

Manis, Dina

From: Nurel Arriaran <nurelarriaran@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:00 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ITEM 15.2: Defund SRPD in the Upcoming City Budget Proposal (Nurel Arriaran)

Whether we like it or not, Santa Rosa has permanent ties to police brutality. Andy Lopez was just 13 years old when he was killed by a cop--seven years later, his case has yet to see justice; SRPD met community members with rubber bullets and tear gas in recent peaceful demonstrations; SRPD posed an irreversible threat to our entire community when they refused to wear face masks during the public protests. Most recently, during the 24-hour protest, SRPD pushed a false narrative, victimizing a female who drove her car through a crowd of 400 peaceful protesters at full speed. They are protecting her name while there are countless videos circulating of this attempted murder and over 150 eyewitness accounts. Now, do you understand why we are speaking out about this issue? The movement to defund the police is only the first step in making our community safer. Relocating money that would otherwise fund SRPD towards initiatives that actually provide community members protection will reduce our dependence on law enforcement. Defunding the police means limiting their scope of practice and hiring more trained professionals to deal with situations that would otherwise utilize cops. Defunding the police means acknowledging that police departments were founded on racist practices in 1652 and that they actively perform and continue to benefit from corruption, every day.

We demand change in the operation of the criminal legal system, we demand that we take care of our community instead of criminalizing those amongst us who need help, and we demand that police are not the front line responders to every emergency or call for help. Our budget reflects our values. I'm writing to you today to demand that the Santa Rosa City Council invest in alternative responses to law enforcement that actually keep our community safe and healthy. I call on our collective community to reconsider Measure O's policy and work to change it. Currently, housing and community services account for only 1%. That is a staggering and illuminating statistic. This says that rather than responding to the needs in our community with meaningful support and resources, we respond with law enforcement. Although it's overdue, we must change Measure O, so we may act to reduce funding for police in the Santa Rosa City budget and instead invest more in housing and community service. In the wake of an international movement, where will Santa Rosa, CA stand?

Manis, Dina

From: Benji Barajas <benjibarajas95@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:22 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders,

My name is Ben Barajas. I was born in Santa Rosa and have lived most of my life in Sonoma County. I care deeply about this place, its history and its people. I have at various points in my life been involved with local LGBTQ organizations, equestrian sports, nature/historical site preservation, animal rescue, and food banks. Quite a bit of my family lives in Sonoma County and many of us have also been students at the SRJC. Today, I am writing to you out of concern for our community and our future.

Our communities are in mourning, both locally and nationally, for the people of color across the United States who are being killed at the hands of law enforcement. Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, George Floyd, David McAtee... The list goes on. In the three weeks following George Floyd's murder on May 25, 123 more Americans have been killed in at the hands of police around the country. This pattern of systemic violent injustice has gone on for hundreds of years and it is beyond time that we make a change. We must do better. We demand changes be made in the way that our criminal legal system operates, we demand that we take care of our community instead of criminalizing reactions to a system designed to break people down, and we demand an alternative to the police as a first responder to all types of emergency calls.

An effective place to start enacting change is the city budget plans. Our current city budget does not accurately reflect the values held by many people in Santa Rosa. I understand that due to Measure O, the City Council can only reduce the allocated budget expenditures to police by a vote of 6 council members. I am writing today to demand that the Santa Rosa City Council vote to divert funds from the police budget and invest in alternative responses to law enforcement that will actually keep our community safe and healthy. I would also like to call upon our collective community to reconsider Measure O's policy and work to change it.

Armed police officers should not be the first responders for all emergency calls. The answer to increased community health and wellbeing does not lie in aggravated response from law enforcement, nor in the criminalization of non-violent behaviors. Police should not play the role of judge, jury, and executioner. Our communities desperately lack meaningful access to healthcare (both mental and physical), employment, and housing. What we do have is the largest military budget in the world, as well as some of the most well-funded and militarized police departments. Policing overwhelmingly dominates national and local budgets. In fact, police and military funding has increased every single year since 1973 while funding for public health decreases.

In Santa Rosa, 32% of our city budget goes to police funding. Housing and community services accounts for only 1%. This is baffling to me. What these numbers say to me is that rather than investing in the care of ourselves and those around us, we would rather invest in the continued militarization of law enforcement in order to make community problems and disturbances "go away". What it says to me is that we as a community value the comfort of our wealthier and more privileged citizens above the overall wellbeing of everybody, especially those struggling with rougher circumstances. I know this is mindset is not true of many Santa Rosa residents, so why is it being reflected in our local government this way? The possibilities for positive change here are endless, we need simply to get started.

We demand the following:

1. The creation of a local police commission and a city council subcommittee on alternatives to policing.

2. A commitment to changing Measure O in order to reduce funding for police in the Santa Rosa City budget, as well as investing more in housing and community services.
3. A reduction in the police budget and investment in local alternatives to policing. This should include investments in existing community based organizations as well as additional funding to support the creation of alternative responses to community needs and emergencies, including unarmed mediation and intervention teams, social worker teams and mental health experts, and restorative justice programs.

We further request that an emergency meeting of the full city council be immediately scheduled to address these concerns. You are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns in relation to these requests.

Regards,

Benjamin Barajas
benjibarajas95@gmail.com
(707) 477-1359

Manis, Dina

From: Billy Schock <billy.schock@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:23 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Budget Concerns - Agenda 15.2

Howdy,

My name is William Schock, I'm writing to express concerns over the proposed budget (agenda item 15.2). Please allocate more money toward housing and community support.

Over half of the updates I get on Nixle from local law enforcement describe crimes committed by desperate people with little options at their disposal. I believe this is the direct result of past budgetary and regulatory choices which favored law enforcement over providing resources and programming for people in need.

The budget currently allocates >\$60,000,000 to law enforcement and only \$200,000 to housing and community services. Rather than directly address the issues that cause many crimes to happen in the first place (homelessness, drug addiction, poverty), this budget illustrates an intent to punish the people in our community that need help.

It's time to change our attitude toward crime from "law enforcement" to "peace keeping." This means shifting our approach from punishment to support. We need to focus on eliminating criminal activity by addressing its root causes, namely desperate people lacking the support mechanisms necessary to take control of their lives again.

Manis, Dina

From: Phillip Pope <ppope29@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:06 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hello,

My name is Phillip Pope. I'm writing to comment on agenda item 12.2. I am calling to express my concerns about the staggering disparity in our cities budget.

As we are in the midst of an international pandemic, which came about as our city was already dealing with a housing crisis, to see that we're spending so much money on our police force but are doing so little to help provide solutions for those of our community who truly need our help, I feel that the currently proposed budget is a failure to our community.

When we are willing to spend upwards of 60 million dollars on a militarized police force but can't come up with the money for affordable housing or properly funded social programs that would help people find stability in their lives, we need to take a look at what we're doing and make changes.

To see our police force fully equipped with riot gear and firing tear gas canisters at our local residents and to then say we need to spend upwards of 62 million dollars on that same police force, I can't help but feel that we need to do a better job of allocating our city funds. How can we say that Housing and Community services only deserves .1% of our proposed budget? That's only \$200,000. We have to do better for our city and our community.

I call on the Santa Rosa city council to take action and re-allocate funds from the bloated police budget and move those funds to programs that our city desperately needs.

Please help our community and help your constituents. Thank you for your time.

Manis, Dina

From: Mike O'Neill <mikeo46@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:07 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject budget meeting

I heard the mayor on Jaxon tonight and felt compelled to give my input for your meeting. I'm a life long resident of Santa Rosa. Born in General Hospital. So, you know I'm a baby boomer. Here's my thoughts:

- Please don't overreact to the vocal minority and forget about the silent majority. Mayor Tom mentioned the meeting in Doyle Park. Sorry, but based on the conditions there, I would not go for anything. As a kid, I went to Doyle Park school and played in Doyle Park. In all honesty, the city has let it go to hell,

- Make decisions based on local resident inputs, not out of town idealists.

- There was mention of the homeless problem under Hwy 101. I agree. But I drive be Survivors Park on 4th St. It has exploded in population. Also, the homeless on North St. You continue to tolerate these people. But there are no sewer or garbage accommodations. There is room in the RV park behind the Fairgrounds. Make them relocate or move to another town.

- Finally the Police Dept. I am 100% satisfied with the Dept. Do not cut the budget. Just remember the great job they did during the fires. If you buckle in to the ridiculous requests of the BLM type groups, it will be a disaster.

Thanks for listening. Best of luck with your budget meeting. I'm sure it will be a circus.

Mike O'Neill
710 Buena Vista Dr.
Santa Rosa

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android

Manis, Dina

From: Sophie Weil <sophieweil7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:54 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FY 2020-2021 Budget Concerns

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders:

<https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

I am writing to you today out of great concern for our community and our future. I am Sophie Weil, a resident of Santa Rosa.

