Pridgen - Defunding Police Forum

Whereas Communities across the country have been calling for “Defunding Police Departments”;

Whereas close to the close of the of city of Buffalo’s 2020-2021 operating budget, there was a very well-organized effort to encourage the City of Buffalo to Defund the Buffalo Police Department;

Whereas The Buffalo Common Council did not have adequate time to consider the proposals to reallocate funds that could create a more public safety model of policing;

Whereas the meaning of defunding has no universal definition and has different meanings from city to city;

Whereas generally defunding in many areas is not a call to eliminate the Police Department but reallocating a portion of funds to areas that increase public safety such as mental health providers, social workers, victim advocates and other community-based safety organizations and initiatives;

Whereas the operating budget of the city is decided every year and input for such a monumental change should begin early; and

Whereas this resolution does not commit the Council to reallocation of funds, but begins an open process to listen, learn and make informed decisions before the next city budget: Now, Therefore Be It

Resolved that The City of Buffalo Common Council-

1) Directs Common Council Staff to begin to create a system to collect and compile written input from stakeholders on their ideas of reallocating funds in the city’s upcoming operating budget; and

2) Directs Common Council Staff to submit a monthly summary of responses to the Common Council and Mayor Brown for review.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Title amended to "Defunding Police Forum"
**RESULT:** ADOPTED AS AMENDED [7 TO 2]

**MOVER:** Darius G. Pridgen, David A. Rivera

**SECONDER:** Bryan J. Bollman, Lovejoy District Council Member

**AYES:** Bollman, Feroleto, Nowakowski, Pridgen, Rivera, Wingo Sr, Wyatt

**NAYS:** Joseph Golombek Jr, Christopher P. Scanlon