

**From:** [Keith Pryor](#)  
**To:** [Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady](#)  
**Cc:** [Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez](#); [denc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Show us the Money for your Budget Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, October 16, 2023 9:41:10 PM

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Hi Liz

Thanks for your response and ending this detail over.

I do NOT support Sarah's request for more funding for the Star. I have had direct experience and interaction with the Star team and have found it ineffective on dealing with the unhoused population and resolving issues for our community.

As for the draw down request to pay for her other items. I do NOT support the reduction of the national western stock complex. It is an economic generator and is providing leading research and opportunity for a very underserved part of the city. The funding should remain.

I also do NOT support removing funding for the Cadet classes for the Denver Police Dept. The Police are incredibly understaffed for the work load they are currently experiencing. And even though Sarah points to data showing crime is down, Denver is far from being the Safe city it should be and it is not reflective of the reality many residents experience every day. These cadet classes desperately need to bring staffing levels to a moderate level. We need traffic enforcement to achieve vision zero. We need narcotic officers to work on multiple open air drug markets, detectives to bring justice for murder victims to name a few top priorities. There are many other services that are currently not staffed by police due to lack of staffing. This is a HARD NO to defund!!!!

I also disagree and do NOT support reducing the Street Engagement Team, the Property tax relief cushion (this will be critical given the most recent assessments), DEDO Downtown safety and activation (this is critical to the tax base of the City), 16th Street Mall canopy (this is an investment that will generate other investment in the mall) and I do NOT support the reduction to the City Attorney Office to reduce prosecutions of crimes!!!!

There have been multiple times this past year as criminals have been released on PR bonds that then have gone on to murder innocent residents. Where is the restitution and justice for those families that have lost loved ones.

I cannot and do not support the plan laid out by Sarah and I am not the only one. Many of my neighbors I have spoken with disagree with the priorities and defunding set forth on her proposal.

Thank you

Keith Pryor

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023, 2:06 PM Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady <[paradyatlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:paradyatlarge@denvergov.org)> wrote:

Dear Keith,

So glad you contacted us about this! Transparency is one of Council member Parady's key values, and I've attached a PDF of her initial memo on potential drawdown sources to fund her budget amendment requests, which was circulated to all council members before they were voted on to be included in City Council's letter to the mayor.

As you'll see when you review the memo, we identified drawdown sources in excess of the total dollar amount requested in her budget amendments. In response to your concerns for safety and mental health, please note that two of the amendments CM Parady sponsored would be to fund mental health beds at Denver Health and emergency mental health response via the STAR program. I have attached those memos—which were also circulated to all other members before the straw poll vote—as well.

We've since learned more about some of the funding sources identified in that memo, and for those that are ineligible for drawdown, we're currently in the process of identifying at least three more funding sources within the budget for these amendments. They will be circulated to City Council again in the coming days, and we will be happy to share them with you then as well.

Best regards,

Liz

Liz Stalnaker | Senior Aide  
Councilwoman Sarah Parady, At-Large  
Denver City Council  
[liz.stalnaker@denvergov.org](mailto:liz.stalnaker@denvergov.org)

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**From:** Keith Pryor <[kpryor13@gmail.com](mailto:kpryor13@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 9:32 AM

**To:** Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady <[paradyatlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:paradyatlarge@denvergov.org)>; Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez <[G-Gutierrez.atlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:G-Gutierrez.atlarge@denvergov.org)>; denc - City

Council <[dencc@denvergov.org](mailto:dencc@denvergov.org)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Show us the Money for your Budget Amendments

Dear Sarah and Council,

I am writing you today to ask You to show us the money and where you plan to make up your 80 Million dollar budget requests.

All of the requests you are making have been funded in part by the Mayor's current budget.

These amounts have been well thought out and funded where your request has not.

Please Stop with not being transparent and not showing where you will g]fund these requests.

We need real solutions to the city's current state.

We need funding for Safety and our Police. We need Mental Health and Addiction treatment not tiny homes for service resistant homeless individuals.

We need to fund basic city services and hire more permit staff so people can build homes and open business.

These budget amendments are all political and you have done nothing to address how you would pay for them.

I am not in support of these budget amendments and ask you to not put them forward and instead support the Mayor's budget as proposed as these Items have been addressed.

Again, I do not support your amendments!!!

