PUBLIC COMMENT FROM JULY 27, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 11:54 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Faith Romasco

Email:

Address: Pasadena, CA 91107

Comments:

I am a Pastor at PazNaz, located in District 4. I am a Member of the Clergy Community Coalition and the Racial Justice Coalition of Greater Pasadena. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to amend the City Charter to create a Community Police Oversight Commission with a full-time Independent Auditor, who has subpoena power for the sake of transparency and accountability. I ask that appointees to this commission be selected from the community and that the commission reports to the City Council. The current proposal does not grant meaningful power to our communities which Council members have been elected to serve. Creating a commission that cannot impose accountability serves to placate. Pasadena citizens are asking for more from their city than what is currently being put forward. Please vote to amend the City Charter and impose the Pasadena Community Bill of Rights written by NAACP and NDLON, and endorsed by CCIOP, CCC and the IMA.

Consent given to read my comments out loud:

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 10:58 AM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Ashley

,m

st, Pasadena, CA 91103

Comments:

My name is Ashley and I am a resident of district one and I would like to request that the City Council amend Pasadena's municipal code in order to establish a community police oversight commission whose members are elected by the community. I also support contracting an outside auditor who once again will be selected by the community.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Sunday, July 26, 2020 10:37 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: May

Email:

Phone:

Address: Pasadena,

Lee

CA 91103

Comments:

My name is May Lee, a constituent in Mr Kennedy's district 3. I am urging the council to amend the city charter in order to form an independent police oversight committee that reflects the demands of the public. The community has clearly expressed the need for an independent auditor that is NOT subjected to the approval of the city manager. This auditor should also hold subpoena powers in the course of a criminal investigation. Furthermore, the committee makeup of ONLY 3 public members without council appointment ensures the voice of the community remains at a minority. Such is a direct insult to the outcry of our residents! The current proposal is a blatant display of nepotism, AT BEST! I urge ALL of you elected officials to act in the interest of your constituents! Don't you dare show your faces at a people's rally for black lives then come back to draft a bogus plan that only perpetuates the lack of transparency and racist policing! Our tax dollars deserve far better! The people are watching. This is NOT a temporary moment. It's a revolution! Thank you, Proud Pasadenean!

From:

City Web

Sent:

Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:21 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name:

Email:

Phone: ...

Address:

Christina

Place, Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

I am a Pasadena Resident and parent. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to Amend the City Charter to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, which Council members have been elected to serve. Pasadena citizens deserve better. Please Vote to Amend the City Charter

Consent given to read my comments out loud: No

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 12:03 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: John

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Dailey

Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

I moved to Pasadena more than a decade ago for a job at Caltech. Pasadena has since become my home and not not just a place I live for my job. For the last 8 years I have been a LA Sheriff's department high risk civilian volunteer specialist on one of our local mountain rescue teams where I serve as a mountaineer/rescuer, EMT, operations leader, and trainer. I mention this to emphasize that I am familiar with the trials of responding to emergencies and have sympathy with people asked to do demanding and sometimes dangerous jobs for the community.

It is vital that the public trust those tasked with enforcing law, and without oversight that trust is fragile in good times and absent in rough times. Oversight and accountability is the only way to maintain a stable trust in this relationship.

Please create meaningful oversight for our law enforcement. For both the policed, and the police.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 12:03 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Banaf

Ave, Pasadena, California

Rahimi

91106-1000

Comments:

Mayor and Council,

We are facing unprecedented times. There is civic unrest and people across the nation, and the residents of Pasadena are ready for a change in the way our Police Departments are run. While I like to believe that much of Pasadena PD wants to be community partners, there is a history of unnecessary use of force, as can be seen in the case of Christopher Ballew.

