

**CORRESPONDENCE
FROM
JUNE 7, 2021
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

Martinez, Ruben

From: Elizabeth Barrios <...>
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 10:31 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item #14 - Pasadena City Council Mtg June 7th 2021

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

June 7, 2021

Greetings, Mayor and City Council Members:

It is that time of year where elected officials and city staff have to reflect and act on areas to improve, both, in process and fiscal responsibility. Our community has grieved the murder of Anthony McClain by PPD, and the passing of many community members due to COVID-19; especially those in residential facilities and vulnerable communities.

With that said, I am calling on the entire Pasadena City Council to ensure monies are prioritized to the following departments: **Housing, Public Health and Parks, Recreation and Community Services**. These departments must be strengthened with the resources that are under the city's purview. The proposed FY2022 Budget is unacceptable; the allocations are not equitable. Please decrease funding to the Pasadena Police Department, by the \$2.3 million it reportedly saved from its operating budget last year, and shift these funds to the departments mentioned above. In doing so, the City of Pasadena would then be investing in preventative measures so that ALL residents can thrive. If we can claim wholeness and wellness for each individual, family, block and neighborhood with budgetary commitment, we will see a decrease in violence.

Thank you,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Barrios
Pasadena Native

06/07/2021
Item 14

RECEIVED

2021 JUN -7 AM 11:08

SONJA K. BERNDT
Pasadena, CA 91107

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

June 7, 2021

Mayor Victor Gordo
Members of the Pasadena City Council
Pasadena, CA
(By email to correspondence@cityofpasadena.net)

Re: Agenda Item #14: The Recommended FY 2022 Operating Budget; the Recommended Police Department Operating Budget

Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council:

I. Introduction

On May 24, 2021, I submitted a letter expressing my concerns about the Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget overall, and the Recommended Police Department Operating Budget in particular. This letter provides additional support for the need to shift General Fund resources from the Police Department to other City departments that provide vital community services but are vastly underfunded because the Police Department severely depletes our General Fund.

In knee-jerk, superficial fashion, some may respond to this letter, as well as to correspondence from other members of our community, by asserting that comparisons of departmental funding are unhelpful because the departments are “apples” and “oranges.” On the contrary, the comparisons are *necessary*. The Police Department operating budget simply cannot be allowed to continue to exhaust our General Fund leaving insufficient crumbs for other departments, particularly those that serve our most vulnerable residents.

In his campaign for mayor, then-Councilmember Gordo promised to “continue to fight for a Pasadena that truly listens, is inclusive of everyone, stands with our families, our seniors, and our youth, invests in our public schools, supports our small businesses and local economy, and one that protects our most vulnerable residents.”¹ As discussed below, the exorbitant Police Department budget is not

¹ (<https://www.victorgordofor mayor.com/primary>).

“inclusive of everyone,” is not transparent, and it *precludes* our City from protecting its most vulnerable residents.

II. The Vastly Disproportionate General Fund Funding of Our Police Department is Patently Unjust and Results in Severe Underfunding of Critical Community Health and Safety Programs

A. Comparisons of Departmental General Fund Allocations

The Recommended FY 2022 Operating Budget shows the following funding from the General Fund:

- Police Department \$84,605,000
- Housing Department: \$1,475,000
- Public Health Department: \$0.00

Some might try to justify the huge funding disparity by superficially pointing out that the Housing and Public Health Departments receive grant funding from county, state, and/or federal governments. However, the simple, demonstrable fact is that *the non-local funding our Housing and Public Health Departments receive is far short of what our City actually needs to provide critical services to our most vulnerable residents.*

As of the January 2020 homeless count, we had over 500 unhoused persons, nearly 300 of which had no shelter at all. Experts have predicted that these numbers will rise due to the pandemic. As explained in more detail in my earlier letter, our Housing Department does not have sufficient staff or financial resources for programs that would end homelessness in our City and help people from falling into homelessness.

As Mayor Gordo has publicly stated “And then there’s the issue of housing and homelessness. More people will lose the place they call home after the rent moratorium ends. We have to formulate a strategy now to address those issues on an interim basis and on a long-term basis, and we can’t wait to start those discussions.”²

² (<https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/mayoral-candidate-victor-gordo-talks-about-development-transparency-social-justice-and-consensus-building/>).

