

From: [Kiva Barkman](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] human rights violations
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 1:33:16 PM

To the City Council of Santa Rosa,

May 3rd, 2021

I have lived in Sonoma County for twenty one years. I own two homes here. I care deeply about this area, and our community. Last summer my husband, and our sons and daughter attended various peaceful protests in Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Sebastopol. Fortunately for us, we were not threatened or injured. Yet people that we know were, and so far I have found no accountability or justice for these violent and unnecessary crimes.

I have read the entire report from the Commission on Human Rights on the human right violations in Santa Rosa last summer. I only knew of the first hand incidents relayed to me by eye witnesses, who are friends and family. This report cites numerous other appalling assaults, violence, and inappropriate behavior by the Santa Rosa police~ and a resident who drove a car into a crowd. Human beings were gravely injured. Children were traumatized. Why has no one been charged with these crimes? Why has it taken a year to publicly review this report? Why is there no response from Chief Navarro to the Human Rights Commission report about police abuse, which highlights disturbing police behavior? There is a serious lack of accountability which needs to be addressed and corrected. The officers responsible for these human rights abuses must be identified, investigated, disciplined and/or terminated. The driver of the car that hit protesters must be identified, and charged.

In the aftermath of the protests there were also numerous heinous and concerning activities from the Santa Rosa police department including the mistreatment of protesters in jail. The reports cites sexual harassment, requests for water refused, confiscation of PPE during a global pandemic, and ridiculing people experiencing trauma.

We need to implement sweeping changes so that nothing ever happens like this here again. The Santa Rosa police department MUST HAVE ongoing community oversight! Apparently the independent auditor position for this has been vacant for two years! This position MUST BE filled immediately. We MUST demilitarize the Santa Rosa police department AND BAN the use of teargas, rubber bullets, grenades, and projectiles used by law enforcement on the public. We MUST support the Sonoma County Human Rights Commission and their recommendations to support the injured protester demands, which can be found on page 26 of the report.

We must also investigate this “selective” enforcement/double standard: why were protesters arrested last summer for curfew violations (many of them trying to leave the protests) while people who chose to violate the COVID curfew were not?

Police violence costs the city two million plus dollars in lawsuits, compared to the protester costs in property damage, which was approximately twenty thousand dollars. Human life is precious and is of infinitely greater value than property.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Lisa Barkman

From: [Carol Ciavonne](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police behavior during protests
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:57:09 PM

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the handling of the peaceful demonstrations over George Floyd's murder last year here in Santa Rosa. I am appalled that the police used barricade rounds, tear gas and "less lethal" projectiles against peaceful protestors. In fact, it's quite obvious that the use of these weapons has resulted in serious injury to several people. I also wonder why it was necessary to kettle and arrest peaceful protestors simply for breaking curfew. Curfews should never be set to prevent free speech. I have also read of the mistreatment of protesters in jail; apparently their masks were taken and no proper PPE was given despite the pandemic.

There has been no public accountability for the police violence (there is no other word for it) nor were charges brought against the driver of the Porsche, who plowed into the crowd, causing injuries. Chief Navarro and the police department need to have a written policy severely limiting the use of force, and that policy needs to be vetted by community oversight.

Even if one disregards decency and respect for protesters, and the obvious importance of not injuring community members, police violence costs the city much more in lawsuits (\$2.1mil) than protesters cost in property damage (\$20k).

Police departments all over the country are rethinking, revising and changing policy and procedures to become more humane. The buildup in the last years of caches of weapons and the training of police officers to be warriors rather than serving their communities is finally giving way. Please make sure that Santa Rosa is in the forefront of these needed changes.

Carol Ciavonne

From: [Alcina Horstman](#)
To: [Jim Duffy](#)
Cc: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Comment on Items 2 and 5 of the May 4 & 5 Special Meeting of the Santa Rosa City Council
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 11:54:05 AM

Excellent. I need to get hopping reading that info.
Thx!

Alcina Horstman (she / her)
Kindred Financial Services
510.508.2547 (cell)

This communication may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, please note that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited.

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 11:48 AM Jim Duffy <94928jim@gmail.com> wrote:

Mayor Rogers and members of the City Council, my name is Jim Duffy. I am a NACOLE Certified Practitioner of Oversight. Thank you for holding this hearing and accepting my comments.

1.