We need meaningful change in Police oversight, and the current proposal is not grant enough power to the community. The City Charter must be amended to reflect the will of the people. We need a police oversight body that consists of an independent auditor, and an oversight board with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:10 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Mohammad Tajsar Email: Address: Pasadena, CA 91103

Comments:

I am a Pasadena resident and attorney at the ACLU of the Southern California. The ACLU supports the Community Bill of Rights, and supports its opposition to the creation of the Oversight Body as deliberated today. The ACLU has extensive experience analyzing or support various forms of police accountability models across Southern California, and strongly feel the one offered today for the Pasadena community fails to embody the common sense measures needed to ensure that the body does the hard and necessary work of ensuring community control over the police department. Any competent civilian oversight body needs to be independent from the political branches of the City and independent from the Police Department; this proposal does not do that. Any competent civilian oversight body needs to be empowered to investigate the police department; this proposal does not provide that form of investigatory power. Any competent civilian oversight body needs to be representative of the community, particularly those segments that are historically overpoliced; this proposal does not provide that representation. For these reasons, the ACLU opposes approval of Agenda Item 12, and looks forward to Council taking up the vision of public safety advanced by the Community Bill of Rights.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:12 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Agenda 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Agenda 12

Name: Brighid Connors Address: Pasadena, CA 91103

Comments:

I am a white Pasadena resident, artist and caregiver, who understands the need for community oversight of police. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to amend the City Charter to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, which council members have been elected to serve. Pasadena citizens deserve better! Please vote to amend the city charter!

Consent given to read my comments out loud: No

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:14 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Amy Ifurung-Cook Address: Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

I am a resident of Pasadena District 3 and an attorney. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to amend the city charter to create a police oversight body with a full-time independent police auditor and subpoena power. The current proposal for a police oversight body does not do enough to hold the Pasadena Police Department accountable, and the people of Pasadena deserve better.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:17 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Patrice

Email:

Phone:

Address: 1

Marshall

Madre Blvd, Pasadena,

McKenzie

CA 91107

Comments:

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council:

My name is Patrice Marshall McKenzie, resident of Council District 4. I write to express my disappointment in the proposal for a Civilian Oversight committee in its current iteration. I join the chorus of community members who want meaningful Civiliam Oversight that includes representatives selected from our community, an independent auditor, subpoena power and disciplinary recommendations that can be acted on within the scope of the law and all applicable policies.

The current proposal does not respect the voice of community members. It is disingenuius that the City Manager and Police Chief, who are city staff members, be granted the authority to appoint members to the committee. The solution to achieving true and meaningful oversight is to amend the City Charter in order to expand the parameters by which a committee can be developed. There is still time to do so before the August 7 deadline. The voices of the community members you were elected serve have been steadfast in this call for a very long time. Honor your oath of public service and increase the pathway for Pasadena to have true participatory government by voting for a City Charter amendment.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:21 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Public Safety

Committee Agenda 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Public Safety Committee Agenda 12

Name: Jeffrey Fenstermaker Address: Pasadena, CA 91103

Comments:

I am a Pasadena resident, Emmy Award-winning documentary film editor, and home owner in John Kennedy's district, who recognizes the need for community oversight of our Police Department. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to Amend the City Charter to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, which Council members have been elected to serve. Pasadena citizens deserve better! Please vote to Amend the City Charter! Do the right thing so that I don't have to make a documentary about the Pasadena Police Department. Oversight will happen one way of the other.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:21 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Julie McKune and Mr.

Email:

Address: Pasadena, CA

Romero

91104

Comments:

My name is Julie McKune. My family lives in Victor Gordo's district. I am also a member of It's Us Now. I am alarmed by images of heavily armed police patrolling largely peaceful protests across the county – protests focused largely on cases of police abuse.

The Pasadena Police Department has received at least \$650,000 of donated federal military equipment from the 1033 program – a program known to have sloppy invoicing practices. Councilmember Gordo has said "public safety..has to be handled seriously and responsibly." My question to Coucilman Gordo is: what other equipment does the PPD have that we don't know about? And what is it being used for? What kind of training do officers receive to operate this equipment? As recently as June of this year, the city's Finance Department was reprimanded for its failure to properly audit accounting procedure at the Pasadena Police Department. Councilmember Gordo: how can you oversee the justification and use of equipment that may or may not exist? An independent auditor must be appointed to, among other things, oversee procurement of equipment, justification for, training on and policies on its use.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:23 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Rebekah Scheys Address: Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

Comment

Hello,

I am a Pasadena resident and a constituent of District 6. I watched the Public Safety Committee meeting last week and was disappointed that the only voice I heard adequately expressing my concerns about the need for clear police oversight and accountability was Vice Mayor Hampton. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to amend the city charter, as was requested in the Bill of Rights put forth by the Pasadena NAACP and others. We are asking for you to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, which you, the council members and Mayor, have been elected to serve. Pasadena residents want to see real change in the ways we hold our police accountable, which means that we need more than recommendations committees, which we know have not been heeded in the past. Please vote to amend the City Charter.

