



**SEATTLE POLICE FOUNDATION**  
*Partnership for a Safe Seattle*

## SAY NO TO DEFUNDING SPD

The Seattle City Council currently has a veto-proof majority to cut the Seattle Police Department budget by 50% in 2020 and in 2021. According to Chief Best, [these budget cuts would result in losing half of SPD's officers](#) The proposed budget cuts would be catastrophic for public safety in Seattle.

The Seattle Police Foundation is encouraging all Seattle citizens who do NOT want this to happen to [contact the Seattle City Council members](#) today and let them know that you do NOT support Defunding SPD.

**SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS GUILD**  
PRESENTS

## Stop the Defunding of the Seattle Police Department Rally



**Sunday August 9th, 12:00 PM**  
**Seattle City Hall**  
600 Fourth Ave. Seattle, WA 98104



**StopDefunding.com**

Please observe King County COVID-19 recommendations while attending.

SPF has been made aware of an upcoming rally to show support to the men and women of Seattle Police Department. While the Foundation is not directly involved with this demonstration, we encourage those available to attend.

## A Statement from SPF

Increased public scrutiny of all police departments has also brought attention to police foundations that support the work of police. The Seattle Police Foundation (SPF) wishes to be fully transparent and set the record straight.

The purpose of the Seattle Police Foundation, a non-profit organization, is to fund training, non-lethal equipment and community relations programs for the Seattle Police Department that the City budget cannot cover. Funding comes through donations from corporations and individuals. SPF grant purchases are passed through an SPD fiscal process, ensuring that City of Seattle protocols are met. We do nothing secretly. We are not a vehicle for law enforcement to raise and spend money without oversight. What we spend and what we spend it on is available in our newsletters and on our website. For continued information,

please read on.

### **Why we exist**

The Seattle Police Foundation was formed over a decade ago to bridge the gap between what the City of Seattle can fund for the Seattle Police Department and what it cannot. With more than 80% of the Department's annual budget going to support personnel costs, SPD has very little flexibility to seed new programs and encourage innovation. The role of the Foundation is not to displace funding for basic law enforcement, nor to reduce in any way the responsibility of the City of Seattle to commit the necessary funding for law enforcement services for its citizens. However, as modern law enforcement tasks continue to become more complex, the Seattle Police Department, similar to police departments across the country, has increasing needs to stay current in training, technology and equipment, and with communication and partnership efforts with the community. The Foundation utilizes the generous contributions of our fellow citizens and funding partners to enhance the Seattle Police Department's efforts in three vital areas:

**Community Partnerships** – The Seattle Police Foundation funds innovative programs that enhance relationships between the community and the Seattle Police Department. These include:

[The IF Project](#) - Under IF, the police step out of their traditional role of enforcing laws to promoting intervention, prevention, and to reducing recidivism and incarceration. This program was created by a SPD Detective with support from SPF and became so successful that IF now operates as its own 501c3.

[Urban Youth Violence Resistance Training](#) - Teaches a variety of lifelong skills to teens. These skills help teens develop a stronger sense of self, along with stronger feelings of personal and community responsibility.

[Victim Support Team](#) - Provides on-site crisis intervention and support to domestic violence victims at secured crime scenes. The program addresses the gap in services for domestic violence victims and their children in between the time patrol officers respond to a call, and the time that advocates, detectives, and prosecutors make contact with the victim for follow-up.

Funding from the Seattle Police Foundation provides training for VST volunteers, builds and enhances relationships with citizens and other domestic service providers, and supports emergency services that VST volunteers provide to victims and their families, such as emergency hotel nights, food, clothing, and baby care items.

**SeaPal**- is a proactive, prevention-oriented strategy which relies on the cooperation, coordination and building of relationships between youth, police and community through recreation and cultural enrichment. SEAPAL focuses on providing youth 5-18 years of age the opportunity to be a part of a variety of programming activities with police officers serving as coaches, mentors and role models.