Nearly 17,000 community members have signed the above petition to firstly demand that there is no increase in the FY 2020-2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. Secondly, we demand that the police budget is reduced and that a portion of funds previously allocated to the Santa Rosa Police Department is equally reinvested into local programs that better support people of color, low-income, homeless, and at-risk members of our community who need it most. We demand that you, as our City Council, choose to balance the annual budget in a way that defunds the Santa Rosa Police Department and better supports financial equality & security for every one of our neighbors in need.

We have all been affected by COVID-19 and had interactions with the Santa Rosa Police Department, but that does not mean we have all been affected equally. Both the police and this pandemic have disproportionately targeted people of color. Over 75% of total COVID-19 cases in Sonoma County are from the Latinx community, and yet they only represent about 27% of the population in Sonoma County. Our Latinx neighbors need Santa Rosa's financial resources and support now more than ever to survive *much more* than the police department needs their unlawful militarized weapons.

The call to readjust the annual budget and defund the police is indeed accompanied by the sales tax requirement Measure O. We additionally demand for specific baseline percentages of Measure O to be reworked. More specifically, we demand for the 34.3% of Police Measure O Funds to be lowered and the 0.4% of Gang Prevention and Youth Programs Measure O Funds to be raised, excluding the contributing stress of law enforcement. "The safest communities don't have the most cops; they have the most resources." says Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore of Durham, North Carolina. We want our tax dollars to support our community without contributing to police violence against our neighbors. Measure O can be overridden.

In the City of Santa Rosa's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, we see that you plan on spending 35.1% of the city's annual budget on the police. Only 0.1% of the city's annual budget would go to Housing and Community Services, and yet 3/10 of your written goals as City Council include "[meeting] housing needs", "[attaining] functional zero homelessness", and "effectively [implementing] the recovery and rebuilding of Santa Rosa." Only 5.5% of the annual budget would go to Recreation & Community Engagement, and yet you, the City Council, state that you want to "foster neighborhood partnerships and strengthen cultural assets" and overall spread a message of uniting our community that will "lead the North Bay." You are willing to spend 29.5% more of the annual budget on the Police Department than on combined programs that would achieve your goals in supporting essential services that unite our community; our same community that is known for its horrendous homeless and housing crisis, our same community whose East and West sides are split by a dramatic wealth gap, and our same community that feels threatened by the overwhelming budget and power that the Santa Rosa Police Department holds.

We also see that, on the very first page of the Operations and Maintenance Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft, you have addressed the protests sparked by the unjust murder of George Floyd. Surely you have also

heard the rallying cries that accompany these protests to defund the police's budget and power. Locally, this would include the process of the City of Santa Rosa diverting its resources and funding away from teargas, plastic bullets, & militarized weapons that the Santa Rosa Police Department uses against its own community members and towards affordable housing, increased funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, and other community-based programs that support employment, health, and healing for the at-risk, low-income, homeless, and people of color in our community. Research from many social scientists shows that crime is a response to social conditions. Redirecting and reinvesting public funds would uplift our at-risk neighbors while also reducing crime and increasing safety.

The police department's budget should better serve the community members that it has sworn to "protect and serve" and yet is designed to oppress. Instead of protection, the police department has caused our community members emotional and physical harm, additionally in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement:

- Our community is harmed by racial biases that the police department's abuse of power perpetuates.
- Our community is harmed when the police physically injure peaceful protestors, such as Marqus Martinez, through the unlawful use of teargas and rubber bullets; the same teargas that was not even allowed to be used in war and was prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and the same rubber bullets that hospitalized Marqus Martinez on May 31st, 2020. He was shot in the face at point blank range with a sting-ball grenade by the Santa Rosa Police Department. The *Geneva Guidelines on Less-Lethal Weapons and Related Equipment in Law Enforcement* states that "Kinetic impact projectiles should generally only be used in direct fire against the lower body of a violent individual when a substantial risk exists of immediate serious injury to either a law enforcement official or a member of the public." A circulating internet photo taken moments before shows proof that Martinez was kneeling with his hands in the air as he was helping protect a group of youth that were being harassed with tear gas, set off by the police. The direct impact to Martinez's face knocked out four of his front teeth, lodging three of the teeth into the roof of his mouth and one in his tongue. His lip was split into three, and his jaw was fractured and required reconstructive surgery at the Stanford Hospital.
- Our community is harmed when a murderer is allowed to walk free and is then granted a substantial pay raise and promotion. This murderer is Erik Gelhaus, the same Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy who murdered Andy Lopez, the 13-year-old boy who we will never forget and continue demanding justice for. What else has been promoted? The recurring national message that, time and time again, police officers unjustly walk free from murdering innocent citizens, unjustly triggered by racial prejudice.

We are witnessing the biggest civil rights movement in history. This is a dystopia that our community, and our tax dollars, will not stand for. We hope that, by cutting the Santa Rosa Police Department's overwhelming annual budget and alternatively choosing to increase funds that support our low-income community members of color, you as our City Leaders will demonstrate that you won't stand for this repeated racial discrimination and physical abuse of power, either. This is the perfect opportunity for our city to set an example for other cities across the country and to truly lead the North Bay. This is the perfect opportunity to be on the right side of history if you choose to listen to your community. In deciding this next annual budget, you have the chance to show that you truly care about uniting our community as much as you like to say you do.

Enough is enough.

We need an immediate end to the systemic racism that exists in Santa Rosa.

We need acknowledgment and accountability for the inherent pain and injustice afflicted on the minorities in our community.

We need investment in the health and prosperity of our neighbors who need it most.

We need divestment in the police force.

Nearly 17,000 (SEVENTEEN THOUSAND) community members agree that the City of Santa Rosa needs to DEFUND THE POLICE.

Regards,

Sophie Weil

Manis, Dina

From: Irene Barnard <irene.j.barnard@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:52 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SR City Council budget meeting

To the Santa Rosa City Council:

Re 6/23 budget meeting:

I understand that over the last few weeks, you've been getting many questions about the City budget - particularly for the police department. I'm writing to express my concerns and join in the many protesting police brutality and excessive use of force, especially among people of color.

I join the voices of others in urging the city to find ways to make immediate changes to the way policing is conducted:

- decoupling funds from the police for non-police type work they've been increasingly doing (e.g. mental health crisis intervention), in order to move those funds to separate departments staffed by experts trained and qualified to help people in crisis, rather than as a mere adjunct to police units
- moving funds from excessive overtime or salaries or pensions, to services desperately needed (housing, education, health care)
- increased transparency of officer misconduct and complaint records
- de-escalation training
- citizen oversight committees with not just subpoena power, but real power beyond mere suggestions that law enforcement can ignore
- no special attorney for police; no qualified immunity
- less police union power: I know new contract negotiations will be coming up on 6/30, and the current political climate should give new leverage to reformed training and discipline issues, to name just two
- demilitarization

I'll be staying closely tuned to the decisions of the council and following up; thanks for your attention.

Irene Barnard

Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: Justice Peace <justiceforpeace20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:55 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic; Schwedhelm, Tom
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: URGENT.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Justice Peace <justiceforpeace20@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 22, 2020 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: URGENT.
To: citycouncil@srcity.org <citycouncil@srcity.org>, tschwedhelm@srcity.org <tschwedhelm@srcity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Justice Peace <justiceforpeace20@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 22, 2020 at 8:35 AM
Subject: Fwd: URGENT.
To: citycouncil@srcity.org <citycouncil@srcity.org>

Hello,

My name is Jessica and I am a resident of Santa Rosa. I am emailing you to demand that you reject the city budget proposal in your June 23rd meeting in which I will be attending. I am appalled and saddened at the proposal to raise the police budget to \$62 million, while lowering the housing budget to \$200,000. This budget does not take into consideration of the health and safety of city residents - including those whom are unhoused! This will only further criminalize the poor being poor. Show the residents of Santa Rosa that you care about us, isn't that why you all have this job?

Please reject this budget and re-evaluate how funds are going to be allocated. We need to defund the police budget and put resources into: affordable housing, homeless services, mental health services, and community building resources.

Thank you for your time, please don't let me down.

Manis, Dina

From: Mori <oh.woah@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:39 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ITEM 12.2

My name is Mitsumasa Walts, I am a resident of Sonoma county, and I insist that you do not renew measure O. Measure O criminalizes our youth and puts everyone at risk.

Defund our budget from police violence immediately. Restore funding for health care, public housing, therapy accessible as easily as walking to the 7-11, education, and the move toward reparations. 67.3 million dollars is better spent in prevention and healing.

