

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the Louisville Metro Council regarding Mayor Greg Fisher's \$822 million dollar budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Again, the Public Safety Department benefits most from the budget. Police, Fire and other first responders are getting 58 percent of the budget including funds to firefighters and police for overtime. In the meantime, our most crime ridden communities are left without sufficient resources to address the continuing problems of violent deaths 25 years and under. We must address the root causes through economic and social development.

I am proposing that \$1 million dollar be set aside for year round employment for our youth, including our usual Summer Jobs for Youth. For example in West Louisville there is high levels of unemployment and people living in poverty. Half of those living in poverty are in the 40203 zip code. A third of these residents would have to double their income to reach the poverty line. The members of the Kentucky Alliance believe that if we had more jobs and more activities for our youth, year round that address poverty, drugs and abuse, we would experience a decrease in violent crimes and unnecessary gun violence resulting in deaths.

We should expand programs already out there such as adding more monies to advocacy organizations that can connect and inspire youth to focus on academic needs and creating more internships and where youth can pick up skills and learn firsthand about what is needed to be able to compete for certain CAREERS and live quality lives.

I am proposing that a \$1 million be added that focuses on entrepreneurship for youth that would give them incentives to create their own businesses. Many of these young people are street smart and their skills could be better utilized in working with small businesses than drug dealing. This would enable small businesses to benefit and at the same time give youth real life skills on how to start and maintain their own businesses. There should also be city-wide contests annually where our young people can showcase their businesses and their products.

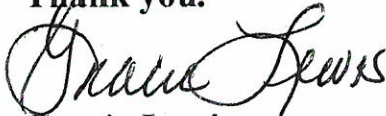
Again, I am requesting that \$300,000 could be used for TARC bus expansion that would enable residents who re in need of employment to get to Amazon in Indiana and businesses in Riverport.

I am proposing that the Louisville Metro Council create more affordable housing especially as more federal funding is expiring. We're counting on the Metro Council to get the Affordable Housing Trust Fund the full \$5 million it needs this year.

In closing the Kentucky Alliance would lie to see the \$500,000 used to create more bike lanes be set aside to move the 12,000 or so homeless students in Jefferson County Public Schools into affordable housing?

The Kentucky Alliance is requesting that \$200,000 to be allocated to social justice organizations to teach our youth civic engagement skills. This would enable our youth to learn how our laws our made and to fully participate in our system of government at the local, state and national level.

Thank you.


Gracie Lewis
Board Member
Ky Alliance