

From: [michelle hruschka](#)
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Defund the Police
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:51:19 AM

My direct participation in the decision making process.

It is my perspective that this is a worthy conversation the community needs to have.

I was not surprised by Chief Girt's presentation, a two page letter. I feel it is not indicative of a honest attempt to look at how public monies are spent.

I had the opportunity this summer to ask Chief Girt a question on the Bill Kelly show. I feel the question I asked was a fair one and I feel the response from Chief Girt that day, was a fair response. I was more interested if Chief Girt had heard about, A Better Tent City. It is a new model of housing for the homeless, which I feel could be a start of a healing process.

I feel it is unfair to have police dismantle the homeless camps because being homeless is not a crime. It is a social issue that has been ignored for far too long.

While others in the community are advocating for the police to be put under a microscope, I also believe the entire Shelter Health clinic needs to be put under a microscope as well. Many receive public funding where the people have no ability for oversight or input as to how those monies are spent.

An interesting event in history was the Peterloo Massacre on August 16, 1814. One can say similar economic were occurring as today and the people were concerned about the lack of representation. The gathering was peaceful, the order was given to the cavalry to attack with sabers swinging. Over two hundred years have gone by and we are still debating the injustice.

Percy Shelly memorialized that event in the poem, The Masque of Anarchy.

Today people are questioning the representation, as many are struggling. I feel they have the right to bring forward their concerns. Those at the bottom need to be heard and to know their views have value.

I feel this is just the beginning of the conversation. While the grassroots efforts to address justice makes those in the ruling class uncomfortable, the greater question to ask is why don't the councillors survey their own constituents opposed to allowing them to bring forward their personal stance on a particular issue which could be in opposition to the majority of the ward?

I am only one low income voice however in the greater community my voice echoes concerns from many others.

I pray, that change can occur.

Michelle Hruschka