Please vote yes on the Proposed Budget as set forth by the Mayor

Thank You  
Keith Pryor

Please

**From:** [Daniel Grosso](#)  
**To:** [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [BULK] [EXTERNAL] Comment for today"s meeting  
**Date:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:57:33 PM

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Hello,

My name is Daniel Grosso. I have worked as a certified nurse aide for Denver Health for the past two years. I'm writing today to tell you that the proposed budget for Denver Health does not adequately address the crisis our health system is facing. We need to make sure staff are adequately compensated so they are retained. Without qualified competent professionals the million dollar hospital rooms turn into storage closets. We workers also need collective bargaining so that we have a seat at the table to be proactive about solving these issues, rather than reactive. I hope Denver City Council sees the gravity of this issue, and Denver Health's role at the center of many of the issues plaguing our great city.

**From:** [Amy Campbell](#)  
**To:** [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 10/23/2023 Budget Hearing Written Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, October 23, 2023 2:12:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Budget.png](#)

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Hello --

See below for my personal comments on the Mayor's proposed 2024 budget:

Please let Mayor Johnston know that I support more funding for traffic safety in our City's budget.

While I appreciate that the Mayor included some (partial) funding for Safe Routes to School, I am extremely disappointed that he left out critical Vision Zero funding and funding for much needed traffic calming.

	What City Council asked for in their <a href="#">proposed amendments on 10/6</a>	What the Mayor included in his updated budget
Vision Zero	\$550,000	\$0
Safe Routes to School	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
Traffic Calming	\$3,000,000	\$0

Source: Denver Streets Partnership

As you know, traffic fatalities are on the rise. In fact, just a few weeks ago on my way to work I bicycled past the aftermath of a fatal car-pedestrian collision. Heart wrenching. Now is not the time to cut funding for Vision Zero. And funds to support traffic calming are a critical piece in decreasing the number of accidents, injuries, and deaths on our roadways. I fear that if we fail to prioritize these important safety issues, more Denverites will lose their lives in preventable crashes on our busy neighborhood streets and arterial roads.

Please ensure that at least your proposed amendment of an additional \$550,000 for Vision Zero makes it into the final budget. Our Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will be hamstrung to make any positive change without it. And, bear in mind that this investment only gets funding levels back to what they were in 2023 (well short of what we actually need to eliminate traffic fatalities)!

Thank you for your consideration, and your hard work of governance.

-- amy campbell.  
3312 Valentia St. Denver, CO 80238

**From:** [John Riecke](#)  
**To:** [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Bike Lane Funding! Increase It, Even!  
**Date:** Friday, November 3, 2023 4:22:43 PM

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*Dear Councilmembers:*

*Thank you for the increase in the 2024 Vision Zero Budget. Please consider making the following amendments to the 2024 Denver budget.*

- Please support or Co-Sponsor the potential amendment that Councilman Watkins has to move \$450k from the Speer Tunnel Project to the Safe Routes to Schools budget.*
- Please support increased funding for bike lanes. Funding for new bike lanes was slashed by 42% in the 2024 budget. Denver Moves Bicycles is down \$2.4 million from last year. While the DOTI budget for repaving streets was increased by \$4 million. Please make an amendment to the budget to move \$2 million of the Street Overlay and Rotomill program to the Denver Moves Bicycle Program. That would still give the repaving program a larger increase than last year, but would allow us to move closer to our goal of building out a complete, safe, and comfortable bike network for Denver. 39% of bike commuters are in the lowest income quartile, this is truly an equity issue.*

*Thank you for the consideration,*

*John Riecke*

*"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."*

**From:** [Tami Matthews](#)  
**To:** [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mayor Budget written statements  
**Date:** Monday, October 23, 2023 12:40:08 PM

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Hi! I'm Tami Matthews from District 2 in Bear Valley (SW Denver).

I'm in favor of this budget's increase in spending for the police (despite Southwest Denver - thank you, Councilman Flynn) has some of the lowest crime. I think more spending on police, especially embedding them in our communities, is vital. One of Mayor Johnston's campaign promises I supported most was making housing affordable, especially for our civil servants (police people, fire folks, and teachers). Embedding them into our community will make our neighborhoods safer while ensuring we know who our police are. I'd be hard-pressed to know who's covering SW Denver despite seeing squad cars on a regular basis.

I'm also in favor of increasing spending on homeless housing. The idea of tiny houses or pods with wrap-around services is fantastic. Mayor Johnston has gone out of his way to ensure there are more YIMBYs (yes, in my backyard). So far, I've only seen plans for District 2. I would feel better knowing Wash Park and other wealthier neighborhoods are also housing the homeless. They have more amenities and infrastructure anyway. Everyone in Denver needs to do their part. My biggest concern for District 2 is we're a food desert without great access to services, such as transportation.

