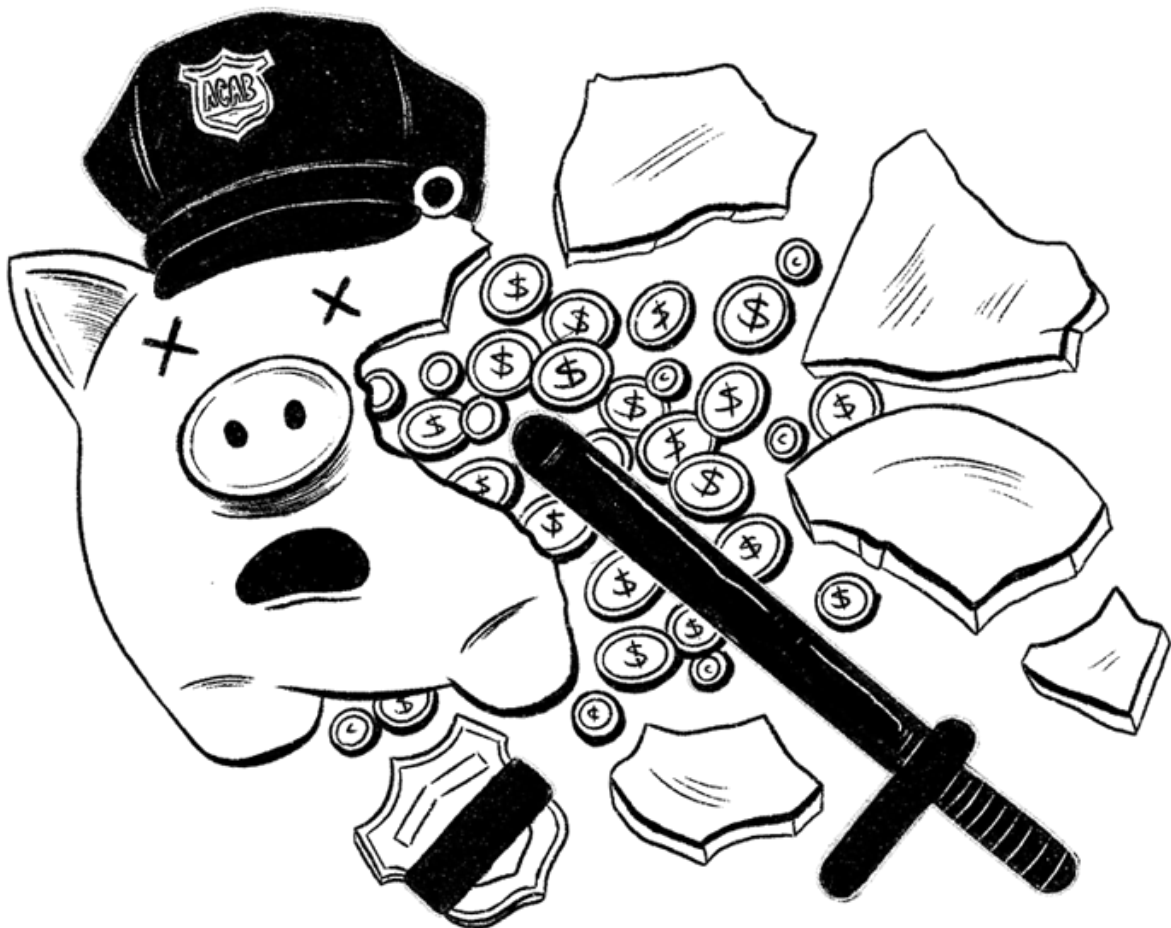


# Care, Not Cops: A Pocket Guide to Defunding the NYPD



# Why We Should Defund the NYPD



Police don't keep us safe. Police don't solve our problems. Real safety and justice come from investing in the community through tangible, essential benefits—schools, housing, social services—that improve people's lives. We keep us safe by prioritizing our health, safety and well-being.

