

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sonja Berndt <sonja.berndt19@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Public Comment; Jomsky, Mark
Cc: Tornek, Terry; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John; McAustin, Margaret; Madison, Steve; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor
Subject: Correspondence for Public File: City Council Meeting 5/15/2020, Agenda Item 14

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Dear Mayor Tornek, Vice Mayor Hampton, and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am a longtime resident of Pasadena and a retired state attorney. I applaud the Public Safety Committee's decision to revisit civilian oversight of the Pasadena Police Department and its intention to engage experts to assist members in making their recommendations to the full Council. The time for a civilian oversight commission and appointment of an inspector general over the Police Department is now. Some Council members have stated publicly that they support the current system because, as elected officials, they are accountable to the public and, that creating a civilian oversight commission would be "passing the buck." These statements fail to address the critical factor of independence of the decision maker. The powerful influence of police unions is indisputable and well known. Elected officials are at great risk of allowing that influence to taint their decisions on valid complaints against the police. Some Pasadena Council members have actively sought and received endorsements from the Pasadena Police Officers' Association and have touted their close ties with the police. The City Council cannot provide the necessary INDEPENDENT oversight of the Police Department and assure the public of a full and fair investigation (including the issuance of subpoenas), full transparency (including a public report), and accountability. Thank you.

Sonja Berndt
Pasadena, CA
91107

06/15/2020
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Beza Meheretu <bmeheret@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:26 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Re: ATTENTION: PLEASE READ AND ASSIST- RACIAL INJUSTICE AND POTENTIAL LEGISLATION

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Below are links to the mentioned MMPI Mr. Douglas refers to:

<https://psychcentral.com/lib/minnesota-multiphasic-personality-inventory-mmipi/#:~:text=The%20Minnesota%20Multiphasic%20Personality%20Inventory,health%20or%20other%20clinical%20issues.>

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4317252>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/mmpi-test>

On Sun, Jun 14, 2020 at 7:19 PM Beza Meheretu <bmeheret@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening. To whomever may be reading this, and to whomever this will be forwarded to, I sincerely hope you and your loved ones are well during this particular time:

My name is Beza Meheretu. My parents were born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Africa. My brother and I were raised in Pasadena. I have been blessed with an obliging, mindful, and intelligent friend and mentor by the name of Mr. Bernard Douglas, MA, LMFT. He was once a United States Marine, an Auxiliary Officer in New York, and awarded different decorations during his time of service. He has provided me a thoroughly structured and advantageous design that could sincerely be of service in restructuring our nation's law enforcement. It is entitled **Wounds that Divide Us and Recipes for Recovery, and is attached to this email.** This plan delivers methods of addressing the psyche of potential law enforcement candidates, ensures the necessary skill for community service, provides familiarity between civilians and law enforcement, but also addresses how to hold law enforcement accountable for acts of misconduct and provides suitable reprimand. This plan comes from a place of experience: military and law enforcement operations, office and field culture and behavior, as well as sympathy in relationships between authority figures and communities, particularly those of color.

Through Bernard Douglas' blessings, I have been permitted to forward his plan to those, particularly of social and political power, who could potentially position this proposal into legislation. I have confidence this proposition will remedy the systemic racial injustices that are both perceptible and concealed. This plan concentrates on prerequisites, resourcefulness, accountability, consequences, expectation, and dependability for those who wear the badge.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take this blue-print into consideration. I look forward to your response in addressing this concern. More importantly, I hope to be guided in the direction of putting this provided information in the hands of an advocate who can transform this indication into regulation.

Enclosed is the document of his words of proposal. Thank you.

06/15/2020
Item 14

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Beza Meheretu

Wounds that Divide Us and Recipes for Recovery

I own a private practice, I served in the United States Marine Corps, and I was an Auxiliary Police Officer in the early 90's in the 10th Precinct in New York City, only to say I have some familiarity. I received 5 commendations for service, and never received a civilian complaint. I believe the following steps are pragmatic, as well as doable, and will ensure we hire the right type of people into serving as police officers: protecting our citizens and police officers alike.

The truth is the majority of men and women in law enforcement are not violating people's human rights, however, there is a culture of silencing the whistle blower exposing an officer's misconduct: a culture causing officers to be complicit in the acts of those who do violate and abuse the citizenry. So how can the institution implement standard operating procedures which address those who are dis-serving their community (putting good officers at risk through further rupturing any community-police partnership)?

I believe there are steps to implement:

- 1.) Every candidate for the Police Academy should have to take the MMPI psyche test, to assess whether they have the right disposition to carry a lethal weapon, and be entrusted to protect and serve.
- 2.) The insurance should incentivize police departments with premium reductions for implementing the MMPI* department wide. (*A standardized psychometric test of adult personality, and psychopathology frequently used to screen job candidates during the personnel selection corporations: in this instance it would be for selecting Police Officer Candidates). I originally came across the MMPI when I myself had to take it in order to be assessed for the suitability of living in a closed monastic community for a year.
- 3.) During their probationary period (when they are first assigned to be in public), they do not carry a gun while on duty; they do foot patrol. In doing so, they learn to become comfortable with dialoging with members of their communities that they serve, BEFORE they are given a gun to carry (allowing the community to get to know them as well).
- 4.) If officers have a use of force complaint against them, they NEED to turn in their firearm, be pulled from the field for 90 days, and attend re-education on the principles of serving the community.
- 5.) We need to train officers how to self-regulate their body and mind. When I was in uniform, I already had a breathing practice: I knew how to self-regulate, how to de-escalate from the 'adrenalin mind', releasing my body from the 'fight or flight' response. Some may think of it as meditation, but really rather more about the breath and diverting from escalations of conflict.

- 6.) Media needs to have the moral decency not to exploit an event(s) for ratings by selectively choosing optics. In doing so, media is able to build the narrative they want to push in order to coerce the emotional responses which keep people transfixed and tuned into their show. This secures viewership and maintains ratings, not to mention draw in sponsors (the sale of Ad space on the broadcast).

This 'narrative' is exemplified in the media's reporting of the public response to George Floyd being killed by a police officer. The media shows video footage of fires and looting on a repetitive loop, projecting a sentiment that protesters are violent and/or anarchistic. All while simultaneously espousing the virtues of those not setting fires or looting. This perpetuates fear and antagonizes the divisions that have existed, have recently occurred, and continue to exist.”

- Bernard Douglas, MA, LMFT

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