Santa Rosa needs civilian oversight with a robust community engagement component. We have no ongoing process for community engagement in the policies, procedure, training and hiring practices of SRPD and we are discussing flawed choices between a private contract auditor and IOLERO while ignoring other models (investigative, review, hybrid, etc) and the 13 essential components to effective oversight. The City Council made a rash decision to hire a contract auditor years ago. We need to educate the public on what effective oversight means and define what is the appropriate form and structure for Santa Rosa. Please don't double down on past mistakes.

2.

During the Listening Sessions, the NAACP and 100 Black Men recommended a

nationally recognized best practice calling for Community Hiring and Promotions Panels. Implement them!

3.
SRPD's conflict of interest policy must be rewritten to address administrative investigations and other areas unique to policing.
4.
The initiation of the use of less-lethal munitions against protesters must require a direct authorization order from the SRPD chief.
5.
The SRPD has purchased a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). The use of the LRAD in alarm mode as a weapon for crowd dispersal must be prohibited.
6.
Sexual Assault is the second most common type of complaint filed against police officers. Pages 20 and 25 of the Human Rights Commissions Report discuss verbal and physical sexual assault. These allegations need to be addressed.
7.
Through a PRA, Civil Rights Organizers have become aware that SRPD has used **Cellebrite technology** to collect, analyze, and manage cellular digital data. The First Amendment protesters deserve to know if they were targeted with this surveillance technology.
8.
The Community Engagement Plan boasts about Santa Rosa's Public Safety

Subcommittee: That committee needs to meet regularly not sporadically as it currently does.

9.

Policy 467 – “First Amendment Assemblies” highlighted in the Police Reform Update at this hearing is not on the City’s website or offered for review prior to the hearing. A hearing on this new policy needs to be held at the next Public Safety Subcommittee meeting.

10.

The After Action Report and the Human Rights Report appear to describe two different events regarding the levels of protester initiated violence and property damage. Which version is closer to the truth?

Thank you!

--

Jim Duffy

NACOLE Certified Practitioner of Oversight (www.nacole.org)

he, him, his

94928jim@gmail.com

707-703-0694

From: [Jim Duffy](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Items 2 and 5 of the May 4 & 5 Special Meeting of the Santa Rosa City Council
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 11:48:42 AM

Mayor Rogers and members of the City Council, my name is Jim Duffy. I am a NACOLE Certified Practitioner of Oversight. Thank you for holding this hearing and accepting my comments.

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Thank you!

--

Jim Duffy

NACOLE Certified Practitioner of Oversight (www.nacole.org)

he, him, his

94928jim@gmail.com

707-703-0694

From: [hello there](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING 5/4
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:33:34 AM

Santa Rosa City Council,

SRPD has proven that they are a threat to our community. It has taken a year for the city to review the human rights abuses that occurred in summer 2020. SRPD has made no statement. They have assaulted protestors, denied people incarcerated their basic rights, and allowed terrorists to threaten and assault protestors. They let a man who pulled a gun on hundreds of people, including children, get away. They allowed a blue mini cooper to plow through a crowd of people with no consequences. They allowed a white Porsche to drive through a crowd of people with no consequences. they allowed a red toyota to plow through a crowd of people with no consequences.

Not only is SRPD committing crimes against civilians themselves, they are allowing other white supremacist civilians to assault innocent people.

SRPD is not serving our community, they are actively threatening it.

The city council's failure to take this seriously, and let human rights violations go unaddressed for a whole year is complacency to police violence.

All officers involved in assaulting protestors and denying them their rights need to be fired and face consequences for it.

The city has paid out 2 million dollars to settle police brutality cases. That money could have gone to hungry children in our community, or other desperately needed resources.

**SANTA ROSA CIVILIANS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR BEING BRUTALIZED.
SRPD NEEDS TO FACE CONSEQUENCES FOR BRUTALIZING PEOPLE AND
DENYING THEM THEIR RIGHTS.**

We also need to defund SRPD and invest the vast police and prison budget in programs that will actually protect and serve our community, like housing projects, food programs, education, and mental and physical health resources.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Cox

From: [Alyssa Rose](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 4, 1pm meeting- SR police accountability
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:24:32 AM

To whom it may concern-

The Santa Rosa police need to be held accountable for the extreme actions they took during last summer's 2020 BLM protests.