I'm also in favor of the ordinance to force DPS and the city to communicate and collaborate more. As an example of the lack of coordination, Healthy Start times caught our recreation centers by surprise (though many of these centers provide needed after-school options for working parents). In addition, the recreation center near me -- Harvey Park -- would love to use the school gym. As a parent at Kunsmiller, directly behind Harvey Park's rec center, I think that's a wonderful idea. Our gym is only used during school hours. By working together, the city and DPS can determine how to worry about liability to enable more people to access school amenities. By the same token, DPS owns tennis courts at Harvey Park that are hardly used ... and certainly not be anyone at the school. The Harvey Park Rec Center can

take those courts and offer tennis lessons to our community or decide to use the space for something else. Collaboration, in other words, can save the city and schools money! I also appreciate the focus on education and safety at schools.

And as someone who lives in District 2, I'm excited about the Loretto Heights Cultural Center project. I'm concerned though we don't have enough amenities to fully support it. As mentioned above, our part of the city gets less money than Washington Park or Park Hill, despite being more heavily populated. More equity among districts, ensuring everyone has easy access to transportation (bikes included), restaurants, grocery stores, and more would be helpful. I see this as an important infrastructure issue to ensure every part of our city is thriving.

I'm also in favor of finding new ways to improve transportation and working with RTD. Evans is a thoroughfare I take from my house to Belcaro, Monday - Friday. If there were convenient transportation options, I'd take public transit. Evans wasn't intended as a highway. But we treat many of these West to East (and vice versa) thoroughfares as highways, despite school zones and business traffic. We do the same for southern and northern roads. Federal, Sheridan, Colorado -- many of our roads have become these mini-highways. If transit was more prevalent and had better options, more would take these. Maybe increasing city parking fees and fines would help?

I would not be opposed to increasing taxes. (I'll be voting yes on HH.) But I wonder if our businesses are paying their fair share. In particular, our state congress should find ways to tax non-green businesses more to reduce global warming. I know Denver is only a part of Colorado, but as the largest city (population-wise), I figure we have some sway.

I'm happy to have voted for Mayor Johnston and City Councilman Flynn. I see great things ahead for Denver if we can make it more equitable and more compassionate for the homeless (but solve the underlying issues) while improving education (focusing on the Denver of tomorrow).

Thank you,  
Tami Matthews  
Bear Valley (SW Denver)



**From:** [Joel Noble](#)  
**To:** [Sandoval, Amanda P. - CC Member District 1 Denver City Council](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [District 4 City Council](#); [Sawyer, Amanda - CC Member District 5 Denver City Council](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 7](#); [City Council District 8](#); [Watson, Darrell - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [Hinds, Chris - CC Member District 10 Denver City Council](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady](#); [Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez](#)  
**Cc:** [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Support Watson/Alvidrez Budget appropriately redirecting \$450k Transportation/Mobility funds to Safe Routes to Schools (23-1649)  
**Date:** Monday, November 6, 2023 12:50:44 PM

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City Council,

**I am writing today to encourage your support of the Watson and Alvidrez amendment to the proposed budget, which appropriately reallocates \$450k from the Transportation and Mobility fund to be used for projects furthering Safe Routes to Schools.**

As many have noted, including extensive public testimony at your hearings, and your own representatives to the DOTI Advisory Board, the community was promised that the Transportation and Mobility fund would be dedicated to pedestrian, bike and transit projects that improve safe multimodal options and reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries. This budget is trying to sneak past Council, and the community, the first co-opting of these funds for another purpose, with the claim that because bridge safety is important, they can redirect these funds for this unintended purpose.

The Watson/Alvidrez amendment to redirect these funds to Safe Routes to Schools is one good option for appropriate use of these funds, and DOTI can prioritize their Speer bridge project among other bridge and road projects they have funding for based on the relative priority of those items. Compared with the other difficult and controversial amendment discussions you have pending that will take more discussion, this amendment should be a straightforward choice.

**Please support this amendment, and thereby not only fund more ready-to-go Safe Routes to Schools projects, but also signal strongly to the new administration, with a veto-proof majority, that committed money in this fund for bike/ped/transit must remain committed.**

Thank you,

Joel Noble  
[joel@joelnoble.net](mailto:joel@joelnoble.net)

**From:** [Keith Pryor](#)  
**To:** [dence - City Council](#); [City Council District 10](#); [City Council District 9](#); [district1@denvergov.com](#); [district3@denvergov.com](#); [district4@denvergov.com](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [district7@denvergov.com](#); [district8@denvergov.com](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#); [Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady](#); [Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please vote NO on the following Budget amendments  
**Date:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:53:14 PM

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Dear City Council

I am writing you to ask you to Vote NO on amendments

23-1640  
23-1741  
23-1643  
23-1693  
23-1702

The Majority of these take funding from the police and one from the National western and diverts the money into ineffective programs.

