At the March 5, 2018, City Council meeting Mr. Kennedy said: "I recommend the following steps are taken: . . . (t)hat the City Manager make recommendations to the Public Safety Committee and or City Council on how to increase civilian oversight of the Police Department using the model adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. On November 1, 2016, the County issued a press release. The first paragraph reads as follows: “A new Civilian Oversight Commission, aimed at boosting transparency and increasing trust between communities and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, was established today by the Board of Supervisors.” The Executive Director of that Commission is attorney Brian Williams, a former assistant city manager and current resident of our wonderful city. Charter Reform is necessary, and we may have an opportunity to place a measure on the ballot in June to enact changes that would allow for similar oversight that exist today with Pasadena’s newly enlightened sister agency, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department."

My question for you Mr. Kennedy is: why, after more than 2 years, didn't you as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, ever follow up on that suggestion?
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Katelin Eden Dukes

Email: Phone: Address:

Comments:

I attended last week's Public Safety Commission meeting (6/8) and had a chance to review the analysis from Olson and Attard on Oversight Models for Policing. I also had the opportunity to listen to the City of Los Angeles' civilian oversight committee that listened to public comments for two hours. At the end of those two hours, the civilian oversight committee described themselves as having 'one hand tied behind their back' and were unable to take significant action. They may be tasked with auditing what the LAPD does, but their model gives the group no authority or teeth to make significant changes in response to overwhelming public response. I am writing in today to ask that the establishment of civilian oversight not follow the model of Los Angeles, Burbank or Sacramento in which they are unable to hold their own investigations. Civilian oversight should have the power and authority to conduct their own investigations to monitor PPD conduct.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: CHRISTY ZAMANI

Comments:

There is no doubt that we are going through an emotional and painful time not only in our community, but in the world. Challenging times also bring opportunities for progress.

Like always-The Pasadena Community has been a shining light in showing up, speaking up, and providing solutions for change. It is imperative that we listen and hear the recommendations being made and that we take the necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of our Black community.

As someone who works hand in hand with local youth, families, and the various nonprofits, I clearly hear the need and demand for the formation of a Citizens Oversight Committee. I find this to be a small step in the right direction, and a best practice for any conscious, inclusive community that believes in equity and justice.

I hope you take the time to listen, hear, and act in the best interest of our community – today, tomorrow and every day.

Christy Zamani
Chair, for Partnership for Children Youth and Families

06/15/2020
Item 14
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Nicole Virdone   Email:          Address: Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

In RE: to the PSC, I'd like to voice my support of redefining the roles of the police department and the establishment of a civilian oversight committee beyond that of the four politicians in the PSC. When listening to Chief Perez speak (who, btw, I think is exceptional and fully support), I realized that his priority was the safety of his officers (who I also fully support). This was especially evident when he said they would train their officers with another tool (besides the carotid hold) to help them feel safe and able to return home to their families. This made me realize the need for someone(s) whose MAIN priority is to ensure the same for our community members, particularly our Black community. This committee might also help redefine the roles of police officers. This is complex issue and needs far more than 200 words, but, for example, police armed with lethal weapons are not needed to wake a sleeping man up. Thank you for your time!

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Katelin Eden Dukes

Comments:

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Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

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Christy Zamani
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Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Nicole Virdone   Email:                        Address: Pasadena, CA 91104

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Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Adriana Bautista    Address: Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

Civilian Oversight should have REAL POWER. WE have police in our City who have murdered people with no repercussions. Let that sink in. Do you feel the pain of families here? This Oversight Committee must not be purely symbolic. The Committee needs to have actionable power that sends cases to court for prosecution and conviction.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

06/15/2020
Item 14
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Roger Roldan (President of the Pasadena Police Officers Association)  
Email:  
Phone:  
Address: 100 N. Garfield Ave., Pasadena, CA 91124

Comments:

As most are aware, the PPOA recently released a statement denouncing the manner in which Mr. Floyd was killed. The statement further highlighted many of the changes implemented over the past two years by Chief John Perez in collaboration with the PPOA and made possible by the support of City Manager Steve Mermell.

The changes included creating the Chief’s Advisory Board (comprised of various community advocates), releasing critical incident BWC video, creating a Use of Force Unit to critically analyze all categorical uses of force, partnering with a tech company to develop a web based application to improve decision making during critical incidents with an emphasis on de-escalation, as well as others.