As for our Public Health Department, over the years, leaders and staff have been responsible for a wide variety of programs, ranging from health inspections and tobacco prevention, to homeless assistance, maternal health, bioterrorism response, local oral health programs, kindergarten readiness, and other programs.³ Then came the pandemic. We are all aware of the huge role our Public Health Department played in our City in 2020 and continues to play as we, hopefully, move past the health and economic challenges of 2020.

Public Health Director Dr. Goh has reported that she can count “on maybe four fingers” how many days off she has had since last March, including weekends. Likewise, Dr. Matt Feaster, the City’s epidemiologist, has worked extremely hard during the pandemic. (*Ibid.*) When a surge appeared, they needed to move quickly to save lives. When it subsided, they needed to move quickly to save the economy. “There hasn’t been a break,” Dr. Goh said. “Everyone has been working so hard — holidays, weekends, nights. With the exception of maybe September with a couple of weekend days off, it’s just been relentless.” (*Ibid.*)

Members of this Council have publicly agreed that our Public Health Department should get more money and expand its programs in order to improve the health of the community, whether that is managing a pandemic or the impacts of poverty.⁴ The Public Health Department receives one half of its funding from grants and one-quarter of its funding from the state, but nothing from the General Fund. According to Dr. Goh, the health department does not have enough money to pursue more ambitious solutions to problems like poverty and the health impacts that flow from it. (*Ibid.*)

Mayor Gordo has publicly stated that the state and county have financial obligations to the city’s health department because, if Pasadena decided to disband its health department, the county would be responsible for the city’s residents and the county would have to pick up the check. (*Ibid.*) But Pasadena DID decide to have its own Public Health Department. While lobbying the county and state to provide more funding can continue, that is not an expedient solution to the current inadequate funding of our Public Health Department. Instead, the City needs to provide General Fund funding to the Public Health Department. Mr. Mermell has publicly stated that he “foresee[s] a time when we’ll need to put general fund dollars into the

³[\(https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2021/03/20/how-pasadenas-tiny-health-department-grew-to-fight-covid/\)](https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2021/03/20/how-pasadenas-tiny-health-department-grew-to-fight-covid/).

⁴[\(https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2021/03/26/pasadena-officials-want-more-funding-for-the-health-department-but-not-from-the-city/\)](https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2021/03/26/pasadena-officials-want-more-funding-for-the-health-department-but-not-from-the-city/).

health department.” “I’m hopeful, through the pandemic, that people start to realize that we can’t take public health matters for granted.” (*Ibid.*)

B. The Problem of Exorbitant Pasadena Police Overtime Costs

A recent study of personnel costs in the Pasadena Police Department found that almost one quarter of PPD’s budget for salaries is spent on overtime. Between 2015-2019, the total PPD spent on overtime pay increased by 43%. Further, the authors reported that in year 2019, overtime spending for PPD was higher than that of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles Police Department. They further reported that if PPD reduced its overtime budget to equal the average overtime of LAPD, they would save \$4.6 million per fiscal year, the equivalent of 11% of their 2019 budget for salaries.⁵

A chart prepared by the authors of the study shows that the salaries for 2019 (including overtime and other pay, but not benefits) for each of five sworn officers ranged from \$255,207-\$327,716. In 2019, Dr. Goh, who oversees an entire department (with 2020 FTE’s of 100.6) received \$196,036 in salary excluding benefits, no overtime pay.

While the City has asserted that Pasadena events like the Rose Bowl, the Rose Parade and concerts make PPD exceptional in its need for police overtime requirements, certainly police officers in other police departments like the LAPD and LASD also cover large events (e.g., Dodger Stadium, Staples Center, concerts and in many other venues).⁶

III. The Police Department Budget Lacks Transparency

The City’s website “Office of the Mayor” notes that, while on the City Council, Mayor Gordo “pushed for increasing government transparency and accountability.” During his campaign for Mayor, then Councilmember Gordo stated “I will work to ensure our local city government is responsive, transparent,

⁵(https://law.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Criminal_Justice_Program/2021.PPD_Budget.Brief.pdf).