As a mother who was out on the streets through these protests I want to express the deep fear I felt when kettled by an extreme number of police with military-grade weapons and armor only blocks away from my home, knowing my kid was asleep so close by, simply for peacefully protesting. Hearing my friend's CHILDREN get tear gassed the next night, again blocks away from where my own child slept. Seeing my friends rounded up and arrested with no charges ultimately charged, meaning it was just a tactic to stop our citizens from protesting, which is their right. The Santa Rosa police shot barricade projectiles at citizens of this town, how can anyone in our government be ok with that? How can you let Essick and Navarro continue to run this system? The reaction by our police department to peaceful protesting (yes, peaceful can also mean LOUD) was horrifying and we deep policy change and leadership changed immediately.

-A. Rumrill
5th District SR

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gmail P](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: May 4th city council meeting comment
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:12:17 AM

Hello,

My name is Melanie, I am a constituent in Santa Rosa. I am writing asking the SR City Council to hold SRPD accountable for their actions during the protests in the summer of 2020. Their use of force and projectiles, causing serious injury to members of our community, was a disgusting display of lack of concern for the members of their own community and a complete lack for any deescalation practices. I am asking that SRPD have continual oversight and that the independent auditor position is filled immediately. I am also asking the city to implement policies barring the SRPD from using the teargas and "less lethal" projectiles used against its community members. Demilitarize the SRPD and hold them accountable for any and all actions made against the community they are intended to serve.

Thank you,
Melanie Ahlers

From: mckay930@sonic.net
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 4th & 5th City Council Meeting input
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 5:49:44 PM

SR City Council Members,

Thank you for inviting our input on policing during demonstrations. I support the recommendations of George Benjamin, MD, Ex. Dir. of the American Public Health Assoc., who is known as one of the nation's most influential physician leaders because he speaks passionately and eloquently about the health issues having the most impact on our nation today. Dr. Benjamin recommended three things we should do immediately nationwide:

- Don't use tear gas on peaceful demonstrators, because it causes lung irritation and can exacerbate underlying illnesses.
- Don't use rubber or plastic bullets on citizens as they can cause permanent damage.
- Don't use the "kettle" technique on demonstrators because it eliminates social distancing and the opportunity to peacefully disassemble.

I add my own comments:

I support community policing and rules that require police to live in the communities they serve. There needs to be far more training on de-escalation and mediation to resolve or de-escalate situations, instead of the use of force, especially during peaceful demonstrations. Our police need to distinguish between peaceful protests and destruction of property. If people are protesting peacefully, there is no need to engage in arrests, and no need to use force.

We need to stop militarizing our police. They don't need armored vehicles and automatic weapons. There is no need to use tear gas and projectiles against peaceful residents. Tactics of fear and intimidation have no place in the policing of our community.

We ask our police to do too much. Maybe if they have the resources they need, they will be less likely to escalate situations. I do understand the frustration, but we cannot allow that to govern how officers respond. Homelessness is not a crime, yet we expect our police to break up the camps. Police should not be dealing with mental health issues. Police need to deal with crime and keeping the peace. We have to stop expecting our police to deal with all the social ill for which we have not found solutions.

Please do annual training on unconscious racial bias and de-escalation technics. Officers have to make split second decisions, so a training from several years ago may not be upper most in their minds. It need to be repeated until de-escalation is the first thing that comes to mind.

Thanks again for listening.

Debbie Mc Kay
Resident of Santa Rosa for 45+ years

From: [Donna](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Special Study Council May 4 and 5, 2021
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2021 4:08:06 PM

My name is Donna Gaetano. I have reviewed the reports you will be discussing. I've also reviewed the 2019 SRPD Policy manual and I've done some research on what other communities are doing to re-orient policing toward a community based model.

The Sonoma County Human Rights Committee Report recounts that twenty years ago, Sonoma County was concerned about the increase in police violence and requested the intervention of the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights. As you know, the California Advisory Committee recommended that “ ‘the cities of Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa and the county sheriff require the immediate creation of civilian review boards.’ None of the local jurisdictions took up the recommendation and civilian oversight did not happen as a result of this report.” Years later when we finally had civilian oversight, it was clear the director at the time did not have the power brokers’ support.

Here we are, 2021, and we are still trying to figure this out? **We need action not more studies.** Due to the failure to act twenty years ago, the Sonoma County taxpayers are on the hook for judgments in excess of \$8 million dollars (the latest \$1.9 million for peaceful protestors injured by police’s arbitrary use of projectiles).

I suggest the Council consider contacting The Center for Police Equity. The Center works with police departments to provide data-driven interventions to improve police interactions with communities. The Center is currently working with the Ithaca NY police department and it provides a model for the way forward. Check out The Center’s “27 Guiding Principles for Crowd Management.” After reviewing the SRPD Policy Manual, it is clear that it does not have any principles for crowd control.

