

Questions read at WSPD Forum on Monday, August 31st from pre-submitted questions

1) No name:

Explain the committee that that was put together by the Mayor and City Council to on spend \$1 million on social programs and where did the money come from?

During the FY 2021 budget adoption, City Council approved a resolution to form a Community Investments Review Committee to make recommendations for city investments of up to \$1 million dollars to address conditions which contribute to poverty and hardship in our community. There are 18 members, 2 representing each ward and 2 at-large members. *Where did the \$1 million come from?* The City is receiving some CARES Act funding that is earmarked for specific COVID-19 relief efforts. These new resources allow us to free-up resources to fund the \$1 million for the CIRC.

2) No name:

Where does the money go from vacant position? Each year, the City budgets salary savings which generally is used to offset costs at the end of the year. For the police department, since they have ongoing vacancies due to recruitment and retention issues, the salary savings is typically used to offset overtime costs.

3) Name Samuel Shafer

Address 320 Fox Lake Ct

Enter Comment or Question Here The WSPD expenditures document indicates that fuel, yearly, costs a total of \$941,700. The FY 2020-21 budget assumes an average \$1.85 per gallon (unleaded); What are some methods of reducing fuel costs? And where is the \$1.85 per gallon fuel coming from (this seems low!)?

The budgeted price per gallon of fuel is based on estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the average price per gallon paid by the City. The price per gallon is lower than what the average consumer would see at a gas station because federal and state taxes are not included.

4) Name Bailey Pittenger

Address 426 Carolina Circle

Email Address (in case we need to contact you) baileypittenger@gmail.com

Enter Comment or Question Here Where in the budget is the CESF grant located? How is this grant being used by WSPD?

As part of the Federal Government's CARES Act, passed by Congress to assist with the response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has made available the Fiscal Year 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) grant. This grant is formula-based, and the City of Winston-Salem's allocated amount is \$523,520. The funds are proposed to be spent on laptop computers, LexisNexis reporting system, Street Smart for COVID-19 tracking, personal protective equipment, and response team equipment.

5) Carolyn Highsmith: Request for more details of the actual WSPD Line-Item Budget. This will be posted on the city webpage by Friday.

Other comments received via email/website comment portal:

Name	Nikki Kourpias
Address	440 East 4th Street, #440, WS 27101
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	nikki.kourpias@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	The WSPD's document "Building Community Trust & Legitimacy" states that officers receive 4 hours of de-escalation training per year and 5 hours of implicit bias training every other year. All WSPD employees are paid for 1.5 hours of exercise per week, or 78 hours of exercise per year. How do you explain this blatant imbalance of budgetary priorities? How does the WSPD expect to build trust within a community for which they must be trained not to police with bias?

Name	Joy Rochester
Address	2840 REGENCY DRIVE
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	jimnjoy@triad.rr.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	Regarding this meeting topic, I wish to share that I observed a domestic incident while working at an apartment complex this weekend. The white officers arrived to a mostly minority rented complex in uniforms with guns at their sides and INCREASED the verbal and nonverbal tenseness of the atmosphere. I was angry that MY tax dollars went not to help, but seemingly add to the problems. I saw firsthand how a de-escalation team of trained social workers, could have improved the outcome.

Name	Kacy
Address	Shafer
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	kacyshafer@gmail.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

Chief Thompson, at the June 16th, 2020 Trust Talk you expressed willingness to reallocate WSPD funding to appropriate community resources better able to handle what you call "involuntary commitments" plaguing the WSPD, such as mental health crises, snakes, and standing by while someone gets their property out of their home. What can be done immediately to begin this reallocation, as it is a concern you share with the community? Where in your budget would you make these reallocations first?

Name

James Evans

Address

3630 Country Club Rd

Email Address (in case
we need to contact you)

evanswroten@yahoo.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

Are there specific examples of successful reforms in police systems? Please be specific by agency/city/state and the actions taken and results.