⁶ The City has not clearly stated how much of its overtime pay is actually spent on Rose Bowl events. It is also unclear whether the line item in the Statement of Appropriations of “New Year’s Day General Fund events” provides *even more funding* from City coffers for overtime costs associated with New Year’s Day events (\$1.6 million, 2020-actual).

fiscally responsible, and accountable to residents.”⁷ But the proposed 2022 Police Department operating budget lacks transparency and leaves many questions unanswered. Here are just a few of the line items that are unclear, concerning, and require further explanation:

- The Police Department’s personnel costs (total) have risen over \$6 million from 2020 actual costs.
- The City’s portion for Police Department retirement benefits (SPERS) jumped from \$10,915,288 (2020 actual) to \$15,755,242 (FY 2022), despite the fact there is no change in FTEs in the PPD from 2020 to 2022.
- Personnel category 805000 (Benefits) rose from \$6,552,770 (2020 actual) to \$7,800,375 (FY 2022).
- Services and Supplies category 815600 (Insurance) soared from \$229,917 (2020 actual) to \$785,762 (FY 2022).
- “New Years Day General Fund Events” (Statement of Appropriations category 106) notes a FY 2021 Revised total of \$1,584,000, nearly as much as 2020 (actual costs), even though there was no Rose Parade or Rose Bowl in FY 2021.
- “Other Contract Services” = \$3,055,641 (three times as much as the Housing Department).
- “Internal Service Charges” = \$6,796,288 for “strategic services,” with no further explanation. Compare the Public Health Department’s “Internal Service Charges” of \$1,095,811 (“health administration”) and the Fire Department’s “Internal Service Charges” of \$3,117,205 (“fire operations”).

IV. Examples of Funding Reallocations Needed to Address Urgent Critical Health, Mental Health and Housing Needs

1. The \$2.3 Million in Police Operations “Savings”

It is impossible for those of us who are not members of the City’s Finance Department to know all of the possible ways funds can be shifted from the Police Department operating budget to the Housing Department and Public Health Department. But there are obvious examples of how funds can be reallocated.

The Police Department reported that it “saved” \$2.3 million in operations last year, which was approved for the remodel of its building and a mobile command

⁷ (<https://www.victorgordofor mayor.com/why-i-m-running>).

center. *This money needs to be used for humane, decent treatment of our unsheltered residents and to fund policing alternatives, outside of the Police Department, that counteract the disparate impact of policing on Black community members, not for remodeling a building.* Moreover, despite this purported operational savings last year, the recommended FY 2022 Police Department Operating Budget is almost the same as last year's. This makes no sense unless the Police Department plans to "save" more money in operations so it can pay for the remaining, currently unfunded, \$2 million in remodeling expenses in 2023 and 2024. How can the City Council, in good faith, allow this to continue to happen?

2. The PORT Team and Funding for a CAHOOTS-Model Mobile Crisis Intervention Program

Inexplicably, the Police Department budget includes a discussion of the Pasadena Outreach Response Team (PORT), which is a grant-funded program involving the Pasadena Fire Department and the Pasadena Public Health Department, *not the Police Department.* According to the Police Department budget report "[t]he PORT Team consists of a Firefighter, Social Worker and outreach Worker. This team provides field-based support and advocacy for people who are experiencing homelessness, living with chronic health conditions, diagnosed with mental health and/or substance use disorders." Again, it is NOT a Police Department program.

The Police Department offers to "*redirect*" \$225,000 from its General Fund Operating Budget to fund a second PORT Team because PORT can reduce calls for service by uniformed police officers. *But the Police Department should simply advise it does not need those funds, allow the City to fund a second PORT team, and let the second PORT team operate through the Public Health Department where it belongs.*

It is important to note, however, that the addition of a second PORT team, which I support given its important outreach to persons experiencing homelessness, will not provide the safe, effective crisis intervention our City needs for situations involving persons suffering from mental illness and/or a substance use disorder.

