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Travis County District Attorney Candidate Opposes Massive Cuts to APD's Budget

Martin Harry, Republican candidate for Travis County District Attorney, calls the Austin City Council's decision to cut $150 million from the Austin Police Department's budget "irresponsible, reckless and dangerous." Harry considers the cuts to be ideologically motivated, not evidentiary-based, stating, "The Council is sacrificing public safety to promote a radical political agenda that calls for the abolition of police and an end to incarceration for offenders."

Although advocates claim reduced police protection will make the community safer, Harry believes reason and logic dictate otherwise. He argues that a reduction in police officers will make community-policing practices, which improves public relations and respect for the law and law enforcement, less possible. Furthermore, a reduction of police officers inevitably will mean longer response times for urgent requests for assistance, delays that can mean the difference between life and death. The reduction in services will especially impact the poor and people of color who disproportionately live in higher crime neighborhoods with less private security.

Harry foresees dire consequences for Austin unless residents intervene, stating, "The budget reduction compounds the effects of the Council's previous policies that ended enforcement of drug and quality of life laws and allows for the release of dangerous offenders before trial. Moreover, promises to ignore laws and violations of criminal laws by Democratic-Socialist candidates for County Attorney and District Attorney for Travis County would enable and encourage more crime. Thus, while the City Council is reducing the budget for law enforcement, wrong-headed policies will increase crime as is evident in cities such as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. Residents concerned about their safety and security must vote against anti-law enforcement extremists like my opponent in November."

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