**Safe Place** - SPD Safe Place is a law enforcement sponsored and overseen initiative that was born out of a need to address low reporting of anti-LGBTQ crimes and school bullying incidents by increasing public trust in law enforcement and feelings of safety in the community. The program was expanded in 2018 to include anyone who may have been a victim of a bias crime. It is now a model that is used across the country to protect community members against hate crimes.

**Employee Development** – SPF funds advanced training and employee recognition programs including Law Enforcement Casualty Care EMT Course.

- **Implicit Bias Training** -SPF is partially funding mandatory implicit bias training to all sworn officers (approximately 1450 individuals) in 2020. This work started earlier this year and was then put on hold due to COVID 19.
- **Advanced Bike Skills class** – SPF funded an advanced training course for SPD's bike unit that was specifically designed for the unique needs of patrolling Seattle streets.
- **K9 Training** – advanced training for the 12 K9 officers and their canine partners that improve their ability to track and detain suspects with limited use of force, as well as advanced first aid to handlers so they are able to treat their canine partners,

as well as community members, if injured.

- **eLearning Design** – funded SPD’s training unit to attend a course that will improve their ability to offer eLearning as an option. This will increase the number of people who can access training, as well as reduce costs in the future.
- **Internet Crimes Against Children NW Conference** – SPF is the fiscal agent and planning partner in this regional conference. This event draws international participation from a diverse group of professionals who are dedicated to stopping online victimization of children and identifying and apprehending child predators.

### **Police Service Enhancements**

SPF funds cutting-edge and specialized equipment and technology.

- **UVIR Digital Camera** which can detect evidence that can often be missed by the naked eye such as blood on dark colored fabrics, gunshot residue, detection of document forgeries and alterations, and the ability to reveal deep tissue bruising.
- **Forensics Audio Program**. Audio recordings used in police investigations are typically made in uncontrolled environments where quality suffers. This type of forensic analysis can provide evidence that will give new investigative leads, exonerate an innocent person, or implicate a suspect.
- **EMT First Aid and Medical Equipment** - SPF has purchased advanced first aid equipment for SPD’s EMT trained officers. This equipment is used as officers are first on the scene where there are life-threatening emergencies and saves lives. training

By supporting innovative projects in these funding areas, our public-private partnership allows the Seattle Police Department to serve Seattle’s public safety needs.

### **How we fund SPD**

The large majority of SPF grant purchases are passed through an SPD fiscal process, ensuring that City of Seattle protocols are met. This guarantees all grant purchases have appropriate approval, as well as full transparency to the community.

In some instances, SPF can channel funds to out-of-pocket costs like allowing our Victim Support Team to cover hotel bills for victims of domestic violence. Or, as was the case recently, the foundation can generate funds for an urgent need such as the replacement of EMT Kits that were stolen, damaged and burned during recent protests.

## **How You Can Show Support**

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Seattle Police officers are on the front lines continuing to work tirelessly around the clock. So many of our supporters have asked how they can show officers how much their work is appreciated. We've compiled a list of ways you can let officers know you care below.

**Sign the SPOG Petition to Stop Defunding.** Stop the City Council from defunding SPD. Sign & share the SPOG petition [here](#).

**Send a message of support.** Send an email to [info@SeattlePoliceFoundation.org](mailto:info@SeattlePoliceFoundation.org) and we'll share it with officers.

**Make a donation in honor of an officer.** [Donate to SPF's greatest need fund](#) and we'll make sure that officers are provided with everything they need to continue their work.

**Set up an account with AmazonSmile.** When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to SPF.

**Send card or letters of support to the SPD precincts.** Send your message to the precinct of your choice by mailing them to: Seattle Police Department ([Precinct of your choice](#)) PO Box 34986, Seattle, WA 98124-4986

**Purchase a gift card and send it to SPF.** Purchase a gift card to a local restaurant and we'll make sure it's used to show officers the community cares about them.