In April 2021, PPD received 9,707 calls for service, including 4,684 9-1-1 calls. It is unclear how many of these calls were non-life-threatening calls that should have been responded to by someone other than a uniformed police officer. But Mr. Mermell says, in his budget transmittal letter, that it is believed that thousands of calls for service annually might be redirected away from the Police Department "to PORT or some successor model." According to Mr. Mermell "[t]his effort, while

still in its early stages, needs to be built out in a careful and methodical manner to ensure its success, as there is no simple ‘bolt-on’ solution to achieve the desired outcome.” (*Ibid.*)

Crisis Intervention Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) is an innovative community-based public safety system that provides mental health first-response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction. CAHOOTS has been found to be safe and cost effective. In 2017, the Eugene, Oregon CAHOOTS teams answered 17% of the Eugene Police Department’s overall call volume.⁸ The program costs about \$2.1 million annually and saves the city of Eugene an estimated \$8.5 million in public safety spending annually. (*Ibid.*)

How many *unnecessary* police interactions and arrests could be avoided if Pasadena employed such a system? (*Also, consider the associated taxpayer-funded criminal justice system costs*). 85% of costs for a CAHOOTS-model program in Pasadena could be eligible for reimbursement under the American Rescue Plan Act (*see* Section 9813), if certain requirements are met, including having a *qualified* mental health professional capable of conducting an assessment of individuals available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.⁹ Pasadena's current PORT and Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation (HOPE) teams do *not* have 24/7 qualified mental health professionals available.

Although agendized for the November 30, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting, a quorum was not met and CAHOOTS has not been agendized since then. What is the City waiting for? Are we going to leave federal money “on the table,” and abandon our most vulnerable residents in the process? I hope not.

V. Conclusion

For all of the stated reasons and for the reasons stated in my May 24th letter, I urge the City Council to shift General Fund resources from the Police Department to the Housing Department and the Public Health Department. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sonja K. Berndt, Esq. (retired)

Cc: *Pasadena Now*

⁸ ([https://whitebirdclinic.org/what-is-cahoots/.](https://whitebirdclinic.org/what-is-cahoots/))

⁹ (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text#toc-H155EAEF98A524898BC6F93FE5BB8CB2A>).

Martinez, Ruben

From: Thuy-Van Nguyen
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2021 10:29 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Proposed budget

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

To Pasadena's elected officials:

I heard that Pasadena's proposed budget will be debated on June 7, and I would like to express my disapproval over the Pasadena Police Department's proposed budget of \$92,796,000 for the year 2022. This amount is many times higher than the budgets for housing, public health, and Parks & Rec. Strengthening the police force does not make me feel safer, investing in social services does.

On a personal note, my family has been looking to move to a bigger home, and while the real estate market has been skyrocketing everywhere, even researching rental prices in Pasadena was shocking. It's no wonder that there are currently over 500 unhoused Pasadenans, since there is a severe lack of affordable or even reasonably priced housing in Pasadena. As a Pasadena resident, I don't want the majority of my tax dollars to go to the police, I want it to contribute to alleviating homelessness, increasing youth outreach to ultimately improve public safety, and funding mental health and other community services.

Please consider shifting funds from the police budget to community investment. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Thuy-Van Nguyen

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

Subject: FW: Funding

From:

Date: June 5, 2021 at 4:47:04 PM PDT

To: correspondance@cityofpasadena.net

Subject: Funding

Good afternoon,

My name is Claire Finucane, I live in Pasadena and I am a substance abuse counselor that works locally. As a substance use disorder counselor, and member of the recovery community, I am all too aware of the connection between mental health disorders, substance abuse and homelessness. Lack of resources, particularly funding for local resources, creates a vicious cycle and increase in all areas of mental illness to homelessness to substance abuse and back again.

Pasadena Police Department is disproportionately funded, period. Services that encourage treatment for disadvantages individuals and families need more funding, period. Services that incorporate community outreach, affordable housing, affordable family services, counseling, mental health services and substance abuse services that treat the problem and reintegrate through compassion and accountability are the answer. Please stop the cycle. Please do something different by allocating more funds to programs that are focused on healing individuals, family and community, programs that will bring about change.