In light of all our efforts and our constant pursuit of excellence, it was disheartening to listen to those that would cast us in the same light as those officers involved in the custody and death of Mr. Floyd. We are better than that and we must not allow the fear of not being “politically correct” to deter us from speaking to that point based on all our ongoing efforts and innovations, especially those of the last two years.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Item 14
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Sam De Sylva (Vice President of the Pasadena Police Officers Association)  
Email:  
Phone:  
Address:., Pasadena, CA 91124

Comments:

(Part 2 of Roger Roldan’s comment)
Tragically, there have been instances in Pasadena where lethal force had to be used. Many would try to draw a correlation to Mr. Floyd’s death in an effort to push forth their own agenda, not steeped in facts, but driven by emotions, politics, and other motives. Despite all the unrest and negative comments, Public Safety Committee Chair John Kennedy characterized his contacts with the PPD as 99.99% positive. Councilmember Steve Madison spoke out against those comments that paint us with that same broad brush and also reminded all to be “thoughtful” before rushing off to do something. His pragmatic approach asks “What are the policy objectives?”

Despite the condemnation officers are receiving worldwide, the men and women of the Pasadena Police Department are not those persons. We are CA POST Certified and have some of the best training and support of anywhere – period.

We will always respond to calls for help from the community – especially to save lives, protect property etc. Preservation of life shall continue to be a guiding principle in the decision making process of each officer.
Thank you and God bless.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 12 & 14

Name: Jazmine De La Torre   Email   Address:

Comments:

My name is Jazmine De La Torre, I am a resident of Pasadena. I attended Roosevelt, Wilson Middle, Marshall and PCC. I am grateful and feel privileged to work here.

For item #12, I am speaking in support of increasing funding for the Summer Rose Program and the hiring of a Director for the Office of the Young Child.

For item #14, I am in support of the adoption of a Citizen’s Oversight Committee.

Today, I am simply going to say that as I was reflecting on what to write regarding these items, I started to feel sadness and frustration. A lot of it has to do with what we are seeing in our country but also locally. I’m sad that the residents of this community STILL have to make these asks. We have been here before to talk about the importance of Youth investment. We have been here before to talk about the need for police accountability. I don’t know what else we should say, It feels like facts do not have significance, like our experiences don’t have weight... It is frustrating. I implore you to consider what you are leaving behind for future generations. Be on the right side of history.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Anthony G Manousos
Email: a.g.manousos@live.com
Phone: 
Address: 1626 Goldtree, Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

I want to commend Council member Kennedy and Hampton for speaking out strongly for police accountability, and I want to thank the Mayor for advocating for a study on this issue. This study is long overdue.

I respect Chief Perez and appreciate that he believes in and practices community policing. I am also pleased that he has banned choke holds. That’s a good start, but much more needs to be done, such as the recommendations of Campaign Zero. I also urge the City Council to support a civilian oversight commission, with the power to investigate police violence and abuse, as happened with Kendrec McDade, Reginald Thomas and Christopher Ballew. Many of the officers who committed these abuses are still on the force. I doubt that teachers who committed similar offences would still be in a classroom,

These acts of police violence occurred where Jill and I live and we felt them deeply. We helped organize a prayer vigil where McDade was gunned down. We met with his grieving mother Anya Slaughter. We don’t want such heinous acts to reoccur. It’s clear that the police cannot police themselves. They need impartial civilian oversight.
Public Comment for Meeting on June 15, 2020 about Agenda Item 14

Name: Jill Suzanne Shook
Email: Email: Email:
Phone: Phone: Phone:
Address: , Pasadena, CA 91104, Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

We commend protesters who risk their lives to proclaim, "Justice is more important than life itself." But those who engage in looting and arson are rightly held accountable. Health workers who risk their lives deserve honor, but those who harm their patients are held accountable by malpractice laws.

Mr. Floyd has been referred to as a sacrificial lamb, whose death represents that of many unarmed Blacks shot by police. As a result, the whole world is rising up, crying for accountability as well as justice. Good police deserve our respect, but those who engage in abusive violence need to be held accountable. For this reason, I advocate for:

1. compassionate use-of-force policies viewing everyone as a brother or sister, deserving of life.
2. a system of accountability that equally protects the police and public.
3. a system that recruits police who are quick to listen, willing to put their life on the line, and weeds out all others.
4. a system free from all contributions from the Police or Fire Unions in elections.
5. a commission for truth and reconciliation as part of civilian oversight, to bring heart change, not only policy change

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