Name

Randy Ellen Norris

Address

411 Swan Court, Winston-Salem, NC, 27106

Email Address (in case
we need to contact you)

ren@triad.rr.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

I fully support the creation of "de-escalation teams" that include the participation of mental health professionals and non-uniformed, racially diverse communicators who can respond to non-violent community disturbances. I believe that sending an armed officer to respond to every community complaint can unnecessarily aggravate situations that could be more successfully handled in a less threatening and emotionally charged manner.

Name

Rebecca Gill

Address

2230 Elizabeth Ave, 27103

Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	regegill@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	I support the creation of more holistic responses to mental health & domestic crises. De-escalation teams that include a social worker, a psychologist, and a trained officer should be created to respond to civilian disputes. I also recommend that a committee of citizens, mental health professionals, and police representatives represent each ward to guide de-escalation teams.
Name	Holly K Sopko
Address	516 Sun Creek Drive
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	hksopko@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	Please consider a de-escalation response team staffed with mental health professionals to provide a compassionate response to crises.
Name	Rebecca Nussbaum
Address	324 Natalie Dr, Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	rebussbaum@att.net
Enter Comment or Question Here	Having completed a police ride-along in 2018, I remain impressed by the stresses the police face in their daily work. Many of the calls police respond to would be better served by De-escalation Response Teams including social workers, mental health professionals, and specially trained police officers. Please consider the police department budget with the creation of these teams.
Name	Beth Harper
Address	5065 Century Oaks Ln, Winston Salem, NC 27106
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	harper.beth@gmail.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

We ask police to address too many issues. Please use the expertise of social workers, etc. to address conflicts and disputes that are not violent and where mental illness is involved (de-escalation teams); use restorative justice approaches; train LEO's in trauma-informed approaches as well as treating their trauma; use police budget money toward underlying reasons for crime like lack of jobs and poverty. Involve impacted citizens in these efforts. Demilitarize police; more transparency.

Name

Mia Yang

Address

652 Valley Brook Ln. Winston-Salem NC 27104

Email Address (in case
we need to contact you)

mia.yang@gmail.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

To avoid fatalities in our city by police, we must proactively consider a different response to mental health & domestic crises. Trained teams consisting of a social worker, a psychologist, and an officer specifically trained in de-escalation techniques should be created to respond to civilian disputes. Create a committee of citizens from every Ward, professionals in the mental health field, and police representatives to plan how best to budget for De-escalation Response Teams.

Name

Ellen M Fox

Address

836 Camelot Ct.

Email Address (in case
we need to contact you)

watermellen1@gmail.com

Enter Comment or
Question Here

Please consider: creating a committee of citizens from every ward, mental health professionals, and police representatives to plan assembly and budget for De-escalation Response Teams; provide continuous trauma-informed and restorative justice training to all officers; consider hosting truth and reconciliation circles for listening to community harm involving police; full, public transparency of all WSPD and FCSO budget details, policies, reports, and both surveillance and body cam footage.

Name	Lauren Q Frye
Address	4471 Cheyenne Ct
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	laurenquartz@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	<p>Please consider a different response to mental health & domestic crises. Trained teams consisting of a social worker, a psychologist, and an officer specifically trained in de-escalation techniques might be created to respond to civilian disputes. Create a committee of citizens from every Ward, professionals in the mental health field, and police representatives to plan how best to budget for De-escalation Response Teams. Full public transparency of all WSPD and FCSO budget details & body cams</p>

Name	Cindy Castevens
Address	648 Irving St
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	cjc648@yahoo.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	<p>I am requesting that a "De-escalation Response Team" be created to deal with mental health, domestic, and civilian calls for help. The team would consist of a social worker, a psychologist, and a police officer, who are specifically trained in de-escalation techniques.</p>

Name	Jessica Shore
Address	603 S Green St Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	jessica.h.shore@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	<p>To avoid fatalities in our city by police, we must proactively consider a different response to mental health & domestic crises. Trained teams consisting of a social worker, a psychologist, and an officer specifically trained in de-escalation techniques should be created to respond to civilian disputes. Create a committee of citizens from every Ward, professionals in the mental health field, and police representatives to plan how best to budget for De-escalation Response Teams.</p>