Sincerely,

Claire Finucane

06/07/2021

Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Julia Lum <julialum@pasadena.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2021 6:40 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: The proposed budget is unacceptable

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Pasadena Office of the City Clerk,

I am a resident of Pasadena and I am deeply saddened by the proposed budget, which seems to reflect a blatant disregard of last summer's movement to recognize the basic humanity of racialized citizens in an overpoliced society, and the murder of Anthony McClain.

The proposed police operating budget is **2 x the housing budget, 5 x the public health budget and 4 x parks and community services**. That is a staggering and profoundly outbalanced support for law enforcement over programs that would uphold and support a healthy community, youth services, and prevent long-term systemic homelessness and cycles of crime that cannot simply be "policed" out of our community.

The message you seek to send is clear: Pasadena representatives would prefer the enforcement approach, rather than maintaining the health and dignity of all of its residents. Please consider otherwise. **Please redirect more funds towards areas like housing and public health during a health and homelessness crisis.**

Sincerely,
Dr. Julia Lum

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Kate Scharer
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2021 8:44 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Acevedo, Gloria
Subject: June 7 Joint Meeting

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. Learn more...<https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263>.

Hello Councilmembers and Mayor,

I am a home owner in the northwestern margin of District 2 in Pasadena (Hello Felicia!) and am writing to you to please make courageous changes in the budget allocations of my tax dollars. I see homelessness every day, I see families working hard to just make it every day, I see parents dropping of kids at Longfellow Elementary but know that many kids from the local neighborhood are sent elsewhere.

I have to ask: why is the budget for the police so large, when most of our challenges are about financial stability, education, mental health? I know that you also see these challenges as you reside and work in this city. I am am a government employee so am aware that change is a bureaucratic challenge. But it can be done. Please sharpen your pencils and figure out a solution that involves change, with much much less funding towards the police and much much more funding to social services over the next 3-5 years. Structural problems require structural changes.

Thank you for your service,
Kate

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Donna Sider
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2021 10:08 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: For June 7 Council Mtg

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

I am an RN and resident of the city for 38 years and homeowner and a homeowner in District 2. I am beyond troubled by the city's proposal to continue superfunding the Pasadena Police Department at sickening levels, resulting in severe underfunding of other departments.

Particularly concerning to me is Pasadena's arrest statistics that show 32% of those arrested were unhoused, which points to the need for a CAHOOTS- model program! I want to live in a community that prioritizes ending homelessness by funding bridge housing, mental health services by initiating a public health department funded CAHOOTS program, more than policing its residents. I was shocked to learn that this council has already approved remodeling the police dept with new break rooms and more surveillance technology by PPD helicopter.

The proposed budget does the opposite of that and must be rejected. The proposed budget is unacceptable. We must decrease funding to the Pasadena Police Department by at least 2.3 million and shift these funds for CAHOOTS, enabling trained mental health professionals, available 24/7 to assist in non-life threatening crises. No more PPD here. We demand more equitable community funding now!!

Donna

Martinez, Ruben

From: Tamara Silver < >
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2021 11:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council meeting of 6/7/21, Item #14

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

For all residents of Pasadena to flourish, our city budget cannot continue with business as usual. Where we spend our money reflects our priorities.

I would like to see enhanced funding for community needs such as parks and recreation, youth programming, mental health needs, and homelessness needs. Let's keep our police force focused on what they excel at, fighting crime, solving crimes and ensuring safety at large events. Let's not have the police department solve all of our city's problems. Some activities they are currently tasked with are better done by other departments or organizations. I encourage our city leaders to prudently spend our tax dollars and allocate funding away from the Pasadena Police Department and to departments and organizations where their expertise in human and social services is put to its highest and best use.

Respectfully,

Tammy Silver

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Ferne Hayes
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 11:25 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John J.; Madison, Steve; Rivas, Jessica; Williams, Felicia; Masuda, Gene
Subject: Agenda item #14, City Council 6/7/21

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mayor Gordo,
Dear Councilpersons Wilson, Hampton, Kennedy, Rivas, Williams, Masuda, and Madison,

I want to add my support to the many who have expressed opposition to Pasadena's Proposed Budget FY2022. Specifically of concern is the overloaded Pasadena Police Department (PPD) budget.

I favor redirecting funds from PPD to Housing.

