

Fighting for Fitchburg funding



By Avery Hall | Posted: Sun 10:50 PM, Oct 30, 2016 | Updated: Sun 10:55 PM, Oct 30, 2016

FITCHBURG, Wisc. -- For the past four years, Boys and Girls Club has received \$50,000 annually from the Fitchburg City Budget. They use their funding to mentor and support at-risk youth in Dane County.

Now, that funding may be in jeopardy. An amendment sponsored by alders Julia Arata-Fratta, Dorothy Krause and Dan Carpenter aims to reallocate those funds elsewhere - likely to other community organizations.

Krause declined to comment, but indicated in open records emails with Boys and Girls Club that she felt the money could be implemented more efficiently by other local groups --

"I can certainly appreciate the value of the Boys and Girls Club and what it does for the community, but I'd have a hard time saying that it's the only group doing good work that should be funded. I've argued for funding for community projects and organizations, including yours, every year, and the vast majority of the time they get turned down flat, largely because of the way they are handled within the budget process. The only way requests have gotten approved in the budget process is by masses of people showing up to protect them. I hope we'd all agree that there should be a better way."

Boys and Girls Club CEO Michael Johnson argues that without the city's funding, the group will jeopardize their ability to feed and transport kids at their Allied Drive location. Johnson and others who oppose the amendment will meet at Fitchburg Common Council on November 1 to speak out against the proposed change.

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