

From: Help Me Help You Foundation HMhY <hmhyfoundation@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2024 8:49 PM

To: Trammell, Reva M. - City Council <Reva.Trammell@rva.gov>

Cc: Jordan, Katherine - City Council <Katherine.Jordan@rva.gov>; Addison, Andreas D. - City Council <Andreas.Addison@rva.gov>; Lambert, Ann-Frances - City Council <Ann-Frances.Lambert@rva.gov>; Nye, Kristen M. - City Council <Kristen.Nye@rva.gov>; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office <Stephanie.Lynch@rva.gov>; Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council <Ellen.Robertson@rva.gov>; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council <Cynthia.Newbille@rva.gov>; Jones, Nicole - City Council Office <Nicole.Jones@rva.gov>

Subject: Budget Concern

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Hello Reva,

I am writing to you in reference to funding in the budget for Help Me Help You Foundation. I am really saddened that each year, I have to write and fight for funding to continue to provide needed services in the community that we all agree are a priority; I try hard not to take it personally. Let me first say most of my staff are Richmonders, and most of those we serve will find themselves in one of your prospective districts, so it stinks that they get to know Southside representatives fight us each year. HMHY provides wrap-around services to those justice-involved individuals who have come home or who find themselves out in the community after incarceration, and have lost their way. The city of Richmond is currently in the process of setting up a resource center for the shelter because we understand just providing a bed is not effective, yet funding HMHY for covering the same need for a population that is one of the most vulnerable seems to always be an issue.

Again, I'm trying not to take the ongoing chatter to remove our funding personally. I ask that you and any others who have an issue come visit HMHY to talk to staff and participants before talking to state legislators and council representatives about removing HMHY's funding. I am sure you will stand with us and not against us if you make yourself available to come meet and hear from them.

I am now going to address the elephant in the room; yes, I am running for Mayor, and so is your colleague. How is the taxpayer dollar being spent to provide services to those in need through a candidates organization, that mind you my daughter is in town to learn and take over, any different from the taxpayer continuing to pay council salary? If HMHY receiving the money was against the charter or illegal then by all means let's make sure we do what is right but how is HMHY serving the community and your colleague serving the community both receiving taxpayer dollars one through salary and one through grant funds, any different? Explain?

As I continue to try not to take your concern about HMHY state funding, and your thoughts on removing us from the city budget personally, I will say I didn't understand why candidate Roday and candidate Addison were invited to your district meeting while I did not get an invite from **you**, however I was told by a resident not to miss it because the other candidates would be there. (Roday said thank you Ms Trammell for the invite when he got up to speak). I got to speak that night because the people know I am a candidate but the other black candidate Maurice Neblett did not. I am trying not to take these things personally, but let me be clear it is requiring a lot of prayer.

I am ending this email with please allow my staff and the community we serve to receive the reduced funding in the budget and please stop trying to have state legislators who have tried to help HMHY continue to provide the needed wrap-around services to bring about successful reentry into our communities. We are all prepared to come to city hall if necessary to have this discussion, but it is my hope that we agree that housing, transportation, workforce, mental health, substance abuse, legal services, family reunification and so much more are needed for success and this issue can end here. I am a firm believer that if we stay focussed ***Together We Can Change Richmonds Narratives!***

Have A Wonderful Wednesday
Michelle Mosby

Thanks,

Michelle Mosby
Executive Director
www.hmhyfoundation.org

"Partnering In the Process to Bring Power back to the People"

Hebrews 13:3

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.