Stop negotiations with child murderers and weapons dealers. We need public safety grounded in respect for the disabled, respect for the youth, respect for the elders, respect and love for black and brown people.

Racism can not be extracted from policing, as police started from slave patrols. We need a new framework.

Also, build and maintain public restrooms and showers for the people living underneath the 9th street overpass. COVID is brewing and the only wise and compassionate step is to make public health a priority Starting with sanitation for the houseless.

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k e b

Manis, Dina

From: Bailey Arthur <bcarthur.16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:47 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Santa Rosa Proposed Budget

Hello city council,

My name is Bailey Arthur and I am a resident of Santa Rosa. In tomorrow's city council meeting on June 23rd, you are voting on a proposed city budget. I am emailing you to ask that you reject this proposed budget as it ignores the demands and needs of the people that this council is intended to serve. This budget raises the police budget while lowering the housing budget which is in direct opposition to what community members are demanding. With a large number of people who are unhoused and a call to divest from the police in order to invest in our communities, this budget is appallingly negligent of this city's needs.

Please reject this proposed budget and re-allocate funds to: affordable housing, mental health services, educational facilities, homeless services and community building resources.

Thank you for your time,

Bailey Arthur

Manis, Dina

From: Bailey Arthur <bcarthur.16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:47 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Santa Rosa Proposed Budget

Hello city council,

My name is Bailey Arthur and I am a resident of Santa Rosa. In tomorrow's city council meeting on June 23rd, you are voting on a proposed city budget. I am emailing you to ask that you reject this proposed budget as it ignores the demands and needs of the people that this council is intended to serve. This budget raises the police budget while lowering the housing budget which is in direct opposition to what community members are demanding. With a large number of people who are unhoused and a call to divest from the police in order to invest in our communities, this budget is appallingly negligent of this city's needs.

Please reject this proposed budget and re-allocate funds to: affordable housing, mental health services, educational facilities, homeless services and community building resources.

Thank you for your time,

Bailey Arthur

Manis, Dina

From: Matthew Vaughan <matthew.vaughan789@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:52 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police and the city budget

Greetings all,

When considering the city's proposed budget, I am wondering why the police department gets \$62.2 million and housing and community services gets \$200,000. I think it should be closer to the other way around? Would we even HAVE a homeless problem if we spent \$62 million per year on housing and homeless services? (Would it even cost nearly that much to solve those problems?)

Many of us have woken up to the reality of ongoing systemic racism, as well as the ineffectiveness, wastefulness, injustice, and inhumanity of American law enforcement and criminal justice. Police forces feel like an invading army that everyone is afraid of. Now even white people are afraid of them. Even my 82 year old mother, a white well-to-do property owner, is afraid of them, and unsure if she'd ever be willing to call them, based on an encounter with them in the last few years. And many of us have started to realize that allowing things to plow ahead as they always have is an act of complicity in perpetuating these systems of racism and oppression.

When it becomes apparent just how deeply brutal, oppressive, capricious, and racist policing is all across America, including in Santa Rosa, it becomes hard to defend continuing on as we have been.

When it becomes apparent just how directly our current laws, police forces, and punitive prison system follow from the apparatus of slavery, with little other reason to exist in these forms or at this scale, it becomes hard to defend continuing on as we have been.

When it becomes apparent just how ineffective police are at protecting us, keeping us safe, or even solving crimes after the fact, it becomes hard to defend continuing on as we have been.

When it becomes apparent just how much police budgets prevent us from actually doing any good or constructive things, because we don't have nearly enough money left, it becomes hard to defend continuing on as we have been.

Do you intend to continue on as you have been?

Thank you for listening.

Matthew Vaughan
Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: Susan Maners <maners@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:36 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police Department

As a lifelong citizen of Santa Rosa, I am against the defunding of the police department. Cutting the budget is not the answer to recent events. We need our police department staffed appropriately to protect the citizens of our community.

Thanks, Susan Maners

Manis, Dina

From: Hannah Means <hannahjomeans@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:10 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update on petition - Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department

Hi,

I wanted to share an exciting update about a petition I signed on Change.org: "Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department".

Read about the update "Email this petition to citycouncil@srcity.org!" below, and join me in supporting this campaign by signing the petition!

<http://chnge.it/rhNzWbMN6f>

Thanks!
Hannah Jo

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Bobby Hougen <bobbyhougen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:34 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department

Hello City Council and Mayor Schwedhelm,

Please understand the frustration of Santa Rosa residents who want the budget to reflect the needs of the residents. City Council Member Chris Rodgers posted on Facebook that Measure O requires that 34.3% of the general fund must be spent on the police, but the proposed budget proposes that 35.1% of the general fund is going to be spent on police. That 0.8% difference should be reprioritized to other departments that need the funding and contribute more to our community.

Please read more about the petition here:

<http://chnng.it/QSg88BYvPH>

Thanks!
Bobby Hougen Jr.

Manis, Dina

From: Magdalena Luque <mcluque@ucdavis.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:33 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund Santa Rosa PD

Hello, I am emailing to express my support for the defunding of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I understand your City draft for the FY 2020-2021 budget dictates that 35.1% of the annual budget would go to the Police, while only 0.1% would go to Housing and Community Services.

I urge you to consider the number of people who have signed this petition in support of defunding the SRPD: <https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

I also ask that you reconsider Measure O, which guarantees a minimum funding requirement of 34.3% for the SRPD. This is a ludicrous amount, especially when other areas, such as affordable housing, and funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, are so lacking. The SRPD does not need military grade weapons like tear gas. People need housing. Please consider the needs of your community.

Thank you,

Maggie Luque

Manis, Dina

From: Lola Nelson <lola.nelson@credohigh.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:35 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DEFUND THE POLICE!

Dear members of the Santa Rosa City Council,

My name is Lola Nelson and I am a young Santa Rosa resident. I have lived here my whole life and time and time again I have seen injustice in not just our town, but America as a whole as well. When I went to Santa Rosa Public School, I experienced an extremely underfunded classroom experience. My teachers bought everything in their classroom for themselves, from pens and paper, printers, and even desks and chairs. The food we were given was disgustingly meager and un-nutritious.

I have seen fires and droughts ravage our town. I have seen slow growth in affordable housing. I have seen a ridiculous rise in homelessness, and I have seen an awful reaction to that on the Joe-Rodota Trail. Everything is underfunded, everywhere. Except the police. You have proposed that over 30% of the budget goes to funding an overpowered police force. This is disgusting. The problem today is the overfunding of the police. If you refuse to acknowledge this is a popular idea, if you refuse to comply, you are not a representative. Enough is enough.

This is the statement I want to spread:

We demand that there is no increase in the FY 2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. We firmly believe that a portion of funds previously allocated to police should be redirected to programs that better support people of color and low-income members of our community who need it most.

In 2018-2019, the city of Santa Rosa spent \$64,101,112 on funding for the local police department. The city spent 35% of their annual budget on the police, but only spent 1% on Housing and Community Services and 10% on Recreation & Parks programs. The City Council states that they want to "foster neighborhood partnerships and strengthen cultural assets", "invest in and sustain infrastructure and transportation", and "meet housing needs", yet they spent 24% more of their annual budget on the Police Department than combined programs that would achieve their goals in supporting essential services in the community.

The systematic examples of abuse of power, resulting in the unjust murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Andy Lopez, and countless other people of color, urges the fact that the police should be defunded. This would include the gradual process of the City of Santa Rosa reallocating its resources and funding away from teargas, plastic bullets, & militarized weapons for the Santa Rosa Police Department and towards affordable housing, funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, and other programs that support jobs, health, and healing for the at-risk, low-income, and people of color in our community. We would ultimately like to see the local police protect our community

members who are homeless, low-income, at-risk, and minorities just as equally as those who are white and of higher class.

Enough is enough.

We need an immediate end to the systemic racism that exists in Santa Rosa.

We need acknowledgment and accountability for the inherent pain and injustice afflicted on the minorities in our community.

We need investment in the health and prosperity of our neighbors who need it most.

We need divestment in the police force.

We need to #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE.

<https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

Lola Nelson
CA

alolivymae@gmail.com

381 Gate Way, Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: Tanya Pierre <tanya.h.pierre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:53 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consider this Petition in Drafting the New Budget

Hello City Council Members,

While finalizing your draft of the new city budget, I urge you to consider the pleas of your citizens to defund the police and put some of the money aside to housing and community services. Your reallocation of these funds could be a catalyst for change in the wellbeing of your community, demonstrated by the several thousands of people who have signed this petition, <https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>.

In addition, consider distributing the percentages collected from Measure O that go to SRPD and reallocate them to other housing and community services.

The Santa Rosa community has come together for something that we truly believe could benefit our wellbeing, please respect our voices.

