

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**Subject:** FW: comment in response to Q&A for northwest neighborhood meeting

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lidia Carlton <[lidia.carlton@gmail.com](mailto:lidia.carlton@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 11, 2016 at 6:19:55 PM PDT  
**To:** <[cbell@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cbell@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** comment in response to Q&A for northwest neighborhood meeting

Hello,

I live in District 1 and, like many other folks, I've been feeling concerned about the increase in shootings in the area. I live on El Molino and I guess there was a shooting on my street. First, it would be great to know more when things like that happen proactively, instead of reading about it later after the fact. Can the City use any kind of real-time alert system? Or just get a neighborhood Twitter to post up when things are happening here? I follow the City of Pasadena, but they are not very fast to report crime-related activities (unless in emergency).

I am not strongly in favor of increasing the police presence in our neighborhood without strong citizen accountability and body cameras. We just had an officer shoot a person on Los Robles. I've heard that the civilian shot first, but at this point I don't know if I believe reports from officers about their violent behavior. There's some trust to rebuild and I do appreciate that officers seem to be taking a more community-oriented approach.

Instead of channeling resources into just police and park programs, I would encourage the City Council to work more closely with the schools. PUSD doesn't even require health education classes. Kids are in school but not learning actual life skills, how to communicate, how to interact with each other. Why wouldn't they join gangs if that's all they know about how to be in the world? If we don't give them skills in schools, they just learn from what they know from the people around them. With increasing Common Core requirements and many competing interests, I know that schools are very pressed (and teachers very underpaid and under-appreciated). But I want to live in a city that values a holistic approach to our community, and particularly our youth. I work in public health and there is plenty of evidence to link poor health outcomes to truancy, drop out, and unplanned pregnancy. It might not be a plan that stops the shootings right this very second, but it's a big step to invest in the kinds of education and learning that will give youth more actual life skills to be able to have successful futures.

Thank you for reading.

Lidia Carlton

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April 18, 2016

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Firstly, I am pleased to hear more police officers have been hired, and that there's a good chance some will be used for community policing.

In addition, I'm writing to voice my concern over crime, and policing, and to recommend steps to help make Pasadena a safer, saner, and quieter place to live.

I have two concerns:

1. Lack of resources to adequately fund prevention and intervention programs, and to adequately address needs of ex-offenders.
2. Indiscriminant use of police helicopters.

1: Lack of Resources in Crime Prevention and Intervention.

It appears there are not enough resources devoted to crime prevention and intervention. Example: At a recent neighborhood watch meeting, police staff stated its Police Assistance League after-school programs for at-risk youths was so popular that there was a waiting list of 100 students.

Does the council know this? Doesn't the long waiting list warrant immediate focus so that the remaining 100 at-risk youths are brought into the fold?

Another problem of Police Department resources that needs addressing is the inadequate use of volunteers. No one can volunteer for the police department's various programs until they have completed the Citizens Police Academy, a requirement which needlessly delays using volunteers. In addition, in my experience, even when potential volunteers had completed the academy, it took more than a year for them to be placed in a volunteer position.

*I urge council and city oversight administrators to help the Police Department's PAL and volunteer programs reach their full potential.*

Similarly, as I've witnessed firsthand the effectiveness of Youth Moving On (a branch of Hillside), I am disheartened that their intervention programs are understaffed and underfunded.

2. Indiscriminant use of helicopters.

I know you've heard many complaints but when I call the police to ask why there's a helicopter flying around our neighborhood, I'm assured they are only used for X. The next time I'm told they are only used for Y (and not X.) Are they really needed for daytime home burglaries? Are the patrol cars really too far away to adequately respond each time? Weren't they supposed to stop flying at 11 pm in the winter and midnight in the summer?

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My neighborhood feels as if it is under siege. The constant use of the police helicopters, and the extended hours they are now being used, keeps us on edge—how dangerous is it right now, should I lock all the windows, do I risk going outside to get in my car and drive somewhere, have they caught the perpetrator yet, it's been a long time hovering? For example, several weeks ago a home alarm system on our street went off, prompting 10-plus police officers to the scene to stand around, some with guns drawn. Still, the helicopter circled for another 20 minutes or so.

Between the car chases, the shootings, the home burglaries, and the police helicopters, Pasadena has become a nerve-wracking place to live.

*Please let's spend less on helicopters, their fuel and their pilots, and more on prevention.*

I recommend that Pasadena put muscle into education and after-school programs that will save our children from choosing a life of crime. And let's fully fund programs to help at-risk youths and ex-offenders find roads to peaceful, promising futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Linda Centell

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