Consent given to read my comments out loud:

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:24 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12 and 13

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12 and 13

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Colin

Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103

Bogart

Comments:

Dear Mayor Tornek and Council Members,

I'm a resident of Pasadena in District 1. I wrote to the Public Safety Committee last week and I still agree with Vice Mayor Hampton and groups like that NAACP, NDLON, CICOPP that we need a police oversight commission that has real teeth and true community representation to do its job. If this means the City Charter needs to be amended, then we should do it. I recognize Mayor Tornek and Council Member Kennedy are attempting to make some small gain, rather than nothing at all. Thank you, but it's simply not enough at this stage. The call for police oversight is not a new issue in Pasadena, as you well know, but the time truly is now for real change. With regards to comments that we are rushing the issue, I don't agree. Those who believe we are moving too fast should reread MLK's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" which is still relevant to this day. If you don't believe the need for change is real, ask your black and brown neighbors. But I think you all know what needs to be done. We need you to have the courage and conviction to do it.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:27 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: May

Email:

Phone: 3

Address: Pasadena,

Lee

r

CA 91103

Comments:

I do NOT agree with mayor Tornek's proposal, leaving only 3 independent members of the community on this oversight commission without council appointment. This means the community will AlWAYS maintain minority vote against other council appointments that will hold majority of the votes within this commission. Furthermore, the Independent Auditor does not have subpoena power during the course of an investigation, which maintains the lack of transparency that plagued our city. This council has been complacent in the comfort of your seats without much accountability. You can and MUST do better than this perpetual nepotism.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:28 PM

To: Subject: PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Community

Development Commission: Police Oversight

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item Community Development Commission: Police Oversight

Name: Email: Phone: Address: ...t

Lydia Breen Apt., Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

My name is Lydia Breen.

I am a resident of Pasadena and member of It's Us Now I would like to highlight a recommendation made by a city-commissioned analysis on police oversight that was included in the June 2020 minutes of the Public Safety Committee. It recommends that an independent police auditor be empowered to oversee donated federal equipment, training and policies regarding its use. Over the past 20 years, the Pasadena Police Department received at least \$650,000 in donated federal military equipment under the LESO program – equipment that comes largely without federal oversight. Critics of the LESO program say its lack of transparency makes community oversight difficult if not impossible. Mayor Tornek and Councilman Gordo believe the current oversight works. If that is the case, provide us with a report on the justification for, the use of, and training on federally donated military grade equipment in this city. The overwhelming deployment such equipment on the streets of Portland and elsewhere does not build public trust. It weakens public safety. Oversight by a independent auditor is necessary. If the city council won't do its job, we will follow up with formal requests for specific information on this equipment.

Thank you.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:31 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 28, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 28, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Michelle Woo

Dr., Cerritos, CA 90703

Comments:

I am a Pasadena Resident and educator. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to Amend the City Charter as the Community Bill of Rights asked for endorsed by POP, CCICOP, IMA and CCC. I am asking you, our elected officials, to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, which Council members have been elected to serve. Pasadena citizens deserve better.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:33 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 28, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

.1

Public Comment for Meeting on July 28, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Margaret

Email:

Address: 7

01106

ð,

Starbuck

Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

I work in Pasadena as an arts administrator. I call upon the Pasadena City Council to Amend the City Charter as the Community Bill of Rights asked for endorsed by POP, CCICOP, IMA, and CCC. I am asking you, our elected officials to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities, whom Council members have been elected to serve. Pasadena citizens deserve better. Please vote to amend the city charter.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:34 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Dan Address: Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

Dear mayor and city council members,

I urge you to vote for meaningful police oversight in the form of a commission as requested by the NAACP, CICOPP, and POP and, other reforms to the Pasadena Police Department.