Best Regards,
Tanya

Manis, Dina

From: Melanie Luque <fivemluques@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:14 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund Santa Rosa police department

Hello, I am emailing to express my support for the defunding of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I understand your City draft for the FY 2020-2021 budget dictates that 35.1% of the annual budget would go to the Police, while only 0.1% would go to Housing and Community Services.

I urge you to consider the number of people who have signed this petition in support of defunding the SRPD: <https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

I also ask that you reconsider Measure O, which guarantees a minimum funding requirement of 34.3% for the SRPD. This is a ludicrous amount, especially when other areas, such as affordable housing, and funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, are so lacking. The SRPD does not need military grade weapons like tear gas. People need housing. Please consider the needs of your community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melanie Luque
Sonoma County resident
707-815-2758

Manis, Dina

From: Max Luque <maxluque9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:46 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defunding Santa Rosa PD

Hello,

I am emailing to express my support for the defunding of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I understand your City draft for the FY 2020-2021 budget dictates that 35.1% of the annual budget would go to the Police, while only 0.1% would go to Housing and Community Services.

I urge you to consider the number of people who have signed this petition in support of defunding the SRPD:
<https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

I also ask that you reconsider Measure O, which guarantees a minimum funding requirement of 34.3% for the SRPD. This is a ludicrous amount, especially when other areas, such as affordable housing, and funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, are so lacking. The SRPD does not need military grade weapons like tear gas. People need housing. Please consider the needs of your community.

Thank you,
Max Luque

Manis, Dina

From: Sharon Bailey <baileyfs7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:24 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police defunding

Dear council members, Please keep our city safe. Dont let the youth take over our city, like in Seattle. We appreciate all that you do. Remember your decisions today affect the future of tomorrow. Do what's best for everyone not just the few. Let the police do their work. Protect our force. Please take care of the people who work in this community. We love our city. History doesn't really change it just repeat its self. I serve in the community and I do care for All people. But violence and looting doesn't mean equality.

Thank you

Forrest and Sharon Bailey

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Brittany Lobo <brittanyrlobo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:45 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department

We demand that there is no increase in the FY 2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. We firmly believe that a portion of funds previously allocated to police should be redirected to programs that better support people of color and low-income members of our community who need it most.

In 2018-2019, the city of Santa Rosa spent \$64,101,112 on funding for the local police department. The city spent 35% of their annual budget on the police, but only spent 1% on Housing and Community Services and 10% on Recreation & Parks programs. The City Council states that they want to "foster neighborhood partnerships and strengthen cultural assets", "invest in and sustain infrastructure and transportation", and "meet housing needs", yet they spent 24% more of their annual budget on the Police Department than combined programs that would achieve their goals in supporting essential services in the community.

The systematic examples of abuse of power, resulting in the unjust murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Andy Lopez, and countless other people of color, urges the fact that the police should be defunded. This would include the gradual process of the City of Santa Rosa reallocating its resources and funding away from teargas, plastic bullets, & militarized weapons for the Santa Rosa Police Department and towards affordable housing, funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, and other programs that support jobs, health, and healing for the at-risk, low-income, and people of color in our community. We would ultimately like to see the local police protect our community members who are homeless, low-income, at-risk, and minorities just as equally as those who are white and of higher class.

Enough is enough.

We need an immediate end to the systemic racism that exists in Santa Rosa.

We need acknowledgment and accountability for the inherent pain and injustice afflicted on the minorities in our community.

We need investment in the health and prosperity of our neighbors who need it most.

We need divestment in the police force.

We need to #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE.

Brittany Lobo
Santa Rosa Resident
95401

Manis, Dina

From: Alissa Coenen <comomango1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:58 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] #Defundthepolice PETITION

I request that there is no increase in the FY 2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. I firmly believe that a portion of funds previously allocated to police should be redirected to programs that better support people of color and low-income members of our community who need it most. Please reallocate some of the funds previously designated for police to go to things like low-income housing.

Alissa Coenen

Manis, Dina

From: Katrina Hendricks <katrinadill@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:52 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please read before today's vote

We demand that there is no increase in the FY 2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. We firmly believe that a portion of funds previously allocated to police should be redirected to programs that better support people of color and low-income members of our community who need it most.

In 2018-2019, the city of Santa Rosa spent \$64,101,112 on funding for the local police department. The city spent 35% of their annual budget on the police, but only spent 1% on Housing and Community Services and 10% on Recreation & Parks programs. The City Council states that they want to "foster neighborhood partnerships and strengthen cultural assets", "invest in and sustain infrastructure and transportation", and "meet housing needs", yet they spent 24% more of their annual budget on the Police Department than combined programs that would achieve their goals in supporting essential services in the community.

The systematic examples of abuse of power, resulting in the unjust murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Andy Lopez, and countless other people of color, urges the fact that the police should be defunded. This would include the gradual process of the City of Santa Rosa reallocating its resources and funding away from teargas, plastic bullets, & militarized weapons for the Santa Rosa Police Department and towards affordable housing, funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, and other programs that support jobs, health, and healing for the at-risk, low-income, and people of color in our community. We would ultimately like to see the local police protect our community members who are homeless, low-income, at-risk, and minorities just as equally as those who are white and of higher class.

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We need acknowledgment and accountability for the inherent pain and injustice afflicted on the minorities in our community.

We need investment in the health and prosperity of our neighbors who need it most.

We need divestment in the police force.

We need to #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Manis, Dina

From: hendricksonlindvictoria <hendricksonlindvictoria@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:12 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reallocate Police Funds to FJC

<http://chng.it/wx7ggJHwx>

I URGE you to read this petition, see how many of the people you represent want this change, and act upon it. 35% of the budget going to the police while only 0.1% going to housing is despicable, especially in a place with such a high homeless population, and that had massive home losses due to natural disasters. Instead of punishing people for their lack of resources and desperation, you should be helping them get what they need. This includes housing, mental health resources, and other social services that the FJC provides. It is imperative that you, the representatives of the people, actually do what is best for the people.

I eagerly await your decisions.

-Victoria Hendrickson

Manis, Dina

From: Nicole Schlumberger <paterson.meeke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:34 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund police in Santa Rosa

Dear Santa Rosa City Council,

I am writing in opposition to your proposed budget to be discussed today, June 23rd, 2020. A 35.1% annual budget to police services with only 0.1% going to Housing and Community Services is unacceptable. Our residents need our tax dollars to go towards much needed housing, homeless services, education, and mental health services. The Santa Rosa Police Department has responded incredibly inappropriately to protesters and used too much force. There are better uses of those funds to actually bring our community up. Please revise this budget plan with a reduced police budget and increased community services.

Thank you,

Nicole Schlumberger
Sonoma County resident

Manis, Dina

From: Liz Rentzel <elizabethrentzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:13 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 17k people have signed a petition to move funding from the sr police to community services

<https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

Please do not ignore the sentiments of Santa Rosa constituents to move power (funding) from the Santa Rosa police and towards community services expressed in the petition above. Please read this petition. The majority of the city's funding comes from sales taxes and property taxes. The people who spend money in your city are calling for more response from social workers- focusing on social needs versus social control. Reconsider measure O. We're not saying the police force is not overwhelmed just like every other government agency. We're saying that policing and incarceration does not work to protect the city. This model leads to a lack of resources for people of color and those in poverty to afford schooling, find jobs, afford housing, and remove themselves from dangerous people and households.

Please don't ignore this petition. You will be held accountable if you don't take steps towards changing the foundation of how this city protects its people. Don't feel powerless. Move with the people. Because Santa Rosa will be looking to leaders who do.

Elizabeth Rentzel

Manis, Dina

From: Leeanna Gregorio <leeanna_jg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:23 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Increase Money for Housing

I demand that there is no increase in the FY 2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. I firmly believe that a portion of funds previously allocated to police should be redirected to programs that better support people of color and low-income members of our community who need it most. We are in a housing crisis in the middle of a global pandemic. I demand that more money be allocated towards housing in Santa Rosa.

LeeAnna Gregorio

Manis, Dina

From: Irene Barnard <irene.j.barnard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:24 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: SR City Council budget meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Irene Barnard <irene.j.barnard@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 22, 2020 at 7:52 PM
Subject: SR City Council budget meeting
To: <citycouncil@srcity.org>

To the Santa Rosa City Council:

Re 6/23 budget meeting:

I understand that over the last few weeks, you've been getting many questions about the City budget - particularly for the police department. I'm writing to express my concerns and join in the many protesting police brutality and excessive use of force, especially among people of color.

