

**Licursi, Elizabeth**

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**Subject:** Upcoming Public Safety Subcommittee meeting....RE: Item # 5.2 comment

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**From:** Grant Richards <[grichards955@yahoo.com](mailto:grichards955@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:04 PM

**To:** \_CityCouncilListPublic <[citycouncil@srcity.org](mailto:citycouncil@srcity.org)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Upcoming Public Safety Subcommittee meeting....RE: Item # 5.2 comment

Dear Mayor and City Council members:

I am writing you regarding item # 5.2 on next week's public safety committee meeting.

My abbreviated bio...

Native Santa Rosan....born, raised, educated here, graduated with a BA in Humanistic Psychology from Sonoma State University, worked here in Santa Rosa all my life predominately as a fire officer.

Homeowner, property owner, father, grandfather, years of community volunteer work.

I bring to your attention the fact that more police officers were killed in the line of duty in 2020 than in any year since 1974 !

Protecting our citizens has never been more challenging than it is now.

It distresses me greatly to see the S.R.P.D. low morale that has been precipitated by lack of support, not by our community, but by our City government !

Our Santa Rosa officers are the finest group of public servants I've ever worked with.

The 'thin blue line' flag mishandling event is just another slap in the face to our officers.

Regardless of how you may position yourself on this incident, the fact is that is how our officers feel.

Publicly support our officers or you will lose the best of them to other departments or careers.

When that happens, we all lose.

Yours truly,

G.Richards

**From:** [Bonnie Hogue](#)  
**To:** [Public Safety Subcommittee Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [chris@voterogers.com](mailto:chris@voterogers.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments For Feb. 8 Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2021 4:20:47 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Public Safety Subcommittee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on two agenda items you will discuss in your Feb. 8 meeting.

Regarding Agenda item 5.1, Police Auditor:

I feel the community has moved beyond the Police Auditor position, propelled largely by the events of last summer. Had the City Manager filled the vacancy soon after firing Mr. Threet, the Auditor may have had time to build relationships with the various communities in Santa Rosa. Unfortunately Mr. McGlynn was allowed to let that position remain vacant. The fact that the Police Auditor was fired for apparently delivering information and opinions the City Manager did not want to hear, and the City Manager failing to refill the position, makes me – and likely others in the city – highly mistrustful of the Auditor’s position and reporting relationship. There is opacity and a sense of over-control and manipulation on the part of the City Manager, tainting the Police Auditor position as “being corrupted by City politics.”

I believe Santa Rosa desperately needs a Citizen Police Oversight Board, comprised of residents of Santa Rosa, and reporting to the City Council. City Attorney could provide legal counsel and guidance as needed. There are many such boards around the country, and with a little research and work, I think the City Council, Chief Navarro, the City Attorney along with Citizen advocacy groups can create an effective Board.

The protests last summer resulted in a tremendous “show of force” including use of tear gas and so-called “non-lethal projectiles.” It also resulted in law suits and outrage in the community. Sadly relations between law enforcement and the population are fractured, which is hard on police officers and citizens alike. The implementation of a Citizen Police Oversight Board would bring the “disinfectant of daylight” back to our sense of policing in Santa Rosa, providing transparency for complaints about police activities, assurance that policing issues brought by citizens will receive diligent investigation, and that police will be held accountable. We have only to look at IOLERO and the County proposition P – which passed easily last November – to recognize the public’s appetite for law enforcement reform, transparency and accountability.

I urge you to recommend to the City Council not a Police Auditor, but a Citizen Police Oversight Board. Thank you for all your work on this.

Regarding Agenda item 5.2, Thin Blue Line Banner:

I think the display of this banner was an unfortunate mistake in judgement. If we look at the past few years it is clear that policing, and more accurately The Police, have become politicized. Not only that, there is deep concern in many communities about the “culture” of some police departments which encourage behaviors and values inconsistent with the goals of the police, the public and the laws of our land. The “thin blue line” banner has come to exemplify this by showing up at extremist rallies and the insurrection on the Capitol last January 6. That alone makes displaying this banner at the police department totally

inappropriate.

I get that people want to show appreciation for police officers -- they do a difficult job. But I think we can better do that through providing officers what they need to do their job, and not asking them to take care of everything we don't want to deal with (for example, homeless encampments). Fetishizing cops doesn't do cops or citizens any good. Helping them with quality of life issues, providing tools and training and creating sound policing policy does. Thank you.

Bonnie Hogue  
Santa Rosa