



Police & Community Committee

Defund the Police Presentation

This committee was formed in August of 2020

Tasked with examining a variety of police department topics

Topics to be decided by input from the community

Defund the Police was among those original topics



For some, *Defund the police* is a movement, a stepping stone toward abolishing police departments entirely

For some, the idea of defunding the police is limited to simply restricting money for military-style equipment

For some, there should be police, but their role in communities should be limited to crime prevention. The idea goes that service agencies other than police could/should respond to non-violent calls



Police Department funding allocation is generally a policy decision made by governmental oversight entities.

In 2020-2021, more than 20 major cities across the country engaged in police department specific budget reduction initiatives--Scale and circumstances varied dramatically

More than \$870 million in direct cuts to police departments across the nation resulted

**New York, Portland, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle
Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other cities had all reduced police budgetary spending in 2021**



2021 Homicide Increases

Chicago-up by 22%

Seattle up 22%

Minneapolis up by 56%

Portland up 530%.

Los Angeles up 11%

Baltimore up 26%

Philadelphia-561 murders: Most in cities history

Kansas City May 2021

Mayor Quinton Lucas, with the support of several city council members, passed an ordinance to defund the police department \$44 million (to the minimum of the city general fund revenue - the lowest the city can devote to police funding under Missouri law)

"This is absolutely the worst piece of legislation since I've been here at City Hall. You take \$46 million out of the police budget and who gets hurt the most is our families, our children. How do they stay safe and secure if there are no police around?" - **Councilwoman Teresa Loar**

"We are down 116 officers and do not have the budget to replace them. In short, our current hiring freeze is setting the Department back in adequate staffing for years to come." - **KCMO Police Chief Richard Smith**

Kansas City

- **May 2021 –Missouri Attorney General files lawsuit to stop budget reduction**

"Kansas City's shortsighted move to defund their police force will have lasting, destructive and deadly consequences for its residents. Last year, 176 people were murdered in Kansas City, marking the deadliest year in the city's history. Despite this grim milestone, the City Council and mayor's decision will potentially eliminate approximately 480 sworn officer positions. Attempts to defund the police will deprive Kansas City residents of a needed police presence and exacerbate homicide and violent crime rates plaguing Kansas City and major cities across Missouri and the country." **-Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt**

- **October 2021 -Jackson County Court Judge found city council action to be illegal; funds restored.**

"This is a huge win for the people of Kansas City and law enforcement officers who work every single day to keep their communities safe. I will always stand up for Missouri's law enforcement and fight back against craven attempts to defund the police." **Attorney General Schmitt**

"These are subjects of vigorous social debate and should be finally resolved by a healthy democracy." **Mayor Quinton Lucas**



Kansas City

The two deadliest years on cities
recorded history

2020 - 179 homicides

2021 - 157 homicides

2022 - 34 homicides so far

Topeka Kansas

No police department only specific budget reductions implemented by city council in 2021;
Common message from public at budget meetings-Fully staff/fund public safety entities-a top priority

2021 Crime Statistics

3 year low in summer crime

3 year low in shootings

6 year low in homicides

Significant % decrease in violent & property crime

2021-2022 Police Chief Meetings takeaway

Met with business leaders, religious leaders, community service organizations, school leaders, government leaders & other concerned citizens .

Common theme-They want more police at their events and locations- not less. Many stated that police presence adds to overall safety perception.

TPD is very fortunate to have widespread city leadership & community support

Yale University Study



8-week study surveying 1,137 people about how they felt about “reforming, defunding, and abolishing police.”

The finished findings were published in the January 2022 issue of “[Criminology and Public Policy](#).”

Less than a quarter — 23 percent — said they support abolishing the police.

Slightly over a third — 34 percent — said they supported defunding police.

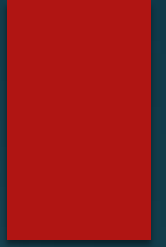
In contrast, a strong majority — 66 percent — supported police reform.

The survey was conducted while the protests were underway in 2020.

“It seems very clear that the public is not comfortable with reducing or getting rid of the police, they would just like the police to behave differently. “We’ve seen big increases in crime rates in many cities. “What this tells us is that the public is going to be skeptical of reducing the number of police on the streets. They’re worried that crime would go up.”

-Yale Department Chair Greg Huber

From Defund to Refund



2022 NY TIMES:

[A Year After 'Defund,' Police Departments Get Their Money Back - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

2022 Newsweek [America's Biggest Cities to Invest \\$450M More in Police Following 2020 Defund Movement](#)

2022 CNN (Department of Justice -Allots 1.6 billion dollars to cities due to violent crime rise) [Justice Department boosts funds to cities to battle rise in crime](#)

2022 NBC News [How Democrats went from defund to refund the police](#)

Democratic Leadership

“I think it was a correction to the "defund" conversation, which I personally think went too far and got convoluted.” -**Oakland ,California -Mayor Libby Schaaf**

“When you start defunding, hey, the cop is no longer on your corner. That cop is no longer in your lobby. That cop is not standing outside when you leave your Broadway play. And I have never been to an event where the people were saying we want less cops. Never.”
-**New York City Mayor Eric Adams**

“Defund the police” is “unfortunate” phrasing. -**Kansas Governor Laura Kelly**

“Defund the police is dead. Public safety is our responsibility. Defund the police is not the policy of the Democratic Party.” -**Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi**

“The answer is not to defund the police,” but instead, to provide the tools and funding for law enforcement officials to be "partners" and "protectors" in the community. "The answer is not to abandon our streets. That's not the answer. "The answer is to come together, police and communities building trust and making us all safer.” **President Joe Biden**

Also reiterated in State of Union address on March 1st, 2022- “Fund, not defund the police.”

Republican Leadership

"To reverse the tide of rising crime, we need to stop demonizing and sabotaging the dedicated men and women who risk their lives every single day to keep the rest of us safe. Instead, we're going to refund the police." **Maryland Governor Larry Hogan**

"What America doesn't realize is what we ask out of our police officers." "The thought of defunding the police — I mean — that's got to be the tail wagging the dog. Americans don't want to defund the police." **US Senator (Kansas) Roger Marshall**

"From coast to coast, American families are facing an explosion of violent crime on their streets and in their neighborhoods. Defunding the police isn't just a terrible idea for overall public safety. It's also a uniquely awful strategy for racial justice. One study recently confirmed that, quote, 'larger police forces save lives and the lives saved are disproportionately Black lives'. What I do know is that ordinary Americans cannot bear much more of this. And that goes double for the most vulnerable neighborhoods." **US Senator leader Mitch McConnell**

Alternative 2022 Phrasing:

**PUBLIC SAFETY REIMAGINED
POLICE REFORM
REFINE JUSTICE**

TPD Mission Statement:

The mission of the Topeka Police Department is to provide a safe community and faithfully serve our citizens with impeccable integrity, enduring professionalism and immeasurable honor.