We need a police oversight body that consists of an independent auditor, and an oversight board with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role. Pasadena like many other cities has a history of problematic use-of-force incidents, including a traffic stop that led to the beating of Christopher Ballew.

Over time, the role of a police officer has evolved far from fighting crime and enforcing the law. Police officers are required to spend their time on situations that could be better addressed by specialists in other areas, specialists who would not carry weapons. Homelessness and traffic enforcement are two areas where we should investigate other ways to manage these problems rather than using armed officers.

I know you are concerned about our City budget. Police reform is not a cure-all for our budget woes, but it could be a way to more appropriately meet the needs in our community while conserving scarce City resources.

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:36 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Erica

Email:

Phone: 626-

Address:

Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA

91103

Gutierrez

m

Comments:

I am a Pasadena resident, business owner, teacher and PUSD parent. It is important to stress that myself and my family are in support of the Pasadena Community Bill of Rights written by NAACP and NDLON. The proposal being put forth today is NOT by any means sufficient nor a step towards providing any meaningful police oversight power to Pasadena civilians. If there is nothing to hide, there is nothing to fear. However, empowering our citizens to ensure transparent policing of our city would foster trust and collaboration that can lead to more just law enforcement policies and interactions. We must be given true power to influence decisions and impose consequences for officers that violate the law and abuse their privileges. If the charter must be changed, it must be changed. This is what the majority of your constituents want, this is what is just and way overdue. What legacy will you leave behind for your children and our children? When given the opportunity to make true change, ask yourselves what side of history will you be on - those that went with status quo to save face or those that were brave and justice driven? Make the history you will be proud of!!

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:50 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Ralph A

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Frammolino

Molino Ave, Pasadena,

CA 91104

Comments:

This police commission and auditor proposal is a deeply flawed half-measure that is more for show than substance. How can you have a truly independent auditor if he/she/they don't have subpoena power while, at the same time, report to the same person who is in charge of the police? That's a blatant conflict of interest. And as a former city commissioner, I can attest to the control that city staff exert over advisory board agendas, discussions, actions - even the number of questions they can ask. If this is the best our City Council can do, we need a city charter amendment to get any meaningful police department review and reform. Please reject this plan.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 2:01 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item public comment

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item public comment

Name: susan

Email:

Phone:

Address: ^

dembowski

Dr., pasadena, CA

91107

Comments:

I'm a resident of Council District 4.

The Pasadena City Council needs to amend the City Charter to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities which councilmembers have been elected to serve.

Pasadena citizens deserve better.

Please vote to amend the City Charter.

Thank you.

Susan Dembowski

2080 Lambert Dr.

Pasadena, CA 91107

562 310-3790

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 2:08 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 12

Name: Ferne

Email:

Phone:

Address:

E Hayes

Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

I am just an old white woman who has lived in Pasadena over 49 years. I have little contact with the Pasadena Police Department. However, I read, listen, and observe and I defer to the valued spokespersons of the community who deal with the interactions of the police and the neighborhoods daily. I support the NAACP and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network's Pasadena Community Bill of Rights. They recommend a paid full-time Independent Police Auditor with subpoena power for open fair practice and as support of good faith to a troubled community. Investigative authority must come with the ability to subpoena documents and witnesses. Please add this by amendment or whatever is required. Do this quickly. And then continue in a timely manner with developing a social/mental health alternative for calls that do not require police with guns.

Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

From:

City Web

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2020 1:49 PM

To:

PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 13

Public Comment for Meeting on July 27, 2020 about Agenda Item 13

Name: Dan Address: Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

Dear mayor and city council,

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of a charter amendment that allows for the creation of an independent civilian oversight commission with an independent police auditor. The Police Chief should not have the power convene such a commission because naturally, this would result in a conflict of interest. Section 2.295.050 of the City's Code, currently gives the police chief three options for review commissions—a Use of Force Review Board, a Disciplinary Board, and a Risk Management Review Board. And as far as we are aware, a commission of these types has not been convened in the last 10 years. And in that time, there have been several controversial use-of-force incidents, more recently involving the beating of Christopher Ballew in 2018.

Our city deserves meaningful oversight and other types of reform of the Pasadena Police Department. Please show this city that its leaders are responsive to the people's calls for police accountability.