

Public Comments on DSM Regular Council Meeting on Consent Items 20 & 21

Consent Item 20

Resolution:

<http://www.dmgov.org/government/CityCouncil/Resolutions/20220124/20.pdf>

Communication:

<http://www.dmgov.org/Government/CityCouncil/Communications/22-021.pdf>

- The war on drugs has proven time and again to be a failure used to target communities of color. Police spending is already astronomically high so sanctioning additional overtime spending for drug enforcement instead of community services is unhelpful and enabling.
- DMPD's "war on drugs" approach currently involves raids on neighborhoods in the middle of the night such as the raid on November 18, 2020, July 21, 2021, and October 26, 2021. This is horrific and traumatic for entire neighborhoods. This escalates a potentially dangerous situation. This also involves further militarizing our police. Police raids like this often result in deaths of suspects, bystanders, and cops. This is in part because in the middle of the night, folks do not know who is breaking into their home. This puts entire neighborhoods at risk.
 - PTH Statement on 11/18/20 Raids:
<https://twitter.com/peopletownhall/status/1329507851174342656?s=20>
 - DSMBLM Statement on 7/21/21 Raids
<https://twitter.com/DesMoinesBLM/status/1418015947160424448?s=20>

Consent Item 21

Resolution:

<http://www.dmgov.org/government/CityCouncil/Resolutions/20220124/21.pdf>

Communication:

<http://www.dmgov.org/Government/CityCouncil/Communications/22-022.pdf>

- DMPD is an inappropriate organization to be operating “traffic safety” programs. They have repeatedly entered into high-speed chases in, killing suspects and bystanders. We should be moving traffic enforcement & safety into its own organization.
 - One example, a man died in May 2021 after a police chase ended in the suspect crashing into another car.
<https://www.weareiowa.com/article/news/crime/hubbell-avenue-guthrie-avenue-fatal-crash-police-chase-woman-suspect-man-dead-des-moines-police-department/524-a8ddb1b5-d884-4995-8aaf-799540af742a>
 - One example, car crashes into tree after police chase in the Drake Neighborhood
https://who13.com/news/surveillance-video-car-crashes-into-tree-ending-police-chase-in-drake-neighborhood/?utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=socialflow
 - One example, with trigger warning, (not DMPD but local) where high-speed police chase resulted in the death and injuries of multiple teenagers
<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/crime-and-courts/2021/01/12/des-moines-police-release-identities-iowa-teens-killed-high-speed-car-chase/6636153002/>