Our community does not need more studies. We need action! The Santa Rosa City Council can be a leader in taking decisive action and be a role model for other Sonoma County cities and the Sheriff’s department to improve policing county wide.

Donna Gaetano

From: [Andrew Smith](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Cc: [Navarro, Rainer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Santa Rosa police fired unauthorized rounds at Black Lives Matter protesters, new report shows
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 7:29:04 PM

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/santa-rosa-police-fired-unauthorized-rounds-at-black-lives-matter-protester/>

City Council Members,

As I read this story, about halfway down the truth comes out:

“ However, the “overwhelming majority” force used by police in Santa Rosa was in response to unlawful act, the outside experts found.”

The story makes it seem like the Santa Rosa Police Department is out of control. Far from it. They do make mistakes and remember how bad the so called peaceful protests were in our city last night. Not too peaceful at times. And we don't want our city trashed like in Portland, Oregon that is still out of control today.

This was an extraordinary time and the good news on Derek Chauvin was that he was convicted of multiple murder indictments for what he did to George Floyd. But don't destroy our police department or else you will find many people officers leaving like in other urban cities across the country. Then crime goes up and we know the crime is usually concentrated in low income areas.

Andrew Smith

Santa Rosa

From: [patrice.moore](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police accountability
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 5:03:58 PM

Attn: Santa Rosa City Council

As a parent of children who were participants in the summer BLM protests, I am writing in response to the special session reviewing the reports of last year's police response. Although it should be unnecessary to state, my children are college students who have never had altercations with the law, a far cry from the "violent rioter" persona painted by police departments.

I fully supported my children in their desire to exercise their constitutional right to protest, and I am appalled by the militaristic response that the police department deployed upon them. I witnessed first-hand, a massive response unleashed on the protest group, complete with riot gear, circling helicopters, K-9 attack dogs like those seen in the footage from the Selma protests from the 60's. My children were fired upon with rubber bullets and gassed with tear gas for protesting the violent deaths of Black Americans caused by excessive police brutality. My children's crime: being out past a subjective curfew, imposed unnecessarily by the police department, and a curfew that was clearly not enforced equally on the community.

Where is the accountability for this gross mismanagement and violence upon citizens exercising their First Amendment right? Why have no charges been brought upon the car that attempted to plow into protesters marching in the streets?

While my children were not arrested in the Santa Rosa protests, I witnessed the kettling and violent arrests of protesters who were peacefully protesting, and in fact singing 'Happy Birthday' in honor of Andy Lopez, another youth gunned down by police.

My friends' children who were arrested reported disgusting treatment at the prison, including sexual harassment, a lack of PPE, and mistreatment of medical conditions of those detained.

The excessive response by the police during the protests looked as if they came straight from a military war zone- the dichotomy between the police and the protesters was inexcusable. I demand community oversight and police accountability. I demand that the use of tear gas and other "non-lethal" weapons be barred for use against the citizens of all ages in our community.

I am outraged at the over-militarization of the police, who obviously used the protests as an excuse to play with their 'toys of war'. I demand the demilitarization of the SRPD so this unnecessary violence upon our citizens will never occur again.

Thank you

Patrice Moore

Paul Moore

From: [olivia.browning](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SRPD use of force
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 4:48:37 PM

I am writing today in regards to the Santa Rosa Police Dept use of force against our community members who were practicing their right to peaceful dissent last summer. Many children, teens and adults were shot at with barricade rounds in the streets. They were also put in jail, without proper PPE. Masks and water were denied so during a global pandemic they put us all at risk. If the SRPD puts any ONE person at risk in any way, they are failing at their jobs. The Santa Rosa City Police are not protecting or keeping peace. They are terrorizing marginalized communities. To me they are cowards and a threat to my family and friends. I was in the candlelit calm demonstration when a white Porsche drove into children and teens. I called my mom and the Santa Rosa police on the phone within 20 min told my mother that isn't what happened and that I was lying to her. They sent out a misleading Nixle and continue to not serve the taxpaying people- just protecting who they want to, I suppose.

I demand accountability. The fact that their lack of concern for the human well being and saddening lack of de escalation training, despite their absurdly large budget, has led to \$2.1 million in human rights litigation. Shame on Chief Navarro, and any community elected person who can not see how the police need oversight. Please fill the vacant independent auditor position immediately.

