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Racial Justice Group Releases Tool Calculating Police Budgets in 300 Largest U.S. Cities

Calculator Reveals Some U.S. Cities Dedicate Over Half of Total Budget to Police

***** To book an interview, email acre@megaphonestrategies.com *****

Oakland, CA -- As conversations around police brutality continue to ramp up, with demonstrations continuing nationwide and anti-racist organizers pushing to defund the police across the country, [Action Center on Race and the Economy](#) released a tool that calculates the percentage of police budgets to the total respective budget of the 300 largest U.S. cities.

View the tool [here](#). View the full list of city budgets [here](#).

“Public outrage over racialized violence by police has forced the United States into a moment of reckoning,” **said Tracey Corder, Policing Campaign Coordinator at [Action Center on Race and the Economy](#)**. “Budgets are about priorities. We need to grapple with the fact that elected officials are prioritizing huge portions of our tax dollars -- over a third of total budgets in many cities -- to pay for the brutalization and murder of Black and Brown people by the police.

“This massive and immoral misuse of our funds should horrify us, and move us to swift action to demand enormous budget shifts in our respective towns and cities.

“While our biggest cities get well-deserved criticism for their enormous police forces, some smaller cities -- such as Elkwood, California, and Brownsville, Texas -- allocate well over half of their budget to the police. This is unacceptable.

“Right now, our elected officials continue to underfund resources our communities desperately need, while funnelling egregious amounts of money into police departments that perpetuate fear and violence among communities of color. Nobody living in this country should have to sacrifice access to healthcare, transportation, education, childcare, and safe housing in exchange for a brutal police force.

“Our elected officials have blood on their hands. We deserve so much better. The time to defund police is now.”

Some of the most notable numbers include:

- *Los Angeles (52 percent of total city budget)*
- *Milwaukee (47 percent of total city budget)*
- *Oakland (44 percent of total city budget)*
- *Austin (40 percent of total city budget)*
- *Miami (42 percent of total city budget)*
- *Chicago (37 percent of total city budget)*
- *Atlanta (30 percent of total city budget)*
- *Detroit (30 percent of total city budget)*

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The Action Center on Race and the Economy (ACRE) is a campaign hub for organizations working at the intersection of racial justice and corporate accountability. We provide research and communications infrastructure and strategic support for organizations working on campaigns to win structural change by directly taking on the corporations that are responsible for pillaging communities of color, devastating working-class communities, and harming our environment.