

# THE CHARLESTON PEOPLE'S BUDGET COALITION: REFUND OUR CITY

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 IN CHARLESTON.

## How do we increase public safety in Charleston?

- Improve access to housing: Increase opportunities for home ownership, rental assistance, transitional housing, and Homelessness Outreach Coordinators.
- Provide opportunities for youth: Increase summer youth employment programs for youth & seasonal workers specifically in underserved communities.
- Build safe infrastructure: Create and maintain sidewalk programs in neighborhoods with high public transit ridership. Provide subsidies for Weatherization Assistance Programs for low-income neighborhoods.
- Guarantee all city workers a living wage: Implement a \$15 living wage for every city employee & pass a resolution demonstrating support for all employees to be paid \$15/hour in Charleston.
- Directly invest in racial justice: Expand the Department of Racial Reconciliation & Tolerance to hire additional staff. Fund the Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion & Racial Conciliation.

## How can we pay for this?

For the past 5 years in Charleston, only **10% percent** of arrests involve incidents with serious threats of violence, while up to **90% percent** of arrests are for nonviolent, largely low-level offenses. In Charleston since 2015, there have been more arrests for **marijuana possession** than there have been for all violent offenses combined.

**Reallocate \$5 million in 2021 from CPD to city programs providing services to communities that have been harmed by centuries of divestment and oppression.**

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The Charleston People's Budget Coalition: ACLU of SC, NAACP Charleston, Black Lives Matter Charleston, Black Liberation Fund, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities, Community First Land Trust, We Are Family, Lowcountry Action Committee, Charleston Democratic Socialists of America, Charleston Activist Network, JC & Associates, LLC.