Olivia Browning

From: [Brian Henderson](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 4, 1pm meeting- SR police accountability
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 4:43:50 PM

To whom it may concern-

The Santa Rosa police need to be held accountable for the extreme actions they took during last summer's 2020 BLM protests.

As a mother who was out on the streets through these protests I want to express the deep fear I felt when kettled by an extreme number of police with military-grade weapons and armor only blocks away from my home, knowing my kid was asleep so close by, simply for peacefully protesting.

Hearing my friend's CHILDREN get tear gassed the next night, again blocks away from where my own child slept. Seeing my friends rounded up and arrested with no charges ultimately charged, meaning it was just a tactic to stop our citizens from protesting, which is their right. The Santa Rosa police shot barricade projectiles at citizens of this town, how can anyone in our government be ok with that? How can you let Essick and Navarro continue to run this system? The reaction by our police department to peaceful protesting (yes, peaceful can also mean LOUD) was horrifying and we deep policy change and leadership changed immediately.

-B. Henderson
5th District SR

From: [Katrin Ciaffa](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Email comment for May 4th special session of Santa Rosa City Council
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 4:27:26 PM

My name is Katrin Ciaffa and I am writing in response to the May 4th special city council meeting reviewing the human rights violations during last summer's protests:

I am a longtime Santa Rosa resident, a mother, and I care deeply about our community. I am also a privileged white woman, and I am grateful to our youth for shaking me awake from my white liberal complacent slumber during that week of so-called civil unrest last summer. To see our local youth erupting in outrage over the murder of George Floyd and shining a bright and painful light on the longstanding and continuing racial injustices and police violence in this country - and this county - actually gave me hope for the future. Our youth have opened my eyes and moved me to educate myself and stand up against racism with our black and brown community. I am forever changed because of the courageous and bold voices and actions of the youth who took to the streets of Santa Rosa last summer, and I am proud to walk with them anytime. I personally know youth who were teargassed, kettled, dragged out of their cars, ziptied and arrested while trying to get home after distributing water to protesters. The cost of a few broken windows pales in comparison to the grave injuries inflicted on protesters like Marqus RedBear Martinez and Michaela Staggs by local law enforcement. I am not advocating for vandalism, but I am so tired of those abusing the notion of "peaceful protest" to deny the rightful anger that erupts in the face of overwhelming injustice - in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, *"the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"*

I am glad that we are finally having a public meeting to review last summer's human rights violations by police, but it has taken the city too long to respond. I sincerely hope that out of this will come radical change and not another fake bandaid to placate the community. Police self-monitoring is like the fox guarding the henhouse and will never facilitate true and meaningful change. We need TRUE civilian oversight for all law enforcement in Sonoma County, including SRPD. The independent auditor position that has been vacant for over 2 years MUST be filled. We need to BAN the use of teargas and rubber bullets. We need accountability from Chief Navarro and SRPD for the violations that occurred, including the lack of action taken against those who used their vehicles as weapons against protesters; For example, the woman who drove her white porsche SUV into a peacefully marching crowd and later gave a false police report that was amplified by SRPD's completely inappropriate and false nixle alert, was never prosecuted even though multiple eyewitnesses have come forward to SRPD and the District Attorney. And finally, we need to defund the police and invest our tax dollars in actual public safety measures such as

mental health support, housing, education, and racial justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katrin Ciaffa

From: [Miranda Rush](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] meeting comment
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 3:36:53 PM

Hi. My name is Miranda. I have a few questions.

Why has it taken a year for you all to publicly review these reports?

Why didn't Chief Navarro respond to the Human Rights Commission's report?

Why were no files charged against the white Porsche when they drove through the crowd despite the fact that they had been given an opportunity to make a u-turn? The crowd was full of children and families. Why did the SRPD release such a misleading Nixel? My mother was actually pro-cop up until the moment she saw the dishonest nixel. She. Saw. The. Footage. She knew the nixel was dishonest.

The SRPD undermined their own credibility even with more conservative people who might be more pro-cop. That's impressive. Congrats.

Why did you use rubber bullets? Why was I limping for five weeks after I was hit by one round in the thigh all for just standing on Mendocino and exercising my right to assemble?

Why did I have to grip my thigh with both hands in order to walk for literal weeks? How is that an acceptable way to treat the citizens of Santa Rosa?