The PPD's proposed operating budget of nearly \$93 million is more than twice as much as the housing budget of nearly \$41 million. Furthermore General Fund dollars allocated to PPD are 57 times those allocated to Housing.

We have a hard working and successful Housing Department but they are understaffed and lack financial resources for additional programs which have been recommended to significantly decrease homelessness in our city, We particularly need more Bridge Housing; temporary housing for the time period between living on the streets until obtaining permanent housing. Many of the unsheltered have connected with homeless services and are 'in line' for permanent supportive housing - anticipating a several month/years wait. Meanwhile each is unable to stabilize or seek work without a place to get a good night's sleep, maintain personal cleanliness, or secure their belongings. Funding and staffing a Bridge Housing program would be a use of budget I could approve.

While a remodel of PPD headquarters might be welcomed, we should put our unsheltered residents at the higher priority. While a mammoth mobile unit may have value if a natural disaster occurs, the suggestion that PPD is planning for massive control of protests looms in our minds. The Pasadena budget should reflect a mission to care for its residents, not to police them.

The proposed budget is unacceptable. While the proposal in PPD to add one more PORT team is a step in the right direction, it is clearly not enough.

Pasadena funds must be shifted away from policing toward community investment in housing, public health, mental health and youth outreach. There are so many needs.

The time to begin that shift is now.

06/07/2021
Item 14

Sincerely,
Ferne Hayes
District 7

Martinez, Ruben

From: Susan Deming <s...>
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 1:51 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Statement for City Council Meeting, June 7th re: Item 1, Budget

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

To: Pasadena City Council
Re: Item 1, Budget, June 7, 2021

To the City Council:

I am a Pasadena homeowner who holds the value that our duty to society is that all of my neighbors' needs are met, including the police officers who are my neighbors. That means that budget money gets invested in expanded social services that uplift, rehabilitate and ameliorate the circumstances of all residents of and visitors to the Pasadena area. So that police engagement is reserved only for the most dire circumstances and that force and enforcement are an extreme rarity on our streets. Modern thinking compels us all to be more kind and caring toward one another and that means re-examining our priorities in a more humane manner to work toward a vision of the future that brings our collective humanity to a more peaceful place. Re-examining the budget to dramatically REDUCE the money flowing toward the police department will start to make police officer's roles in the community become more peaceful, more trusted and more just. The budget, as presented, does not reflect modern thinking and will not keep Pasadena residents, visitors or police officers safer or more prosperous. I do not support the budget as it stands and advocate STRONGLY for a new one to be drafted immediately, in accordance to the Community Bill of Rights. Funds must be shifted away from policing toward much-needed COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: youth outreach, homelessness, affordable housing, mental health, public health, elder care, disability access, etc.

Thank you, Susan Deming



deming casting

Susan Deming | CASTING DIRECTOR

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: James Clark
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 2:09 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment on proposed budget

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

I am writing regarding the proposed budget for FY 2022. The allocation of somewhere between 84 and 95 million to the police, in comparison to public health, housing, parks, and so many other aspects of city government, is a shocking misuse of public funds. When I look around Pasadena, I see so many heartbreaking problems, and all of them are made worse by increased police presence. And yet, criminalization continues to be the city's first and only idea in how to address these problems.

Every entity in city government has spent decades seeing their budget dwindle and being told to do more with less, except the police. While I'm sure we all agree that education, housing, and healthcare reduce crime and poverty, we have continuously made the choice to increase funding to police while defunding the very services that can prevent crime in the first place.

I know this is not unique to Pasadena. I see the city of LA allocate nearly half its budget to police, and I know most large cities in the nation are similar. In my view this is a profound failing that contributes greatly to the violence, poverty, and illness in our community. We know which services we can fund that will contribute to thriving communities, but instead we choose militarized police who harass and criminalize our poor and BIPOC neighbors.

I have personally been terrorized by the Pasadena Police, and I've watched more times than I care to remember as my non-white neighbors are terrorized on a far larger scale. Every dollar that funds the violence of the PPD means a dollar less to fund solutions that help our neighbors.

Pasadena must make different choices if we expect different outcomes. Continuing to use militarized police as our first response to the problems of the city ensures that these problems will continue indefinitely. It's time to fund the basic services that we know will help our communities thrive.