Police do not exist to prevent nor stop violence; they protect the interests of rich property owners while upholding inequality and racism.

**Our Demand:**  
**Reduce the NYPD expense**  
**budget by at least \$3 billion and**  
**the police force by 50%**

The NYPD's \$11 billion budget is higher than that of any other US city and exceeds what New York spends on Departments of Health, Homeless Services, Housing Preservation and Development, and Youth and Community Development combined.

# Why We Should Dismantle Systems of Violence and Punishment



Crime is a social construct used to stigmatize Black communities and feed people into the carceral cycle. Crime is not the same as harm. Systems of violence and punishment do not address the root causes of harm that lead to crime in the first place, or mitigate problems like harmful drug use, poverty and mental illness.

Jails do not fix crime. Police and prisons are institutions of social control built upon punishment and exploitation, not rehabilitation. They trap people in a cycle of incarceration: court, fines, coercive plea bargains, prison, exclusion from housing, exclusion from employment and more. Other institutions like immigration agencies, like ICE, rip families and communities apart.

We must push for immediate decarceration and fight to keep people out of the carceral system to begin with.

# Care, Not Cops I - Philosophy



City budgets reflect the moral priorities of our city and government. It is an outrage that while teachers, EMTs, and other essential workers face lay-offs, benefit cuts, and severe hiring freezes, this city is still recruiting new cops.

To achieve a safe, healthy, and just New York, we must end police interventions, and instead invest in resources that build up our communities. Community-based models of safety and violence prevention are shown to be much more effective than policing: noncoercive mental health services, mental health crisis-intervention, restorative justice and transformative justice interventions, health and wellness resources, harm reduction, and non-coercive drug and alcohol treatment.





# Care, Not Cops II - Crisis Prevention Models



Our communities are safe and healthy when we have what we need: dignified housing, good jobs, economic security, quality education, robust community resources, free transit, universal healthcare and an economy that works for us all.

Study after study shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are more successful in reducing crime than more police or prisons.

Notable examples of the crisis prevention model include: CAHOOTS in Eugene, Oregon; MH First in Sacramento, California; and Crisis Response Unit in Olympia, Washington. These programs bring mental health providers, social workers and medical professionals to people in crisis rather than armed cops. From there, people in crisis can access health services, housing programs, and support to have needs met.

# Refunding Our Neighborhoods



Refunding our communities means investing in our priorities. What could we do with the resources taken up by the NYPD?

## **Community Services**

- Create a robust transitions and training program to redirect members of the NYPD's workforce into roles at other city agencies or services that serve, rather than harm, our communities.

## **Education**

- Double the number of school counselors (from 2,883 currently to 5,766) by removing all NYPD and SROs from schools.

## **Housing**

- Reinvest in public housing: Provide the \$32 billion in outstanding repairs for which New York Housing Authority's (NYCHA) has spent decades waiting in the wake of federal disinvestment.

# Refunding Our Public Services



## Disability

- Increase funding for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MPOD)

## Public/Mental Health

- Fully fund public healthcare infrastructure to provide all New Yorkers with non-coercive mental healthcare

## Transit

- Instead of bicycle ticket stings, offer bike riding classes in public schools and senior centers; instead of stationing cops at the entrances of bridge pathways, install bollards and signage with sufficient lighting; eliminate all forms of vehicle seizures.
- Instead of punishing fare-evaders, make MTA free



# Refunding Our Livelihoods

## **Economy**

- Provide direct economic relief and pay people to stay home while the COVID crisis continues.
- Establish a Universal Summer Internship and Youth jobs program

## **Food Security**

- Create a fund matching SNAP benefits to alleviate poverty and address food insecurity.

## **Reparations**

- Set aside money for a reparations fund that will allow survivors of the carceral system and their families to receive financial compensation for harm they endured.



**<http://msha.ke/defundnypd>**