I join the voices of others in urging the city to find ways to make immediate changes to the way policing is conducted:

- decoupling funds from the police for non-police type work they've been increasingly doing (e.g. mental health crisis intervention), in order to move those funds to separate departments staffed by experts trained and qualified to help people in crisis, rather than as a mere adjunct to police units
- moving funds from excessive overtime or salaries or pensions, to services desperately needed (housing, education, health care)
- increased transparency of officer misconduct and complaint records
- de-escalation training
- citizen oversight committees with not just subpoena power, but real power beyond mere suggestions that law enforcement can ignore
- no special attorney for police; no qualified immunity
- less police union power: I know new contract negotiations will be coming up on 6/30, and the current political climate should give new leverage to reformed training and discipline issues, to name just two
- demilitarization

I'll be staying closely tuned to the decisions of the council and following up; activists are completely committed to ensuring that these changes are made, and decisions made today will surely influence all of our futures!

Thanks for your attention.

Irene Barnard

Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: Scott Starr <awaltzforvenus@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:51 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question/comment for the Mayor, June 23rd Council meeting

Hello, my name is Scott Starr. I'm a citizen of Santa Rosa, residing in the NW part of the city.

Mayor Schwedhelm, you, the vice mayor, and members of city council participated in a Q&A session with members of the community at Doyle Park this weekend — I want to thank you for taking time out of your weekend to meet with us and answer our questions, I know there is video of the exchange on YouTube for those who could not participate. I'd like to follow up with you on a couple of questions and comments presented during that session regarding the city's budget, particularly as it relates to law enforcement as well as supporting the city's growing issues around housing and community services.

During that exchange, you recognized that housing and community services is a growing issue in the city, which I think we all can agree on. I think the growing transient population in the city has also been widely recognized. The city's current budget allows for \$200,000 dollars to address this — barely a percentage point of the overall budget, and itself a 90% reduction year-over-year. Meanwhile, the law enforcement budget is currently slated at just over \$62 million dollars, more than a third of the city's budget, and a 4% increase — not decrease, as with the housing budget — year-over-year.

Mayor Schwedhelm, given that you agree that the housing issue is a crisis for our city, do you feel that barely a percentage point of the budget is enough to address the needs of our city's neediest and most vulnerable population? We hear time and again that it's a big issue, and that there isn't enough money in the budget to deal with it, and yet we see that there clearly is. Can you commit to providing more funding from the overwhelming law enforcement budget to address the needs of these citizens, and if not, do you feel that your past career experience in law enforcement presents a conflict of interest in this matter?

Thank you for your time.

Scott

Manis, Dina

From: Asherah Weiss <asherah.weiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:35 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund the Police; Agenda item 15.2

My Name: Ash Weiss
Agenda #: 15.2

Hello Santa Rosa city officials,

I join with the people most at risk of being targeted by the police-- Black, indigenous and people of color, as well as people experiencing homelessness and others-- to demand that the budget become balanced for equity and justice in Santa Rosa. I urge you to listen to your constituents and defund the police. Put the money toward housing, social services for public health and youth support for a future we can believe in.

DEFUND THE POLICE.

Thank you,

Ash Weiss, BFA
Artist/Educator
(707) 543-6654

"We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."
- MLK Jr.

Manis, Dina

From: Christa Nash <crnash22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:44 PM
To: City Council Public Comments; _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting on 06/23/2020, Public Comment for Agenda Item 15.2

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you as a constituent of District 5 & a born and raised Santa Rosan. As council members I'm sure you're already extremely familiar with the figures from the FY 2019-20 General Fund Budgeted Expenditures, but personally when I saw that our city was spending \$1.9 million dollars on our Housing & Community Services vs. the \$59.7 million dollars allotted to the Police Department, I was fairly shocked to say the least. This is regardless of the current controversies surrounding police departments across the country. This is solely based on living in Santa Rosa & witnessing where that money is desperately needed.

Almost everyone who lives in Sonoma County, & now even many people in surrounding counties in the Bay Area thanks to multiple news stories, are very aware & concerned with the homeless crisis that Santa Rosa is experiencing. The Joe Rodota Trail encampment was an increasingly controversial topic throughout Santa Rosa until COVID-19 took over the world. With COVID-19 here with us for the foreseeable future, we should be ensuring that areas of our local government such as the Housing & Community Services Department are more supported than ever. Not only supported in the sense of providing affordable permanent housing options where possible, but also with the necessary resources in regards to general health care (specifically in regards to COVID-19 at this time), mental health, drug & alcohol addictions, & educational & employment training when needed.

It is appalling to think of reducing the Housing & Community Services Dept.'s funding by \$1.7 million dollars during a time when our city should be doing as much as we can to save the value of our city's streets & the dignity of the lives of those who find themselves house-less here with us, while at this same time also increasing the Police Dept.'s funding by \$2.5 million dollars. \$200,000 for the ENTIRE Housing & Community Services Dept. for 2020-21 is a disgustingly low figure for a city the size of Santa Rosa. Even if you are to leave the Police Dept.'s current budgeted amount as is, & gave the proposed increase of \$2.5 million dollars to Housing & Community Services, that would allot \$4.4 million dollars to that department which would make a world of difference & give our city faith that we are on the right track to addressing the current homeless crisis.

I want to be proud of our city, but the kind of financial move proposed in the 2020-21 budget doesn't make any sense morally when you see the figures on paper & you see the current situation within our city. Other cities around the globe have *proven* that when you provide more community resources that are specifically tailored to certain issues or situations, the need for police intervention is reduced. The goal of re-allocating the funds intended for the Police Dept. is to provide more partnerships (ie: clinical social workers who can assist w/ mental health, behavioral, or emotional issues on calls) for the police to be able to work with so that they are not put in the kind of positions that they regularly find themselves in these days.

We need a budget tailored to our city. We need a budget tailored to address the current needs of our city, which you can so clearly see when driving through or around our beautiful downtown. We need a budget tailored to supporting our community as opposed to dividing it. As constituents, we are all watching a little more closely these days & want to make sure that our local electives hear us. We want you to show us your support to be able to support you in the future. Please stand with us in if not reducing, at least maintaining the Police Dept.'s current funding figures & appropriately re-allocating them to other departments which so desperately need them.

Thank you all so much for your time.

--
In Gratitude,

Christa Nash

Manis, Dina

From: Kelsey Leblanc <mygreenlady@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:00 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police budget item 15.2

We the people of Santa Rosa demand that more of our budget go to supporting people and ending poverty, homelessness, and crime at the source rather than criminalizing the victims. We cannot arrest our way out of these problems. We want someone to call when we need help, without fearing the helper. We want a pie chart where "housing and community development" is actually visible, rather than such a small sliver you could miss it. We want a budget that reflects our values. We will not accept this proportion of our tax paid budget going to police.

Thank you
Kelsey Vero

Manis, Dina

From: gregmcc955@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:12 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Santar Rosa Police Dept. budget

Dear Mayor and council members:

I'm a native Santa Rosan who has raised his children here and spent a good deal of time volunteering in the community. I've worked here all my life as have three generations of our family.

We are homeowners and past business owners in this City.

Today you will be considering allocations for the City's new budget.

As a first responder, I've had the opportunity to work with our police officers on literally hundreds of calls and can tell you first hand how professionally they carry out their duties.

I'm writing you to express my concerns about possible reductions in the Police Dept.'s budget.

Some have expressed their opinion that less police officers would somehow be good for our community.

This is about as absurd of an idea that I've ever heard !

Consider that without our officers tirelessly working on the Tubbs Fire evacuations, there is no question that many more lives would have been lost.

I've seen them repeatedly deescalate situations that could have taken a real turn for the worse.

I've seen them deal with drugged out methamphetamine maniacs who have no idea of where they are or who they are swinging at.

The response time of officers to mentally unstable or violent calls is critical as fire and EMS cannot enter the scene until it has been stabilized by officers. The less officers we have, the slower the response times. These are not calls that some have suggested should have a counselor at the first responder vs P.D.

Training matters, community based policing matters but without the bodies, none of the above will matter!

In closing, I ask that you DO NOT reduce the police department's budget and/or reduce the number of our officers. We need more officers, not less!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. McCollum

Manis, Dina

From: Karen Stone <kstone@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:25 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] All Lives Matter

Karen Stone
Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: hm_meeker <hm_meeker@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:50 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget

Hello,

I want to express my concern over how overfunded the police currently is, especially in light of how underfunded housing and community services are. Police are not equipped to support our homeless population nor provide mental health services, just to name two vital services we need to provide to our population. Police do not need to excessive amount of money they are allocated, when we so desperately need community support.

