

Testimony from Elaine Miller in favor of item #20-2867:

I've been paying taxes to the city of Chicago as a resident for 10 years and as a small business owner for the past 4 years. I went to the BLM protest on May 30th and I was not only afraid of how I saw the police brutalizing the protestors, but I was enraged to know my tax dollars were being used as a weapon against me. I want to see my tax dollars going to build communities up, and I want my tax dollars distributed evenly throughout Chicago, not just in the North, predominantly white neighborhoods. Our economic disparities were already obvious before the pandemic, but now more than ever we should be using the gross amount of dollars given to the police to safeguard those who are hit hardest during COVID. We do not need to militarize police, we need to use that money to invest in small businesses and community centers that help Chicago's neighborhoods thrive. We need to release people from jail who were put there through over policing, racist policies, and false confessions obtained through torture. This has torn families apart and made communities even more at risk. I demand that we defund the police now and divert that money into communities who have been underfunded and over-policed.