From:	Margaret De Bona
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	Jordan Hess; Mirtha Becerra
Subject:	Response to Black Lives Matter
Date:	Friday, July 24, 2020 3:35:15 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I've been disappointed so far in the Council's response to the calls for change from community members. I fully support greater funding for housing and community development and less for the police. We have so many house-less people who live in our town, families, seniors, teens, people of color, and veterans. They deserve greater resources then what are currently available, especially now that we are weathering a pandemic. I hope that you will work to redirect funding to help our most vulnerable neighbors.

In addition, during the BLM protests in Missoula a young black man was stalked and assaulted by armed militia members who were occupying the area around the courthouse, and city hall. Since then he has sought that what happened be addressed by the council and city attorney without any satisfying response. Not only do I want justice for this young man, but I also want to know how the council is addressing the fact that for upwards of two weeks this June downtown was filled with men holding semi automatic weapons, in response to peaceful protest. Every night I would see them in the parking lot across from the Police Department, with guns and walkie talkies. They didn't carry any signs and therefore I can only assume that they themselves knew their skin-color declared their role as "protectors" of the police building. They assumed that the police would want them there. That's the ultimate white privilege. In fact they were not offering safety and protection for our community, but instead intimidation and harm. Black and Inidigenous community members were harassed and assaulted. We must address this as a community, it is not normal, or okay.

Thank you for your time,

Margaret DeBona
Ward 2

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