Hannah Meeker
510 Furlong Road
Sebastopol, CA

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Manis, Dina

From: Melissa Nop <melissa.nop@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:09 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 15.2

Dear Santa Rosa City Officials,

My name is Melissa Nop and I am a Sonoma County local. I am writing in response to Agenda Item 15.2 regarding the SRPD's budget this year. I spoke to Chris Rogers at Juliard park this weekend and learned about today's meeting and he mentioned sending emails/comments and voicemails as an option to have our voices heard.

I am writing to express my urgency in the matter of denouncing the proposed increase in budget for the SRPD, as well as urge our city council to divest from the budget altogether. The National Movement for Black Lives addressing policy brutality and the abuse of power has also highlighted the history and cases of police brutality that exist in our very own city. There are so many other areas where our budget can be allocated that will actually benefit the residents of Santa Rosa.

Just yesterday, my neighbor called the police due to an overdose that she believed was happening in a car next to her parking spot. Instead of getting the help that he needed, the police arrived and arrested him, where he will likely be detained for a period of time, instead of getting the actual help he may need. There are so many opportunities beyond policing that can benefit your community.

I would like to see the divestment to occur and instead be poured into education, into mental health services, into addressing homelessness in our community, addressing any gaps that exist in the lives of essential workers due to COVID-19, etc...

Thank you for taking this matter very seriously and acting swiftly.

Regards,

Melissa Nop

melissa.nop@me.com

Manis, Dina

From: heatherdekle@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:13 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund SRPD

Hi,

I am reaching out in regards to defunding Santa Rosa Police Department. I think those funds should be reallocated into other community services and programs.

Thank you,

Heather Dekle

Manis, Dina

From: heatherdekle@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:13 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defund SRPD

Hi,

I am reaching out in regards to defunding Santa Rosa Police Department. I think those funds should be reallocated into other community services and programs.

Thank you,

Heather Dekle

Manis, Dina

From: Melissa Nop <melissa.nop@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:16 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 15.2

Dear Santa Rosa City Officials,

My name is Melissa Nop and I am a Sonoma County local. I am writing in response to Agenda Item 15.2 regarding the SRPD's budget this year. I spoke to Chris Rogers at Juliard park this weekend and learned about today's meeting and he mentioned sending emails/comments and voicemails as an option to have our voices heard.

I am writing to express my urgency in the matter of denouncing the proposed increase in budget for the SRPD, as well as urge our city council to divest from the budget altogether. The National Movement for Black Lives addressing policy brutality and the abuse of power has also highlighted the history and cases of police brutality that exist in our very own city. There are so many other areas where our budget can be allocated that will actually benefit the residents of Santa Rosa.

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I would like to see the divestment to occur and instead be poured into education, into mental health services, into addressing homelessness in our community, addressing any gaps that exist in the lives of essential workers due to COVID-19, etc...

Thank you for taking this matter very seriously and acting swiftly.

Regards,

Melissa Nop

melissa.nop@me.com

Manis, Dina

From: Joey Smith <joey.w.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:12 PM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Our Budget.

Hi,

I feel that 38% of our general budget going to policing is too high.

I know many Santa Rosans who feel the same.

Please reduce the amount we spend on policing,

yes: "DeFUND"

and move this money toward social services that are proven to reduce crime.

Thank you,

Joey Smith
4375 Wallace Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA
95404

Manis, Dina

From: Julie Jay <juliejaynp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:22 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update on petition - Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department

Hi,

I wanted to share an exciting update about a petition I signed on Change.org: "Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department".

Read about the update "Email this petition to citycouncil@srcity.org!" below, and join me in supporting this campaign by signing the petition!

<http://chnng.it/zGtjJQbTn2>

Thanks!
Julie

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Tyler Meloan <tmeloan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:24 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update on petition — Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department

Hi,

I wanted to share an exciting update about a petition I signed on Change.org: "Tom Schwedhelm: Defund the Santa Rosa Police Department".

Read about the update "Email this petition to citycouncil@srcity.org!" below, and join me in supporting this campaign by signing the petition!

<http://chng.it/5ssFZwgBJH>

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Shirley Chealhome <chealhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:51 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 'CAHOOTS': How Social Workers And Police Share Responsibilities In Eugene, Oregon : NPR

I found this 4 minute NPR News item about 'Cahoots'. Obviously some things need to change in Santa Rosa - moving in this direction is worth exploring. Lives and money could be saved and after listening to the input last night, this could help answer the cry from the community.

Thanks for all you do.

Shirley Cheal

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/10/874339977/cahoots-how-social-workers-and-police-share-responsibilities-in-eugene-oregon>

Sent from my iPad...

Manis, Dina

From: Pam LeBlanc <pleblanc11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:04 AM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] #15.2

Where is the funding for community services that support community members in need of housing, health care, mental health care, employment and social services? An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Punishment just adds insult to injury, and overburdens peace officers with tasks they are not trained to do.

We should do what New York State is doing:insist on problem solving and reimagining a system with all stakeholders at the table-and condition funding on consensus based action.

My white children and grandchildren are putting themselves in harm's way because they want to live in a more just society. They are not going to stop until meaningful change happens. Perhaps all the work and sacrifices of the 1960's will finally come to fruition. In this time of pandemic, we learn again that we are all in the same boat, and what harms one, harms all. Do something to show our city is part of the solution!

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Reilly, Shelley
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Manis, Dina; Williams, Stephanie
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Budget Staff Comment Form

We got this email last night. Do you still want me to send these comments to you for the record?

Shelley Reilly | Principal Financial Analyst
Finance Department | 631 First Street | Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel. (707) 543-3704 | sreilly@srcity.org



From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Reilly, Shelley <sreilly@srcity.org>; Conner, Veronica <VConner@srcity.org>; Frugoli, Mike <MFrugoli@srcity.org>; Klaven, Janet <JKlaven@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Budget Staff Comment Form

Budget Staff Comment Form

Your name, email address, and phone number are not required. However, if you provide them, we will be able to ask follow-up questions and better understand your comments.

First Name	Will
Last Name	Scott
Email Address	will@weavingearth.org
Phone Number	4152546470
Comments & Questions	To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Justine Epstein and I am a resident of Sonoma County, and a frequent visitor to the city of Santa Rosa, where I have lived and organized during the past 4 years.

I am writing to express my sincere and urgent concern for the proposed FY 2020/2021 budget which, if I have received the correct information, proposes to increase the police budget by 4.2% to \$62.2 MILLION and to cut housing and community services by 89.5% to just \$200,000.

The public is rising up around this country and around the world with demands to reallocate funding from police budgets to meet the basic needs of the community (e.g. housing and community services, healthcare, education, mental health and social services), because it has been proven again and again that when communities are resourced in their basic needs, the need for policing decreases. When communities have what they need, they do not need to resort to criminal behavior.

Additionally, police departments historically and currently target black and brown communities and are responsible for the disproportionate murder of unarmed black and brown people, including local 13 year old Andy Lopez, whose killing has not yet been brought to bear seven years after the fact.

The time has come for the City of Santa Rosa to stand on the right side of history, and to follow the lead of cities around the country including New York and Los Angeles that are defunding their police budgets and investing instead in the health and wellbeing of their communities, listening to and responding to the demands and requests of the communities most impacted by the systemic racism and economic marginalization of our country.

I would like to add my voice to the call to defund the police and request that significant funding increases be made instead to the Housing and Community Services department.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Will Scott

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Manis, Dina

From: Stefan Wenger <inspirus@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:46 AM
To: City Council Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 15.2

My name is Stefan Wenger and this regards item 15.2.

Santa Rosa police have used tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protesters, while doing nothing to protect them from attacks by vehicle. Tear gas is illegal in war; rubber bullets are meant to be fired at the ground to repel protesters, not shot *at* them as our police are presently doing.

We spend only \$200,000 on housing in an entire year, and about 6 million on police. Meanwhile our Sheriff has gone rogue and refused to enforce public health orders.

We do not need funding police. We need police reform, and police defunding.

Larger, much more troubled cities than ours are realizing this, all around the country. If Santa Rosa resists this movement, we have no right to be proud of city.

Santa Rosa basically sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War. We HAVE to make up for this. We need to be actively anti-racist at this time, and giving our police more money is the opposite of that. Please respond accordingly.

