Source: City of Chicago DOL Torts Division
1. Defund police departments and invest in community safety.
2. If cities must borrow to pay for settlements and judgments, the Federal Reserve should lend them that money without charging interest or fees.
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**

- American voters are supporting M4BL
- Shifting beliefs systems around systemic racism & oppression
- Military & police narratives around riots & looting
- "Bad apples"

**WE ARE WINNING**

**BIG LISTENING**

- Allows us to see beyond the algorithm
- Conversation space
- Leading arguments
- What we need to do
- Protecting Black Lives
- Investment in Black futures

**NARRATIVE WEATHER**

**DIVEST/INVEST**

- What we don't want & what we need
- Use media as a tool
- Encourage & consolidate local support
- Articulate a clear, values-based vision for concrete actions

**TOPLINES**

- Invest in Black communities
- Shifting budgets from bloated police
- To community & public resources that make people safer
- A transition required to implement public safety resources
- Use this moment as an opening & portal to talk about public safety

**WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER**

**WE ARE WINNING**

**CRIME**

**Tough Questions**

- Who will answer 911?
- 911? Firefighters & mental health experts
- Utilize RadComms & networks
- Articulate what public safety looks like to your organization & community
Abolition is about presence, not absence. It's about building life-affirming institutions.

RUTH WILSON GILMORE