



**Undergraduate
Student Government**

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**March 28th, 2023
Student Senate Session
S.S.R. #12**

Sponsors: Senator Ogbonna, Senator Fairman, Senator Siraj
Bill Contributors: Director Yang, Deputy Director Morel, City Liaison Zeimet, Deputy City Liaison LeFevre
Referred to: Governmental Relations, Justice & Equity
Student Senate Action: **Passed** Failed/Tabled

A RESOLUTION

To express USG’s support for reallocating Iowa City funds towards community-based organizations and projects.

Section 1. Short Title

This resolution may be cited as “USG Support of Reallocating Iowa City Funds to Community Based Organizations and Projects”.

Section 2. Background and Discussion

Whereas, The Iowa City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for FY2024.

Whereas, the proposed FY2024 Police Department budget is \$17,346,723. This is \$955,336 higher than was approved for FY2023.

Whereas, In FY2014, the city council approved a police budget of \$12,246,285. In ten years, the police department budget has grown 42%.

Whereas, Public safety is central to local government. In the currently proposed FY2024 budget, expenditures for the Police Department alone comprise 25.59% of the general fund¹.

¹ The City Council. “FY2024 Proposed Budget.” *City of Iowa City, Iowa*, City of Iowa City, 2022, <https://user-9hywe2.cld.bz/FY2024-Proposed-Budget>.

Whereas, Public safety can be increased in more productive ways by reallocating funds to community-based resources and projects, including, but not limited to Crisis Services, Affordable Housing projects and resources that work to diminish food insecurity.

Whereas, The Iowa City Strategic Plan for FY2023-2028 was approved by the City Council on December 6, 2022, and outlines the city’s “values, strategies, and primary areas of focus of City policy, projects, programs, and initiatives over a six-year period”. City Council listed their values as “Partnerships and Engagement, Climate Action, Racial equity, social justice, and human rights”².

Whereas, Approximately 26.8% of Iowa City residents live in poverty³. Affordable housing is a prominent issue in Iowa City. The proposed expenditures for the Department of Neighborhood and Development Services comprise 7.1% of the general fund. However, most Iowa City affordable housing developments are funded by a minimal number of short-term grants, making significant projects harder to develop in the long term.

Whereas, Due to the steady increase in food prices, food banks are finding it increasingly difficult to provide resources to families and individuals going through food insecurity.

Whereas, Iowa City residents greatly benefit from Aid to Agencies programs that comprise less than 0.4% of the total Iowa City budget. Crisis services like CommUnity Crisis Services and United Action for Youth, legacy organizations of the Aid to Agencies budget, primarily rely on a recent but temporary influx of federal dollars (American Rescue Plan Act).

Whereas, Reallocation of funds towards established and emerging services can provide additional support to public safety and a better quality of life for Iowa City residents.

Section 3. Action

Resolved, The University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government is deeply committed to increasing public safety for students and Iowa City residents and recognizes fiscal constraints with regards to the FY2024 proposed budget. However, Undergraduate Student Government believes more can be done to increase services and resources within community-based organizations and other pressing city concerns.

Resolved, This resolution shall be read at the April 4th City Council announcements and sent to the following individuals and organizations to indicate USG’s support:

² The City Council. “FY 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.” *City of Iowa City*, City of Iowa City, Dec. 2022, <https://www.iowa-city.org/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=2103884&dbid=0&repo=CityofIowaCity>.

³ United States Census Bureau. “U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: Iowa City City, Iowa.” *Census Bureau*, 2021, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/iowacitycityiowa>.

- The Iowa City City Council
- Iowa City's City Manager's Office

Therefore be it resolved, The University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government (USG) encourages members of the Iowa City Council to reallocate city funds to community-based projects and resources that best address these priority issues.

Section 4. Enactment Clause

Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Student Government upon the signature of the USG President.

Alexis Carfrae, **Speaker of the Senate**
Alexis Carfrae

I hereby attest and certify that this resolution originated from the 2022-2023 Student Senate Session.

APPROVED on 3/28/23, by

Patrick Johnson, **USG President**
Patrick Johnson