Manis, Dina

From: Maeve Richards <richardsmaeve@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:47 AM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic; Schwedhelm, Tom; Fleming, Victoria; Sawyer, John; Rogers, Chris; Olivares, Ernesto; Tibbetts, Jeff; rdown@srcity.org; McGlynn, Sean; Guhin, David; cmcbride@srcity.org; Nutt, Jason; Gallagher, Sue; Williams, Stephanie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FY 2020-2021 Budget Concerns

THE COMMUNITY OF SANTA ROSA DEMANDS THAT CITY COUNCIL INVEST IN ALTERNATIVES TO POLICING, COMMUNITY SERVICES, AND HOUSING

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders:

<https://www.change.org/p/tom-schwedhelm-defund-the-santa-rosa-police-department>

I am writing to you today out of great concern for our community and our future. I am Maeve Richards, a resident of Santa Rosa, and the creator of the petition to defund the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Nearly 17,000 community members have signed the above petition to firstly demand that there is no increase in the FY 2020-2021 budget for the Santa Rosa Police Department. Secondly, we demand that the police budget is reduced and that a portion of funds previously allocated to the Santa Rosa Police Department is equally reinvested into local programs that better support people of color, low-income, homeless, and at-risk members of our community who need it most. We demand that you, as our City Council, choose to balance the annual budget in a way that defunds the Santa Rosa Police Department and better supports financial equality & security for every one of our neighbors in need.

We have all been affected by COVID-19 and had interactions with the Santa Rosa Police Department, but that does not mean we have all been affected equally. Both the police and this pandemic have disproportionately targeted people of color. Over 75% of total COVID-19 cases in Sonoma County are from the Latinx community, and yet they only represent about 27% of the population in Sonoma County. Our Latinx neighbors need Santa Rosa's financial resources and support now more than ever to survive *much more* than the police department needs their unlawful militarized weapons.

The call to readjust the annual budget and defund the police is indeed accompanied by the sales tax requirement Measure O. We additionally demand for specific baseline percentages of Measure O to be reworked. More specifically, we demand for the 34.3% of Police Measure O Funds to be lowered and the 0.4% of Gang Prevention and Youth Programs Measure O Funds to be raised, excluding the contributing stress of law enforcement. "The safest communities don't have the most cops; they have the most resources." says Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore of Durham, North Carolina. We want our tax dollars to support our community without contributing to police violence against our neighbors. Measure O can be overridden.

In the City of Santa Rosa's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, we see that you plan on spending 35.1% of the city's annual budget on the police. Only 0.1% of the city's annual budget would go to Housing and Community Services, and yet 3/10 of your written goals as City Council include "[meeting] housing needs", "[attaining] functional zero homelessness", and "effectively [implementing] the recovery and rebuilding of Santa Rosa." Only 5.5% of the annual budget would go to Recreation & Community Engagement, and yet you, the City Council, state that you want to "foster neighborhood partnerships and strengthen cultural assets" and overall spread a message of uniting our community that will "lead the North Bay." You are willing to spend 29.5% more of the annual budget on the Police Department than on combined programs that would achieve your goals in supporting essential services that unite our community; our same community that is known for its horrendous homeless and housing crisis, our same community whose East and West sides are split by a

dramatic wealth gap, and our same community that feels threatened by the overwhelming budget and power that the Santa Rosa Police Department holds.

We also see that, on the very first page of the Operations and Maintenance Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft, you have addressed the protests sparked by the unjust murder of George Floyd. Surely you have also heard the rallying cries that accompany these protests to defund the police's budget and power. Locally, this would include the process of the City of Santa Rosa diverting its resources and funding away from teargas, plastic bullets, & militarized weapons that the Santa Rosa Police Department uses against its own community members and towards affordable housing, increased funding for schools in low income neighborhoods, and other community-based programs that support employment, health, and healing for the at-risk, low-income, homeless, and people of color in our community. Research from many social scientists shows that crime is a response to social conditions. Redirecting and reinvesting public funds would uplift our at-risk neighbors while also reducing crime and increasing safety.

The police department's budget should better serve the community members that it has sworn to "protect and serve" and yet is designed to oppress. Instead of protection, the police department has caused our community members emotional and physical harm, additionally in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement:

- Our community is harmed by racial biases that the police department's abuse of power perpetuates.
- Our community is harmed when the police physically injure peaceful protestors, such as Marqus Martinez, through the unlawful use of teargas and rubber bullets; the same teargas that was not even allowed to be used in *war* and was prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and the same rubber bullets that hospitalized Marqus Martinez on May 31st, 2020. He was shot in the face at point blank range with a sting-ball grenade by the Santa Rosa Police Department. The *Geneva Guidelines on Less-Lethal Weapons and Related Equipment in Law Enforcement* states that "Kinetic impact projectiles should generally only be used in direct fire against the lower body of a violent individual when a substantial risk exists of immediate serious injury to either a law enforcement official or a member of the public." A circulating internet photo taken moments before shows proof that Martinez was kneeling with his hands in the air as he was helping protect a group of youth that were being harassed with tear gas, set off by the police. The direct impact to Martinez's face knocked out four of his front teeth, lodging three of the teeth into the roof of his mouth and one in his tongue. His lip was split into three, and his jaw was fractured and required reconstructive surgery at the Stanford Hospital.
- Our community is harmed when a murderer is allowed to walk free and is then granted a substantial pay raise and promotion. This murderer is Erik Gelhaus, the same Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy who murdered Andy Lopez, the 13-year-old boy who we will never forget and continue demanding justice for. What else has been promoted? The recurring national message that, time and time again, police officers unjustly walk free from murdering innocent citizens, unjustly triggered by racial prejudice.

We are witnessing the biggest civil rights movement in history. This is a dystopia that our community, and our tax dollars, will not stand for. We hope that, by cutting the Santa Rosa Police Department's overwhelming annual budget and alternatively choosing to increase funds that support our low-income community members of color, you as our City Leaders will demonstrate that you won't stand for this repeated racial discrimination and physical abuse of power, either. This is the perfect opportunity for our city to set an example for other cities across the country and to truly lead the North Bay. This is the perfect opportunity to be on the right side of history if you choose to listen to your community. In deciding this next annual budget, you have the chance to show that you truly care about uniting our community as much as you like to say you do.

Enough is enough.

We need an immediate end to the systemic racism that exists in Santa Rosa.

We need acknowledgment and accountability for the inherent pain and injustice afflicted on the minorities in our community.

We need investment in the health and prosperity of our neighbors who need it most.

We need divestment in the police force.

Nearly 17,000 (SEVENTEEN THOUSAND) community members agree that the City of Santa Rosa needs to DEFUND THE POLICE.

Regards,

Maeve Richards

Manis, Dina

From: Teresa McColley <joschka@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:35 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget meeting comment

To the Santa Rosa City Council:

As you consider the budget during this time of potential transformation, I would like to point you toward a couple of programs that reduce the need for law enforcement response and incarceration and are proven effective in other communities:

The Restoration Center, in San Antonio, TX is a place where people with mental health and/or substance use issues and/or homelessness can go as an alternative to jail when they would otherwise be arrested for minor offenses. It has a crisis stabilization unit, and social and medical detox center, and access to housing, peer support, primary care, case management, ongoing mental health and substance use treatment, and educational supports. It also has a safe courtyard where people can sleep who aren't yet ready to come indoors. It was created when the city police, county sheriff, and local hospitals made a commitment to tearing down their funding silos and pooling their resources with a vision of decriminalizing homelessness, mental health, and substance use disorders and keeping these folks out of the more expensive emergency rooms and jails. This program has saved the city of San Antonio millions of dollars.

The other program is CAHOOTS, in Eugene, OR. CAHOOTS is similar to our county's Mobile Support Team, with the big differences being that it is staffed with a nurse or paramedic and a mental health worker, and most calls are not made with law enforcement. They have great data, and have demonstrated that with the thousands of calls they have addressed, a relative few have needed law enforcement backup for safety purposes. This avoids both the problem of law enforcement escalating the situation (sometimes due to poor handling but just as often due to the negative reaction some folks in crisis experience when being confronted by the police), and the problem of law enforcement truly not having the expertise to appropriately evaluate and triage a mental health crisis.

It has been very striking to me that because of COVID, the County's jail population has been reduced by more than half. I have no idea whether this has created an uptick in petty crime. I do know that if we were to continue in this vein, a great amount of savings from not incarcerating people could go into upstream investments such as housing, employment training, mental health and substance use treatment, etc., that would reduce crime, and therefore the need for law enforcement. I realize the jail is in the County's budget, and not the City's, but if we look to San Antonio's model, perhaps some combined investments can be made which would result in better outcomes for our community and savings for both the City and the County.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts.

Teresa McColley
887 Sonoma Ave, #18
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
joschka@mac.com

Manis, Dina

From: Jazmin Tapia <jazmin.r.tapia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Schwedhelm, Tom; Fleming, Victoria; Sawyer, John; Rogers, Chris; Olivares, Ernesto; Tibbetts, Jack; Dowd, Richard; Guhin, David; cmcbride@srcity.org; Nutt, Jason; Gallagher, Sue; Williams, Stephanie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reallocate egregious police budgets towards education, social services, and dismantling racial injustice

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders,

I am writing to you today out of great concern for our community and our future. I am a resident of San Diego County in the La Mesa Area.

