

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Mayor John Cooper
Historic Metro Courthouse
1 Public Square
Suite 100, Mayor's Office
Nashville, TN 37201

Dear Mayor Cooper,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Community Oversight Board in reference to Metro Nashville Community Oversight's FY 2022-2023 budget request.

The Board tasked me with asking you for an explanation as to why only four of the nine additional staffing positions proposed by MNCO were appropriated in your proposed FY 2022-2023 Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County Budget. We were surprised that our budget request was not fully funded.

I appreciate your focus on equity in this year's budget, however, in my opinion, any perceived fairness is missing when it comes to the necessary resources for the Community Oversight Board staff. As noted in the Equity Tool documentation, "Equity within government refers to fair practices and policies that ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities while acknowledging and addressing past and present structural inequalities."

We look forward to hearing from you concerning your reasoning for not awarding the nine staff position requested.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Arnold G. Hayes
Chair, Community Oversight Board