

A recipe for disaster

The Bethlehem Gadfly Budget December 5, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the City Budget* 

ref: **Residents support police, reject defunding**

Gadfly:

All sentiment aside, we make financial decisions based on data and not our personal feelings about police officers.

This has nothing to do with individual police officers; we are being negligent, at best, to continue raising the police budget, year after year without any discussion about the actual need for and cost of the service.

This discussion isn't going away, even conservative estimates confirm that the city won't be seeing even a beginning to the return of normal revenues until Summer of 2021.

The Census report (<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/calculating-americas-eviction-crisis-up-to-40-million-people-are-at-risk-of-being-kicked-out-of-their-homes-2020-08-07>) determines approx. 40 million Americans will be eligible for eviction on January 1.

Its safe to assume some of those people are our neighbors.

We've borrowed a million dollars [from cash reserves], we are increasing taxes on citizens with no safety net for those on fixed income, and now an additional water run off fee.

One doesn't need to be an economist to see this is a recipe for disaster.

Michele Downing

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