Should We Defund the Police?

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Defund the police. Why? Because police don't keep us safe, policing diverts billions of dollars from important resources such as our communities and schools, and policing in the U.S. was established to maintain white supremacy. In summary we don't need police, and we can get the biggest bang for our buck if we take the money from the police and invest it into better places such as our community, schools, healthcare and many more. This sounds like a good idea as it actually helps people and directly helps the community. Defunding the police is meant to help stop the destroying our communities and the arresting and killing unarmed black people such as George Floyd. I say Defunding of the police is a bad idea as police protect our communities just as the military protects the country. However, is all this true with crime rates increasing as police are defunded more, police financing is minor compared to other important resources, and the laws have been constantly changing since the founding of our nation. We will go over what defunding the police is, how much money policing takes away, and why the police was established.

Defund police advocates often say Police don't keep us safe; in regards to defunding the police, Mary Zerkel (2022) the coordinator of AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia initiative and director of Chicago Peacebuilding says, "We believe in everyone's right to live in safety and peace, we need to dismantle institutions that were never intended to get us there and free up resources for solutions that are actually designed to create healthy, safe, sustainable communities." So, as police don't keep us safe, we should invest in programs and our communities that will keep us safe. The definition of defunding the police is this paper according to Juris Magazine, which is Duquesne Law School's ABA award-winning legal news publication, and has served the Pittsburgh legal community since 1967. (2021) Defunding the police will be defined as: "'defund the police' simply means reduce police budgets and divest

funding towards underlying societal issues, like poverty, homelessness, education, and health services." So, if we defund the police, we will be able to invest that money into the community in order to make our communities safer. So, we would only cut the funding of the police so they can still do their job which would be easier because the communities would be safer on their own.

In opposition, police were never meant to keep us safe but instead enforce the law. Bishop, T. (2018) who is an assistant editor for the Mises Wire says, "The synonymous term for "police" is "law enforcement," and this is a distinction worth remembering. The role of police is not, and has never been, to keep people safe; it has always only been to enforce the law." So, if your being attacked the police don't have to save you, they would just enforce the law even if that includes not saving you but typically it is to keep as many people safe as possible. Laws are not made to keep us safe but instead to 'regulate behavior' but that typically includes keeping us safe. As Geoffrey Robertson (2000) a human rights barrister, academic, author and broadcaster states "Law is a set of rules that are created and are enforceable by social or governmental institutions to regulate behavior". 'Regulate behavior' can, but, doesn't always include keeping you safe. In summary, if you want to keep our communities safe you need to make laws that will keep our communities safe while maintaining police funding to enforce those laws.

Zerkel, M. (2022) "Policing diverts billions of dollars from schools, health care, and other vital programs that need more funding to strengthen our communities and support shared well-being." In summary, by investing in our children, it strengthens and brightens Americas future, while investing in our health care it preserves Americas past by saving its people. By defunding the police, it would make all this possible. Zerkel, M. (2022) states "U.S. cities collectively spend $100 billion a year on policing, while needed investments in education, health care,

housing, and other critical programs go unfulfilled, particularly in poor communities and communities of color." So, by taking from the over funded police, we can better use that money to help the people that the police are arresting and educate them to help ease the policies work.

In contrast, keep the funding where it's more secure. First off, one of the articles that Zerkel, M (2022) use is over five years old. But since they used it, I will also use it, near the beginning McCarthy, N. (2017) a former contributor states, "Crime levels have dropped substantially over the last 30 years in line with the spending uptake, a report released last month argues that this occurred in spite of higher police budgets." Which makes sense, you spend more you get better security, the same as a phone, if you get a cheap one you can expect it to not be as good as a phone that is twice the price. The way you can tell that the crime levels and police spending uptake is inversely moving together is that as Cassase, N. (2022) Communications Assistant at Independent Women's Forum New York states, "During the summer of 2020, New York cut $1 billion from its police funds. In June 2020, the city experienced a 130 percent increase in shootings in one month. Killings in August 2021 were up 50 percent." If you were to defund the police just a little, the safety of the community will go down with little time to use the money in order to make it safe. also, schools have had an increase in shootings according to Donna St. George a former reporter at the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Los Angeles Times. (2022) "School shootings in 2020-21 soared to the highest number in two decades, according to a new federal report that examines crime and safety in schools across the United States. […] There were 93 incidents with casualties at public and private schools in 2020-21, compared to 23 in the 2000-01 school year." By taking away from our law enforcement you will reduce the security of our schools especially as school shootings are increasing, ultimately the police are the ones who stop the shootings, or the person runs off in which the police will track