Why did you instate a curfew? Why did I meet someone outside of the adult detention center who said he wasn't even a protester, he just had a craving for Burger King and wound up in jail because he didn't even know there was a curfew. The curfew was ridiculous. Why did you not give protesters proper PPE when they were arrested? Why were some officers not wearing masks? Why is it that when we talked to some formerly incarcerated people outside of the detention center, they said that there was an ongoing COVID 19 outbreak in the jail and all of our friends then had to get tested? Why were the cops so relaxed about that? Why did they not inform the arrestees?

We demand:

- the immediate demilitarization of the SRPD.
- that the officers who injured protesters be identified and terminated
- that SANTA ROSA bans the use of tear gas and "non-lethal rounds"
- ensure that SRPD has thorough oversight over their out-of-control department.

Thank you.

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From: [Leilani Clark](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment from Leilani Clark on Agenda Item 2 - tomorrow's city council meeting
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:27:56 PM

Hello Mayor Rogers and Santa Rosa City Council Members,

I'm writing to say that I'm extremely dismayed to hear about the report out on the behavior of the Santa Rosa Police Department during last year's BLM resistance movement. I have friends who were tear-gassed by the police. I could hear those tear gas canisters going off from my home near the freeway in downtown Santa Rosa and it was horrifying. I find it disgusting that the police department that my taxes pay for was responsible for such an act.

At this point, I refuse to call the police for anything as I don't feel safe and don't trust the police. The last time I called the police, over one year ago, I witnessed them pull a gun on a group of teenagers in the parking lot next to my house after I called to report suspicious activity around a dumpster. The extreme overreaction of the police made me vow to never call them again. If I had been responsible for the call that led to one of those teenagers being shot, I would never have forgiven myself.

I demand immediate, significant, widespread reform of SRPD. I do not want my tax dollars going to enable a police department that tear gasses its own citizens and shoots rubber bullets into young people's foreheads.

Sincerely,
Leilani Clark
Santa Rosa
(I am in Mayor Chris Rogers district area)

--

leilaniclark.com

From: [Leah Greenberg](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Special Meeting 5/4/21
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:26:41 PM

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express my concerns and thoughts on the topic of the city's response to the protests of last summer.

Not only did this report take almost a full year to be released, but the chief of police has yet to issue any sort of comment about the abuse of protesters by police. Not that many of us needed a report to confirm that, for those of us who were there and saw with our own eyes police shooting "less lethal" ammunition directly into crowds and at protesters' bodies. We know that the city has paid out almost \$2 million to those with the most serious injuries - and we also know this money didn't come from the police department budget, didn't come from those who actually caused the harm, but was taken from funds that could be used to actually HELP our community. Not to mention these costs far exceed any potential costs of property damage that may have occurred during the protests. Obviously these individuals deserve compensation for the abuse they suffered at the hands of police, but the harm is still being perpetuated if there is zero accountability for the police department that made these choices, and their actions are just being covered up by taking money from other areas.

The fact that the curfew imposed in June was so stringently enforced, with over 150 arrests, while *the Sheriff of Sonoma County explicitly said that he had no intention of enforcing COVID curfew*, should be extremely upsetting to all of us. Frankly, the only implication I can take from this is that restricting our constitutional rights to protest and free speech is more important than ensuring the health and safety of our community. That the potential for property damage is a higher priority for our city officials than literally saving lives. I understand that most officials did not agree with Essick's statement, but for some reason, he's still in office...

I sincerely hope this report and this meeting will lead to significant changes in policing in Santa Rosa. While yes, I personally believe that ultimately the only solution is to seriously defund and restructure the entire system of policing, priority number one needs to be demilitarizing our police force in this city immediately. There is simply no reason why they had to be so intensely militarized and use the kind of force that they did during the protests, when no one in the crowd was using *any* sort of force, lethal or otherwise. There was nothing to lead them to believe anyone in the crowd had any sort of lethal weapon on their person, let alone was planning on using it. There is no excuse for their response and abuse, both in the streets and during/after arrests. The individuals involved need to be held accountable, but far more importantly, the department as a whole needs to be seriously reassessed. I strongly support all of the Commission's Recommendations for Supporting Injured Protestor Demands as laid out in the human rights abuses report. This includes extensive further review of the militarization of SR police during the protests as well as review of all training and policies on use-of-force in the department, investigations into the individuals who directly perpetrated physical harm and human rights abuses on individual protesters, and the banning of military-grade projectiles including tear gas and rubber bullets.

Thank you for your time. I hope to see real change soon.

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