

Elsen, Nikki

From: Ellie LeBouton <lebouton4430@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Questions about city budget

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Hello,

My name is Ellie LeBouton. I have lived a couple of blocks away from the La Crosse main library campus for over a year and a half. Pre-pandemic, I was using the library at least every week. I am a psychology and literature and cultural studies student, and I am especially interested in social equity. The library is where I get a lot of my recent socio-cultural books around social issues. I have also worked in two different libraries in high school and my first couple of years of college, for a total of four years. I have seen and experienced first hand the benefits of library services. I would like to pose the following questions for tomorrow's committee meeting:

What specific functions do you suggest be cut from library services in order to accommodate a budget cut of over half a million dollar?

Were any independent social scientists involved making the plans for the budget cuts? Libraries provide vital local infrastructure, including free internet and information access but certainly not limited to those things, and cutting access to these programs is going to disproportionately impact poor people and people of color (based on Crenshaw's work on intersectionality). Please specify how the city will continue to provide access to these services to the people who need them.

Libraries provide space for key social and mental development in children, through events and open makerspace programs. No longer having access to these services could negatively impact children throughout the city of La Crosse and the surrounding area. Please specify how the city will continue to serve children in a similar way?

Thank you,

Ellie LeBouton

Major: Psychology
Minor: Literature and Cultural Studies
Campus Climate SEED (Students Educating and Embracing Diversity)

"And the tree set boundaries. And the tree was happy."