Name	Valerie Glass
Address	432 Springdale Ave.
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	vmeglass@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	We have asked our law enforcement to do too much- handing issues that would be better addressed in different ways. We need to ease their work load by investing in more appropriate responses. Establishing a team of social workers and mental health workers to respond to incidents that are more about someone's well-being. Forming restorative justice/conflict resolution teams to address minor disputes. Less work for LEOs so they can focus on crime; Investing in more appropriate responses to concerns

Name	Sheila Roher
Address	701 Cascade Ave
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	sheilaroher@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	re funding for police and public safety: I support the creation and funding of 'de-escalation response teams' (pairing social workers with police officers) to better deal with mental health and domestic violence issues. I also support more psychological help for our police officers to deal with work-related traumas. We need 'peace officers' who can deal with and de-escalate violence whenever possible, not cause more.

Name	Megan Hoyt
Address	310 Gloria Ave
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	hoytmeganb@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	Eric Garner. Michael Brown. Alton Sterling. Tamir Rice. Sandra Bland. Breonna Taylor. John Neville. Black people have been killed at the hands of police too often in our country - and in our city. I reject any increase in the budgets of the WSPD or the FSCO. I support full, public transparency of all WSPD and FSCO budget details, policies, reports, and both surveillance and

bodycam footage & creation and funding of public safety and community support systems designed by those they will serve.

Name Kimberly G Montez

Address 5579 Foxgate Circle

Email Address (in case we need to contact you) kimberly.montez@gmail.com

Enter Comment or Question Here To avoid fatalities in our city by police, we must proactively consider a different response to mental health & domestic crises. Trained teams consisting of a social worker, a psychologist, and an officer specifically trained in de-escalation techniques should be created to respond to civilian disputes. Create a committee of citizens from every Ward, professionals in the mental health field, and police representatives to plan how best to budget for De-escalation Response Teams.

Name Katherine Cagle

Address 3820 Huntinggreen Ln Apt F, Winston-Salem 27106

Email Address (in case we need to contact you) kittyecws@yahoo.com

Enter Comment or Question Here I think funding for police should remain the same or be greater than before to provide for additional training. Our police department should be commended for their basically good relationship with the community but extra training never hurts.

Name Karen D. Dorr

Address 411 S. Marshall Street, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Email Address (in case we need to contact you) karendorr218@gmail.com

Enter Comment or Question Here To avoid fatalities in our city by police, we must proactively consider a different response to mental health & domestic crises. Trained teams consisting of a social worker, a psychologist, and an officer specifically trained in de-escalation techniques should be created to respond to civilian disputes. Create a committee of citizens from every Ward, professionals in

the mental health field, and police representatives to plan how best to budget for De-escalation Response Teams.

Name	Lisha Mejan
Address	2407 Westfield Ave 27103
Email Address (in case we need to contact you)	lishamejan@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	Reducing funds for WSPD outright doesn't seem useful. Considering how funds are currently used/could be used does seem helpful. Perhaps helpful budget items could include well developed training on the origins of racism and why people of color and whites struggle, as well as deescalation training or de-escalation teams. Also important is support for officers who have experienced trauma or near traumatic experiences.

Name Deborah Drake; Address: 135 Miller Pointe Drive

Email Address: debbtide75@gmail.com

Enter Comment or Question Here: "Please consider: creating a committee of citizens from every ward, mental health professionals, and police representatives to plan assembly and budget for De-escalation Response Teams; provide continuous trauma-informed and restorative justice training to all officers; consider hosting truth and reconciliation circles for listening to community harm involving police; full, public transparency of all WSPD and FCSO budget details, policies, reports, and both surveillance and body cam footage."

Name	Karen Obas
Address	6887E Idols Rd
Email Address	karenobas2@gmail.com
Enter Comment or Question Here	The community is asking that ALL officers be trained in Crisis Intervention and De-escalation methods and we ask that this takes priority over an increase in salaries of 1% for all WSPD officers. If officers are better trained and able to reduce trauma rather than cause it with a lack of these skills, our community will be safer. In these times of financial catastrophe for so many, increasing salaries of police officers as a requirement of the Coronavirus Relief Grant is appalling.