Every neighborhood in Denver has been asking for more police coverage.

I support the Mayor and his budget to fund 3 cadet classes. This is desperately need as the police are severely understaffed at this point.

Star in my personal interactions have not resolved or de escalated situations. They have left victims of crimes worse off and have little effectiveness in making our city safer for those Housed or Unhoused neighbors. Please vote this amendment down.

You can not support vision zero and then remove funds from photo radar which makes are streets less safe for both those in cars and pedestrians and bikes. We are on track for record number of deaths on our roads. Taking this money away will make them only less safe and where the money will go as not solving my priorities for safer streets or a safe city. Please vote No.

We need detectives to solve crimes, write traffic violation and serve and protect our city. Please do not support efforts to move funds to leftist policies that is an ideology and not what actually makes a city safe for its residents.

Denver ranks in the top 10 U.S cities for crime, including: 3rd motor vehicle theft; 6th property crime; 10th rape and 13th for theft.

We need more police, not less.

Thank you for keeping Denver safe.

Please vote No on the above motions.

Thank you for your consideration

Keith Pryor

303-881-9873

**From:** [John Hayden](#)  
**To:** [dence - City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Romero Campbell, Diana - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 7](#); [City Council District 8](#); [City Council District 9](#); [City Council District 10](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez](#); [Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please vote against defunding police in Denver  
**Date:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:46:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-e2kbnjgt.png](#)

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Dear City Council members,

I am writing this evening to ask that you vote against any amendments to the city budget that would take funds away from the police department in the 2024 budget.

I have watched our city become a more and more dangerous place over the past several years and it's clear that taking resources away from the police has not made our city safer, especially for lower income people and for people of color.

Violent and drug crimes have made my community less safe and when we try to have the police address the issues we spend exceedingly long times on hold waiting for a response.

Recently we called the police for help because there was a woman threatening children in a park near our home. The police took over a half an hour to respond. There have been murders and drug over-dose deaths in encampments across the street from our elementary school. We can no longer walk Downtown safely and the STAR team has been less than effective at addressing the issues because they don't do the enforcement needed when people refuse their help. We need police to enforce the laws of our city and the people being hurt the most by the terrible policies that have decreased enforcement in our city are the very people the defund the police movement claims to be trying to help. Public Safety will not happen without police enforcement. Please do not approve any amendments defunding our police department.

John Hayden  
Denver Resident  
303-297-3994



# JOHN HAYDEN

THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY  
IS THE LIFE OF MY BUSINESS

**From:** [Ryan Steve](#)  
**To:** [dence - City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council](#); [Torres, Jamie C. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Romero Campbell, Diana - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 5](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council](#); [City Council District 7](#); [City Council District 8](#); [City Council District 9](#); [City Council District 10](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [Office of Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez](#); [Office of Councilwoman Sarah Parady](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please vote against defunding police in Denver  
**Date:** Monday, November 6, 2023 5:01:00 PM

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Dear City Council members,

I am writing this evening to ask that you vote against any amendments to the city budget that would take funds away from the police department in the 2024 budget.

I have watched our neighborhood and our city become a more and more dangerous place over the past several years and it's clear that taking resources away from the police has not made our city safer, especially for lower income people and for people of color. Violent and drug crimes have made my community less safe. And, when we do reach out to DPD to request assistance in addressing issues, hold times can exceed 30-45 minutes with a subsequent response taking hours.

We've called DPD for assistance with individuals setting up camp in the vehicle lanes of alleys, making access unsafe for residents and those in the alley, only to be told that they aren't prioritizing that work to call back during business hours for HOT.

There have been murders, drug over-doses, and beatings in encampments across the street from our neighborhood elementary school.

We can no longer walk Downtown safely as the STAR team has been less than effective at addressing the issues as they don't do the enforcement support necessary to assist when people refuse their help.

I believe that we need programs such as STAR and HOT, but I also believe that we need complimentary police staffing to enforce the laws of our city so that everyone, regardless of housing status, can be protected from those who would do them harm while also ensuring that public spaces remain available for all to use and not solely utilized by those who refuse STAR & HOT services.

The people being hurt the most by the terrible policies that have decreased enforcement in our city are the very people the defund the police movement claims to be trying to help. Public Safety will not happen without police enforcement. Please do not approve any amendments defunding our police department.

Ryan Miller  
D9 Resident  
303-885-9655