Sincerely,
James Clark

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Jonathan Lee <Jonathan.Lee@pasadena.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 3:14 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item 14

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in favor of shifting funds away from policing to be put towards the needs of Pasadena's most vulnerable and its children. Investing in housing and community services will do more good than flying PPD helicopters ever will. Please shift General Fund money to youth services, homelessness, affordable housing, mental health, public health (for god's sake we just had a once in a lifetime pandemic), and the actual people of the city.

Thank you,

Jon

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Topher Mathers <t·
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 3:31 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Rivas, Jessica; Gordo, Victor
Subject: AGENDA ITEM #14 CC 6/7/21

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council,

As a millennial and a Pasadena resident I am frustrated by the City's proposal to continue overfunding the Pasadena Police Department resulting in severe underfunding of other departments.

Particularly concerning to me is Rather than re-investment in the community, these operational funds have already been approved for remodeling the police department (including new break rooms and an open floor concept) and a new Mobile Command Center.

I want to live in a community that lives up to the values it proclaims.

The proposed budget does the opposite of that, and must be rejected. Please reallocate our funding to the Pasadena Police Department, at least by the \$2.3 million it reportedly saved from its operating budget last year, and shift these funds towards: A CAHOOTS-model program, youth outreach, affordable housing, ending homelessness, elder care, mental health or public health. \$10,000 community "donations" from asset forfeitures and "funding" of a second PORT team, is simply not enough. We demand more equitable community funding now.

Sincerely,
Topher Mathers District 5

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Nancy Verdin
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 3:45 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item #14 - Pasadena City Mtng: June 7, 2021

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

I am reaching out to you today to urge you to please reconsider the City's proposal to continue to increase and overfund the Pasadena Police Department. I am a 30-year-old Latina that has grown up here in Pasadena all my life and I am deeply concerned about what this means for our Black and Brown community members. In 2019, there were 6,584 arrests made in our City, out of those arrested 44% were "Hispanic", and 28% were Black, while the overall population of Pasadena is 35% "Hispanic" and 9% Black. These numbers are cause for alarm and more funding to the Police Department won't help in decreasing these arrests on our Black and Brown Pasadena residents. We need more funding to go to funding our youth programs like Rose, increasing funding for our Housing Department, and our Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department. I thrived in Pasadena because of the programs, events, and services the City provided to me when I was growing up. Our community deserves better. I urge you to please re-allocating those dollars by at least 2.3 million that PD reportedly saved from its operating budget last year and shift those funds to other departments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nancy Verdin

06/07/2021
Item 14

Martinez, Ruben

From: Ed Washatka ·
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 5:39 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 14 - FY 2022 City Budget

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Greetings,

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress or POP! submits this letter expressing our concerns about the Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Police Department Operating Budget.

While the budget as presented is described as “flat” when compared to the 2021 revised budget, it is still disproportionate and bloated when compared to what the City budgets for the Public Health and Housing Departments as well as other community services.

For example, after subtracting the Water and Power Department from the list of Appropriations by Department, the Police Department will receive 18% of the General Fund appropriations while the Housing Department receives only 8 % and the Health Department received just 4%.

Very simply, the funding for police is out alignment with community needs. As the Chief has stated, overall crime continues to trend downward. Yet, the demand for services from our Housing, Public Health, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Departments continues to grow without the commensurate increase in appropriations to meet that demand.

While it's the true these Departments in some cases may receive grant funding from various government entities, the grants are insufficient to supplement what is actually required to support the pleas for increased services from housing, health, and parks and recreation, and community services departments. In fact, the Health Department receives little to no funding from the City's General Fund, a shocking fact considering what's required of this department.

We wish to remind Mayor Gordo he promised if elected he would ensure the City Council and Staff would listen and act for everyone including families, seniors, and youth, while protecting our most vulnerable residents.

Yet when comparing the monies allocated to the police, versus housing, health, and other community services, it seems the budget was created with a tin ear and exclusive of the ever-increasing demand for community services.

Mayor Gordo has publicly stated, the issues of housing and homelessness will continue as more people are likely to lose their housing after the rent moratorium ends.

