

**From:** a g heartsong

**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 7:58:31 AM

**To:** Woolsey, Heather

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Neighborhood Decision Making Grants are ESSENTIAL

Hello members of the Strategic Opportunities Review Working Group,

I am a resident in Ward 1, and work in Ward 4.

I strongly object to suspending Neighborhood Decision Making Grants and the London Community Grants Program in an attempt, as I understand it, to offset the property tax spike due to the huge increase in the police budget.

Neighborhood Decision Making Grants are the most accessible and empowering ways for average citizens to have any say in how tax dollars are spent. Many of the grants result in very local neighborhood improvements with immediate, long-lasting benefits, such as the Bishop-Hellmuth neighborhood way-finding map.

Counselors Lewis and Lehman think a comprehensive review of the budget for Neighborhood Decision Making Grants is needed, but THAT ALREADY WAS DONE during the Multi-Year Mayor's Budget. Spending money on another review is wasteful and unnecessary.

Counselors should not steal money from the people's stated neighborhood needs to pay the police. I implore the Strategic Opportunities Review Working Group do not support this proposal.

Respectfully,

Ayla Heartsong

London