

Working definitions:

Vision: what is our ideal world we are trying to build through this specific issue work?

Values: what is our theory of change and the principles that guide how we do our work?

Mission: what is the work we are trying to accomplish and how?

Defund Somerville Police Department (Defund SPD) was formed in the summer of 2020 by a multiracial collective of Somerville residents amidst global racial uprisings against police brutality and white supremacist violence. Over the course of a few weeks, Defund SPD brought together thousands of Somerville residents around the demand to defund the police and refund the people, organized hours of public testimony to the Somerville city council, hundreds of calls and emails to our local representatives, and mobilized our community onto the streets in front of the mayor's house. With BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) leadership, we will continue to deepen our organizing and strengthen our demands for justice.

Defund SPD's vision is anchored in embodying and creating a generative community in Somerville; one that is caring, nurturing, and seeks to foster accountability outside of the realms of carceral logic. In doing so, we hope to shift public consciousness around public safety towards one in which restorative and transformative justice are centered along with the needs of communities of color, the working class, and other marginalized communities. We believe in a future in which community needs are met not for the few through the hoarding of budgetary resources, but for all through community solidarity, demands, and action.

We are not a reformist movement. We not only believe another world without the myriad harms of policing and prisons is possible, but we have also committed to actively building it.

Defund SPD will live its **values** of restorative and transformative justice to avoid recreating the violences of punitive accountability and disposability culture. Our work is guided by a belief in the potential of people-powered movements exercising collective agency to transform the material conditions of our community. In accordance with our values, we will work *with* the people to create community-led campaigns, act with transparency, and not as gatekeepers.

As abolitionists, our movement is born from the struggle for Black liberation and the political imagination of Black feminists and freedom fighters. We honor those who have come before us, those that struggle today, and those that will struggle tomorrow for a racially just reality in which communities of color can thrive without fear of state-sanctioned violence and white supremacy. As a movement, we recognize the leadership of BIPOC residents of Somerville organizing within Defund SPD and have created an internal governing structure that requires a BIPOC majority to advance our movement strategy so that those closest to the pain are closest to transformative power.

We understand the role the police play in the larger class war as defenders of property, the wealthy, and the state rather than protectors serving the needs of the working class. In acknowledging this, we throw our lot in with the working class that is often preyed upon by the police physically and financially. In our struggle for collective liberation, we recognize the myriad

of communities, such as the LGBTQ community and the disability community, that have disproportionately suffered at the hands of police and the carceral state, honoring them through consideration of their contributions to this long fight for freedom and by reaffirming our solidarity in overthrowing the oppressive systems that harm us all.

Defund SPD's mission is to build collective power around a vision of abolition that can be harnessed to defund police and prisons over time as a means of ultimately abolishing them. We will do this by bringing Somerville together around its best values, by reaching out neighbor-to-neighbor, and by creating the local organizing infrastructure necessary to institute transformative change that can be a beacon for our state and nation. The people-powered movement we are building in Somerville will organize actionable demands from public and private institutions to meet the material needs of our city's most vulnerable. We recognize a variety of tactics. Along our abolitionist trail, our work will span policy and budgetary advocacy, electoral politics, direct action, and grassroots organizing to build safe communities and create alternatives to policing as we transition away from the carceral system entirely.