

5.3 Public Comments via email for PSS meeting 12/8/21

Please support the city of Santa Rosa with more police staffing. As the world continues to get crazier, we need to be able to rely on some sort of safety net. We don't need another reason for people to move. Thank you.

Caitlin Bishop

Hello,

It is saddening to hear that the City of Santa Rosa is facing a staffing shortage for something as important as our police department, which is an integral part of public safety. As a father who is now raising a child in this beautiful city, I look to our police officers as a source of protection for my family should I ever need them. To keep our streets, parks, and neighborhoods safe, it is imperative that we have adequate staffing for our police department.

Thank you.

Alex Forster

Dear City Council,

I have lived in Santa Rosa for nearly 25 years. It used to be a fun and safe place to live. From the Cottingtown Mall to Snoopy's Ice, 3rd Street Ale Works to The Plaza Mall, there was never a shortage of fun, shopping and good food. Now that I live on the outskirts of town, I seldom go deep into town for anything fun. In recent years, my friends and family have been spending our money in Windsor, Healdsburg, and even further away, just to feel safe. Nearly every time I go to Santa Rosa for shopping or dinner, something catches my eye, whether it be the homeless man screaming at passers by, or a bullet in the side of a parked car at a downtown restaurant. This once thriving town has become crime central. Knowing that our police department is short staffed creates even more hesitancy for me and my family. Hearing that cities are defunding their police departments, whether for a good cause or not, terrified me. It is common knowledge that large cities like Santa Rosa attract crime. Therefore, it is imperative for a large community to maintain law and order to remain, or in this case, regain it's health and prosperity, before it is too late. Please hear our cries for more funding, more officers and more support in general for our law enforcement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stefani Lontz

To whom it may concern,

I am a tax paying US citizen who has lived in Santa Rosa for over 28 years.

I am extremely concerned about the severe staffing shortage in the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Please fund the additional positions being requested.

Sincerely,

Ken Ferrigno

Good evening,

I am writing as a citizen of Sonoma county, specifically Santa Rosa, and my growing concerns for the safety of the city and its citizens. The agenda being discussed today is about Santa Rosa police departments staffing issues and I can see the trends with the number of active duty police officers and the amount of crime happening and I cannot sit back any longer without voicing my concerns.

One of my main concerns is that the lack of police officers will cause even longer wait times until an officer can respond to a call. If multiple officers are handling one call, an example would be a very serious domestic violence call, which requires a few officers at once, then the calls begin to back up and officers cannot help people right away who may be in serious need as well. Is the next step to tell citizens that police will not be responding to even more calls for service?

My second concern is that with the publicity of the staff shortage that the crime rate will increase even more than it already has. My reason for this is when the gang team was dismantled, we saw an abundance of gang crime increase, and now we have gang related shootings at least once a month, because the gangs knew that there was no team that was focused on stopping them. So, if people know that there are less police officers to arrest them or to stop them from doing a crime I can almost predict that criminals will flood the area and commit more crimes, we are seeing this in real time with all these “smash and grab” crimes.

The long time citizens of this county are leaving in droves! Every week as I drive throughout my neighborhood, more and more houses are going up for sale and if you talk to those selling they will tell you that they do not like what is happening to the city. You are losing citizens left and right to go to other counties or other states where crime rates are lower so they can have a sense of peace of mind knowing that they don't have to worry about being robbed at gun point walking to their cars or being a victim of a home invasion.

We need our police officers more than ever as we see a severe spike in crime throughout our city. We need criminals to know that our city is protecting its citizens by putting money towards the police department and I want people to know that when they call because they need help, their calls will be answered.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Eastham

Dear Public Safety Subcommittee members, city staff, and concerned citizens of Santa Rosa.

I have been a resident of Santa Rosa for over 35 years and spent most of my life in Sonoma County. I have worked in public safety all my adult life. I believe I have a good understanding of the issues facing both the city and the citizens it serves and protects.

I know this city is facing many challenges such as homelessness, disaster recovery, infrastructure projects, to name a few. I also recognize and appreciate the employees who work diligently everyday to improve services and living conditions for its citizens.

I am only one voice but it seems I am now part of a much larger movement to bring more peace and order to our city and surrounding area. I think I can safely say that we are upset that this community

is plagued by unlawful behavior and request an increase in public safety enforcement activities regarding certain crimes such as sideshow activities and the related fallout.

The change in response for calls of service as of October 1st and its effect on public safety is an important step, but only one of many that need to be taken towards improving response times and availability of personnel to respond to priority calls for service.

The need to fill ALL vacant positions including the gang unit along with forming task forces with cooperating agencies to solve major crime issues takes a big leap by city leaders who have the courage to do so.

The chart of comparable bay area cities below ranks Santa Rosa second from the bottom in sworn officers per 1,000 population. This just one example that leaders have neglected to take a proactive approach to the needs of citizens in regards to public safety resources.

I encourage all of you to support the efforts of the COSR Public Safety personnel through effective policy development, funding allocation and other resources to bring about positive change. A cooperative and coordinated response at all levels with measurable short term and long term goals that are communicated clearly to the citizens.

Thank you for your service to this community that I call home!

Regards,
A fellow citizen

I am sending this to add my thoughts on staffing everlasting for SRPD.

I come from a long line of Law Enforcement and I can not stress enough the importance of having a fully staffed Department. Police Officers already have a stressful job, add in being short staffed with longer shifts and less back up avail is a recipe for disaster. While I am not a resident of the city of Santa Rosa, I do frequent the city often. I support the men and women of SRPD.

I truly hope the city can find funds to increase the number of officers on the streets. There is an increase on crime. There is an increase on homelessness and crimes involving transients. Sideshow, stabbings, etc. Please bring back the gang unit. Please find a way to bring in Officers, and a way to keep them. Time to clean up city and hire some cops.

Thank you

Veronica Fabian

To whom it may concern,

Over my entire life living in Santa Rosa I have always felt safe and at ease knowing that if issues arise the police will be someone I can call to help. Over the last few years your staff has dwindle and does not seem to be keeping up with the increase of crime we are seeing. Recently my self and family have call the police for criminal activity to ask for help and have been shocked to hear that you don't have enough cops to respond to our calls. Regardless of what ever the political climate might be

having a cop to respond to threats is a basic and vital need for our community. With that being said I ask that you please make the right decision and increase the number of cops on our city's police force, thank you!

Sergio Torres

As a concerned citizen I am asking that you increase the Police force. More officers are needed on our streets, as crime and violence, burglaries and day time "smash and grabs" have become ever more increasing in our area. Re-Fund the Police department! More Police Officers are needed! thanks

Paul Lynn Anchondo

To Whomever it May Concern,

While this should seem like an obvious choice as you drive the streets of Santa Rosa, I'm here to insist that funding to the police department be increased in an effort to increase staffing and get drug dealers and gangsters with guns off the streets. This town is no longer safe for our children, and well to do adults for that matter, and you are delusional if you don't see that. Your lack of support for the police department is becoming a crime in itself, one to be ashamed of.

Sincerely,
A disgusted and disappointed resident
Emily Nunes