As Black people across the United States are dying at the hands of law enforcement, our communities are mourning the deaths of George Floyd, tortured to death by Minneapolis police, and Breonna Taylor an EMT killed by officers while asleep in her bed in Louisville. Their names are added to a devastatingly long list of Black people who have been killed at the hands of law enforcement - it is time for us to make different decisions. We demand change in the operation of the criminal legal system, we demand that we take care of our community instead of criminalizing those amongst us who need help, and we demand that police are not the front line responders to every emergency or call for help.

In Santa Rosa, fulfilling these demands requires making dramatic changes in our city's budget. Our budget should reflect our values. The current budget does not. While I understand that due to Measure O, the City Council is not able to reduce the allocated budget expenditures to police, I am writing to you today to demand that the Santa Rosa City Council invest in alternative responses to law enforcement that actually keep our community safe and healthy. I also call on our collective community to reconsider Measure O's policy, and work to change it. Law Enforcement should be the Exception, not the rule.

Increasingly, The United States has responded to every emergency or call for help with law enforcement. Meanwhile, our communities desperately lack meaningful access to healthcare, employment, and housing. Instead, we have the largest military budget in the world, and some of the most well-funded and militarized police departments. Policing and militarization overwhelmingly dominate the bulk of national and local budgets. In fact, police and military funding has increased every single year since 1973, and at the same time, while funding for public health has decreased every year. According to the Urban Institute, in 1977, state and local governments spent \$60 billion on police and corrections.[1] In 2017, they spent \$194 billion. A 220 percent increase. In Santa Rosa, funding for local police makes up 32% of the city budget.[2] Housing and community services accounts for only 1%. That is a staggering and illuminating statistic. What does it say about our community? It says that rather than responding to the needs in our community with meaningful support and resources, we respond with law enforcement. This is unacceptable. Where could that money go? It could go towards building healthy communities, to housing development, to neighborhood infrastructure, to education, to childcare. The possibilities are endless.

Therefore we demand the following:

The creation of a local police commission and a city council subcommittee on alternatives to policing. A commitment to changing Measure O, so we may act to reduce funding for police in the Santa Rosa

Manis, Dina

From: David Hage <davenhage@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:20 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For the Right To Life

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders,

I am writing you today out of great concern for our community and our future. I am a Sonoma County resident, having spent the most of my life in Santa Rosa. I am a white, cis-man and i am a local small business owner. I care deeply about this community, and that includes *all* members of the community. This is why I now write.

As Black people across the United States are dying at the hands of law enforcement, our communities are mourning the deaths of George Floyd, tortured to death by Minneapolis police, and Breonna Taylor an EMT killed by officers while asleep in her bed in Louisville. Their names are added to a devastatingly long list of Black people who have been killed at the hands of law enforcement - it is time for us to make different decisions. We demand change in the operation of the criminal legal system, we demand that we take care of our community instead of criminalizing those amongst us who need help, and we demand that police are not the front line responders to every emergency or call for help.

In Santa Rosa, fulfilling these demands requires making dramatic changes in our city's budget. Our budget should reflect our values. The current budget does not. While I understand that due to Measure O, the City Council is not able to reduce the allocated budget expenditures to police, I am writing to you today to demand that the Santa Rosa City Council invest in alternative responses to law enforcement that actually keep our community safe and healthy. I also call on our collective community to reconsider Measure O's policy, and work to change it. Law Enforcement should be the Exception, not the rule.

Increasingly, The United States has responded to every emergency or call for help with law enforcement. Meanwhile, our communities desperately lack meaningful access to healthcare, employment, and housing. Instead, we have the largest military budget in the world, and some of the most well-funded and militarized police departments. Policing and militarization overwhelmingly dominate the bulk of national and local budgets. In fact, police and military funding has increased every single year since 1973, and at the same time, while funding for public health has decreased every year. According to the Urban Institute, in 1977, state and local governments spent \$60 billion on police and corrections.[1] In 2017, they spent \$194 billion. A 220 percent increase. In Santa Rosa, funding for local police makes up 32% of the city budget.[2] Housing and community services accounts for only 1%. That is a staggering and illuminating statistic. What does it say about our community? It says that rather than responding to the needs in our community with meaningful support and resources, we respond with law enforcement. This is unacceptable. Where could that money go? It could go towards building healthy communities, to housing development, to neighborhood infrastructure, to education, to childcare. The possibilities are endless.

Therefore we demand the following:

The creation of a local police commission and a city council subcommittee on alternatives to policing. A commitment to changing Measure O, so we may act to reduce funding for police in the Santa Rosa City budget, and instead invest more in housing and community services. Investment in local alternatives to policing. This should include investments in existing community based organizations as well as additional funding to support the creation of alternative responses to community needs and emergencies, including: Unarmed mediation and intervention teams, Social worker teams and mental health experts, as well as Restorative Justice programs. We further request that an emergency meeting of the full city council be immediately scheduled to address these concerns. You are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding these requests.

Regards,

David Hage
4065 Heather Lane
Sebastopol CA 95472
davenhage@gmail.com
707-228-8942

Sent from my iPhone

Manis, Dina

From: Terri Moon <moon900@sonic.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:35 PM
To: Schwedhelm, Tom; Fleming, Victoria; Sawyer, John; Rogers, Chris; Olivares, Ernesto; Tibbetts, Jack; Dowd, Richard; Guhin, David; cmcbride@srcity.org; Nutt, Jason; Gallagher, Sue; cMcBride@srcity.org; Williams, Stephanie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Restoring safety and trust within our community

Dear Santa Rosa City Leaders,

I am writing you today out of great concern for our community and our future. I have been a member of this community for most of the last 26 years, I'm a small business owner, and an active participant in our community via volunteering, public hearings and spiritual communities.

Black people across the United States are dying at the hands of law enforcement, communities are mourning the deaths of George Floyd, murdered in broad daylight by four Minneapolis police officers, and Breonna Taylor an EMT killed by officers while asleep in her own bed in Louisville, KY. Their names have been added to a devastatingly long list of Black people who have been killed by law enforcement. It is time for us to change how the criminal legal system operates, care for community members, rather criminalizing those in need of support, and to designate workers other than police as front line responders in emergency situations.

In Santa Rosa, implementing these changes requires making dramatic changes in the city's budget. We want our budget to reflect our values and the current budget does not. I understand that Measure O prevents the City Council from reducing allocated budget expenditures to police.

This is why I'm writing to you today to encourage the Santa Rosa City Council to invest in alternative responses to law enforcement- services that will actually keep our community safe and healthy. I also call on our collective community to reconsider Measure O, and work to change it.

Law Enforcement is the Exception, not the rule.

Increasingly, cities across the United States have responded to every emergency or call for help with law enforcement. Simultaneously, communities desperately lack meaningful access to healthcare, employment, and housing. We have the largest military budget in the world, and some of the most well-funded and militarized police departments across the nation. Policing and militarization overwhelmingly dominate the bulk of national and local budgets. In fact, police and military funding has increased every single year since 1973, while at the same time, funding for public health has decreased every year. According to the Urban Institute, in 1977, state and local governments spent \$60 billion on police and corrections.[1] In 2017, they spent \$194 billion. A 220 percent increase. In Santa Rosa, funding for local police makes up 32% of the city budget.[2] Housing and community services accounts for only 1%. These staggering and illuminating statistics tell us that rather than responding to the needs of our community members with meaningful support and resources, we respond with law enforcement. This is not acceptable. Instead, we need to put funding toward building healthy communities, building more affordable housing, fund neighborhood infrastructure, education, and childcare. Funding these community resources would support all members of our community to experience safety and would support the re-building of trust in leadership currently needed.

I encourage you, the leadership of the City of Santa Rosa, to:

- 1) Create a local police commission and a city council subcommittee on alternatives to policing
- 2) Make a commitment to changing Measure O, so we may act to reduce funding for police in the Santa Rosa City budget
- 3) Invest in more housing and community services
- 4) Invest resources into local alternatives to policing, including:

- a) Existing community based organizations
- b) Support the creation of alternative responses to community needs and emergencies with alternative options to police, including:
 - 1) Unarmed mediation and intervention teams
 - 2) Social worker teams and mental health experts
 - 3) Restorative Justice programs

I also encourage you to schedule an emergency meeting of the full City Council to address these concerns, to begin the needed healing within our community sooner than later. You are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding these requests.

In Community,
Terri Moon
moon900@sonic.net
707-709-8574

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Terri Moon, MS, Harmony at Home Mediation, Empathy & Heart-Based Communication (NVC) Training
www.TerriMoon.com, 707-709-8574 (home/office), 707-591-1872 (cell/texts)