



AFP Advancement Northwest Supports Decriminalize Seattle's Defund Seattle Police Petition

AFP Advancement Northwest acknowledges our role in upholding white supremacy and commits to being an anti-racist organization. We have been and will continue to take steps to integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and access more fully into our association and into the fundraising profession. We will act daily to be anti-racist on personal, professional, institutional, and systemic levels in order to align ourselves with our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) members. We will not return to “normal” because normal is rooted in racism and anti-Blackness. We know that we will make mistakes, but that will not stop us from trying to improve.

The nonprofit sector and the philanthropic community have a poor track record of supporting and listening to BIPOC in fundraising – despite the fact that they are our co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family. In fact, the sector has systematically ignored BIPOC’s input and/or actively retaliated against BIPOC who call attention to racism or try to enact change.

In solidarity with our BIPOC fundraisers, the AFP Advancement Northwest Board has signed the [Defund Seattle Police Petition](#). We strongly encourage you and your organization to join us.

The three demands of this petition state:

1. Defund the Seattle Police Department by at least 50 percent
2. Invest in Black and Brown communities
3. Free protestors without charge

Advancement Northwest is Supporting this Petition Because:

BLACK LIVES MATTER

If we care about equality, then we need to care about equity. We need to listen to, support, and amplify Black voices. The Decriminalize Seattle Coalition consists of people and organizations who have been fighting for Black lives for years. Whether we have been in the fight or are new to it, we must continue to educate ourselves around how we

are complicit to anti-Blackness, and we must support these demands. Black Lives Matter is not a hashtag; it's a movement.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Fundraisers and people who work at nonprofits think of themselves as “good” people. We look back at different periods in world history and imagine that we would be on the “right” side. We are currently living through one of these pivotal moments in history.

We have the opportunity to restructure our communities and be on the right side of history now. By supporting defunding the police, we can support funding basic needs, housing, education, physical and mental health care, and more.

THE WORDS 'DEFUND' & 'INVEST'

It's not a coincidence that two of the three demands are focused on repositioning money and funding. As fundraisers, we know the value and importance of money. We are comfortable talking about money and how having it or not having it can make or break a program, a person, or an organization. Fundraising exists within capitalism, and money is essential to our survival. It also dictates power and behavior.

Funding priorities must shift to reduce power in the police force and increase power in Black communities. As fundraisers and community leaders, we work every day to move money to where it can affect positive change. This is what Black organizers are asking us to support. We should not only support the concept, but we should be invested in doing the work ourselves daily.

BUDGETS ARE VALUE DOCUMENTS

As nonprofit professionals and especially as fundraisers, we know that if our values are not prioritized in budgets, those values are meaningless. Budgets and financial statements clearly show what values are being prioritized. Currently, [the Seattle city budget prioritizes police violence](#). By signing this petition, we are demanding that the city reprioritize its values and prove that Black Lives Matter.

LISTEN AND FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THOSE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED

Our Black community organizers, fundraisers, and nonprofit leaders are asking us to support these demands. They know the problems they face better than anyone else. They have been facing them and fighting for centuries. This is how they are asking us to show up. This is a step toward preventing further violence and injustices.

THE NONPROFIT SECTOR EXISTS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Responding to social problems is the work of the nonprofit sector and what we as fundraisers are trying to move money toward. Black leaders have been doing everything possible to make a case statement for their actual lives. We need to listen to their lived experience, not just videos of their deaths. We need to join them in the fight for their lives. Everyone deserves to live. It is a societal problem that Black people are being murdered by police. It is a societal problem that whole communities do not have adequate resources when they are in crisis.

It is not surprising that many communities do not feel comfortable calling the police for aid. The police are not adequately trained in mental health, drug interventions, and domestic abuse – and they shouldn't be. We need to redirect funds away from violent police forces that have proven they cannot and will not stop killing Black people. We

need to invest in already-existing programs and people in the community who are better equipped to meet these social health and welfare needs and will not inflict violence on the Black community.

We need to support community-led solutions. We already work every day to raise and move money for these solutions, so we should support the city routing additional funding and resources to ensure community safety.

THIS IS THE START

Signing this petition is one small step on a long journey toward racial and economic justice. We envision BIPOC fundraisers and movers of money as leaders in the discussions, planning, and execution of this shift in funding priorities. We are here to listen, support, amplify, and most importantly act.

Signed,

AFP Advancement Northwest Board of Directors

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