Best regards--

06/07/2021
Item 14

Ed Washatka
Cell phone

Ask me about...



Iraheta, Alba

From: Jazmine De La Torre
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:57 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council Agenda #14

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Hello my name is Jazmine De La Torre,

I am a Pasadena resident in District 2. I am a product of this community having gone to Roosevelt, Wilson, Marshall, PCC. I am grateful to now be able to continue to work and live in this community.

As I resident, I emailing the City Council because I believe the Proposed FY 2022 Budget is unacceptable. As a resident I would like the Funds be Shifted Away from Policing Toward much-needed Community Investment. Particularly concerning to me is the current public health and mental crisis occurring in our community and in our nation due to COVID-19. I would prefer that the City invest the money from police funding to public health funding.

I want to live in a community that prioritizes the community voice, youth outreach, mental health services, ending homelessness more than policing its residents.

The proposed budget does the opposite of that, and must be rejected. Please decrease funding to the Pasadena Police Department, at least by the \$2.3 million it reportedly saved from its operating budget last year, and shift these funds to youth outreach, affordable housing, ending homelessness, elder care, mental health, and public health. \$10,000 community "donations" from asset forfeitures and "funding" of a second PORT team, is simply not enough. We demand more equitable community funding now.

Thank you,

Jazmine De la Torre

Martinez, Ruben

From: Georgia Sanders <c
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2021 5:07 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Wilson, Andy
Subject: Comment for Tonights Meeting, June 7th, Item 14, Budget

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

A budget shows priority.

When our city budget proposes a whopping \$92,796,000 for policing, our priorities are definity unbalanced.

That is 2x more than the housing budget at \$40,658,000. 5x more than the Public Heath Department budget at \$19,382,000. And 4x more than the Parks, Rec & Community Services budget at \$22,896,000.

We need more money put into community services and social agencies so that our police are not answering calls that would be better served by a mental health professional or qualified social worker.

We need creative thinking on how to stop violence perpetrated onto our community members at the hands of the Pasadena Police Department so that tragedies like Anthony McClain and Christopher Ballew never happen again.

Let's invest in Parks and recreation services that help local residents build families that thrive. These are the budgets that should be higher, not policing.

As residents, my husband and I desire less surveillance from the police. More community support programs for youth. More solutions for helping the unhoused in our city. NOT \$92,796,000 for continuing as things have within our city policing. We are watching - and this budget is far too inflated for these times, change is needed now.

Mike & Georgia Sanders

--

Georgia Sanders

06/07/2021
Item 14

Please reconsider the FY budget for 2022. As a resident of Pasadena and a granddaughter of two grandparents who migrated to Pasadena 55 years ago from Zacatecas, Mexico, I never thought I would experience outrageous rent increases in my community. I do not feel security for my grandparents or myself. I will be moving soon due to pursuing higher education and I wonder how they will make it on their own. They are both retired and I fear that one day we will all be displaced by eminent domain like the rest of our neighbors. People that I grew up with have all been displaced due to rent increase. Are we next?

We can barely keep up with the prices now, so I urge the city of Pasadena to consider affordable housing for my family and me as well as many others who I know can relate. This brings me to my next point of more resources for our homeless population. Many are suffering from lack of affordable housing and not to mention mental health resources.

I emphasize this so much as well due to the experience I've witnessed with how police and the city council have handled people with mental health issues. I'm sure many of you recall the incident that occurred on 4/12/2021 on N. Mentor Ave. A woman who suffered from schizophrenia stabbed her partner and was later arrested. This woman happened to walk around my family's driveway wondering into people's yards due to various reasons. My family knew she needed help and asked police to direct her to mental health services. Cops came TWO times to her home after several reports and did NOTHING for her well being. It wasn't until she stabbed someone and many saw her as a monster, a "dangerous" woman who in reality could have been helped way before. A

All in all, it saddens me to see police arrest and criminalize a homeless individual or an individual who suffers from mental health issues. Seeing your budget on more policing and experiencing such encounters like this, how do I know I can count on police? Our money needs to be allocated towards prevention rather than intervention. Prevention in mental health, public health, affordable housing, education. Consider this letter as a plea for help.

In solidarity,

Adriana