them down but if the police are defunded it could reduce the amount of police that are in schools and it may take longer to stop the shootings.

Zerkel, M. (2022) "Policing in the U.S. was established to maintain white supremacy." Fountain, B. (2018) an Award-winning author of Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk and Beautiful Country Burn quotes "Certain people, granted power, can be counted on to abuse those under their authority just because they can" both me and Fountain, B dislike this statement as we do not think that people with power should be able to use that power simply because they can. As many people and movies say, "with great power comes great responsibility." Some background on how police were first introduced can be explained by Fountain, B. (2018) "[In order to make a] fortune in rice or tobacco—the New World's cash crops—you had to size up to industrial scale, and for that you needed bodies, armies of bodies, a labor force […] Control of this new labor force would be key; mutiny was the great fear. By the early 1700s, a comprehensive system of racially directed law enforcement was well on its way to being fully developed." And so, the police were introduced. Since slavery has been abolished the incidents by percent between blacks and police have decreased but is still relatively high as a report from Chris, O. (2022) says "51% of victims who were Black reported their violent person crimes to the police compared to 44% of White victims and 47% of Hispanic victims." Therefore, there are more black victims by percent than whites. In summary, this does need to change and one way we can change this is to simply take funding from the police who are arresting and killing unarmed black people and put it into the black communities and help them to get jobs and do good in life which intern will ease the workload on the police.

In addition, the police are enforcing laws that are constantly changing, along with who is financing them. As time progresses the laws change what the police do changes and as Bishop,

T. (2018) mentioned before "The synonymous term for 'police' is 'law enforcement,'" so if the law changes what the police do will change. If you want the police to do better and not be as violent as they can be, then you need to fix the police and not defund them. For example, if you have a few bad apples in the bushel and some of them are bad or rotten you throw the bad ones away not the entire bushel. You would do the same with the police, you would have a little more training to weed out or fix any 'bad police', German Lopez the Senior Correspondent and Cohost of The Weeds (2020) states "A 2006 report from the Justice Department found that police officers typically receive about 111 hours on firearms skill and self-defense — but just 11 [16] on cultural diversity and human relations, eight on community policing strategies, and eight on mediation and conflict management." One way to help the police do better would be to add more cultural training and you could have yearly retraining's to help the police remember what to do in certain situations that they may not have seen in a while. Also, if you defunded the police who enforce the law, they would have a harder time doing their job because there more than likely would be less of them along with the uprising in crimes as stated by Cassase, N. (2022), it would be much harder for them to do their typical duties while patrolling schools, keeping the schools safe and keeping school shootings down which, we have seen an uprising in over the years as stated by St. George, D. (2022). While you can increase the security in the schools, which is a good idea, you need to remember that the police are ultimately the ones who will stop the suspect.

While defunding the police can be good as no one has experimented with it on a large scale, based off of numerous relatively small-scale experiments defunding the police is not a good idea. Just as there are professionals in other areas of study, the police are professionals in law enforcement and just like all people, sometimes, they make mistakes, but I still trust the

police over my neighbors (no offence) to protect me, keep everyone safe and enforce the law. Defunding the police would not directly, but, indirectly affect weather or not you will be safe, it would supply more money to other vital programs such as schools, healthcare, keeping schools safe with new technology and many more; and it wouldn't be enforcing law supremacy; but there is a bigger cost than that, it is your security, safety, your kid's future and ultimately Americas future.

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