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**For Immediate Release:**

**The Charleston People's Budget Coalition Renews Call for Full Transparency from the Charleston Police Department and Submits a FOIA Request for their Detailed Line-Item Budget**

Last fall and again in February 2021, the [Charleston People's Budget Coalition](#) called for the public release of a detailed line-item budget from the Charleston Police Department (CPD). As we approach the summer of 2021, we are still fighting for transparency from one of the largest department budgets in the City.

In Charleston, spending on law enforcement dramatically outpaces that of community services such as housing, education, violence prevention and other socio-economic programs. Out of the [\\$271 million](#) spent by the City of Charleston, \$54 million, or about 20%, is funneled directly to CPD. Compare this to the \$11 million budget on the Department of Recreation, or the \$1 million budget on the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The current budget priorities do not reflect the interests of Black, brown, Indigenous, disabled, poor and working class people. This poses the question, why do Charleston city leaders continue pouring resources into the police department instead of adequately investing in and supporting our communities? As a city, we must understand that [police do not prevent or reduce crime](#), rather investing in communities does. To begin the process of improving public safety we need to identify CPD line-items that could be reallocated to life-affirming services, programs, organizations and initiatives to close racial disparities and meet community needs.

Over the last several months it has become obvious that Charleston City Council Members and Mayor Tecklenburg are unclear about how CPD spends their \$54 million budget. To show true transparency and accountability, we have asked for the detailed line-item budget and the Budget Item Detail for each division under the Charleston Police Department for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. We look forward to hearing from the City of Charleston within the time limits set by law.

**About the People's Budget Coalition:**

The Charleston People's Budget Coalition is a united front advocating for an equitable city budget, the elimination of poverty and racial disparities, and a redistribution of power to create true accountability with city officials in Charleston.

Coalition members: ACLU of South Carolina, Charleston BLM, Charleston Area Justice Ministry, Charleston Democratic Socialists of America, Lowcountry Action Committee, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities, and We Are Family.