

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**Subject:** FW: Police Reform and Oversight

**From:** Blair Miller <[blairmiller1@yahoo.com](mailto:blairmiller1@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** McAustin, Margaret <[mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Cc:** Morales, Margo <[mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** Police Reform and Oversight

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Council Member McAustin,

I urge you to vote for meaningful police oversight and other reforms to the Pasadena Police Department.

The vast majority of our Pasadena PD officers are well-intentioned and want to be in harmony with the community, and our Chief has done an admirable job trying to find a balance between public safety and freedom of expression. However, Pasadena has a history of problematic use-of-force incidents, including a traffic stop that led to the beating of Christopher Ballew. We need a police oversight body that consists of an independent auditor, and an oversight board with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

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. This website has additional ideas for how to approach this issue: <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/>

Police reform is not a cure-all for our budget woes, but over time it could become a way to more appropriately meet the needs in our community while conserving scarce City resources.

Thank you,

Blair Miller

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** Breathe Justice <breathe.justice365@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:24 PM  
**Subject:** \*Important: Police Oversight, an Urgent Matter

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers, kindly read this letter, *in its entirety*, and search your conscience for guidance, regardless of political allegiance and organizational ties.

Thank you for considering community oversight for the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). We want an effectual oversight body with meaningful authority. The proposed structure provides oversight in name only.

Pasadenans deserve better. We call upon you to promptly Amend the City Charter to create effective community oversight.

The international conscience awakening activated by George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police could have easily originated in Pasadena.

When Pasadena Police Officers killed Reginald Thomas in front of his family in 2016, the family lawsuit stated "An unknown officer put a knee onto Mr. Thomas' neck and applied the full weight of his body onto the throat area of Mr. Thomas until he was speechless and finally lifeless, intentionally squeezing the life out of Mr. Thomas."

Unlike George Floyd's killing, bystanders did not video Thomas' killing and officers wore no body cameras.

Instead of the Pasadena Police Department providing transparency and accountability, Pasadena taxpayers footed the \$1.5 million settlement bill and officers reportedly received no disciplinary action.

Pasadena Police Officers shot unarmed, 19 year old high school football star, Kendrec McDade, four times from the front and three times from the back and then their police car nearly rolled over his body in 2012.

When the Office of Independent Review's report of this incident described "repeated tactical errors," and that neither officer was disciplined, the Pasadena Police Officers' Association obtained a court order sealing the report from public view.

Councilmembers, please do not expect us to believe that PPD will voluntarily cooperate fully with an oversight body lacking subpoena power.

The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors recently voted to grant subpoena power to *their* Civilian Oversight Commission after LAPD repeatedly stonewalled their efforts to obtain highly relevant information.

If we continue on the path of oversight in name only, we risk perpetuating a city legacy of clandestine behavior, expensive legal settlements and unnecessary loss of life.

Truly Effective Oversight of the Pasadena Police Department has the potential to:

1. **Improve Community Safety** by Holding Officers Accountable for Inappropriate Actions
2. **Build Community Trust** by Increasing Transparency between PPD and the Community
3. **Save Taxpayers Millions of Dollars** in Legal Settlements

The community's demand for impactful oversight of the Pasadena Police Department is neither temporary nor a fad. It won't fade with a shift of major news headlines.

You *can* make a difference. The time is *now*. Your votes on this matter have lasting implications, both for our city and for your future prospects as a respectable elected official within it.

We request *fundamental tools* to make Pasadena safer for citizens *and* police officers.

We demand prompt Amendment of the City Charter creating effective community oversight with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

Thank you for your consideration,

Concerned Pasadena Citizens of B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Justice 365

*Let's Build Relationships & Encourage Alternative Tactics to Humanize Law Enforcement*

[breathejustice365.org](http://breathejustice365.org)

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** Sandra Mitchell <jazzihoney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Police committee

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Safety Committee and crafted by Chairperson and Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*

*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, are safer when everyone knows that there is independent oversight over the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to build.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safe Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sandi Mitchell  
1162*

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**From:** Lena Kennedy <Lkennedy@lkassociates.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Police Oversight Proposal

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers:

Please be advised, as a member of the Pasadena NAACP, we urge your support of the proposal presented from the Public Safety Committee. It has been vetted by experts; and is a foundation for a way forward and upon which we can build.

Lena L. Kennedy, 626-765-6206  
President/CEO  
*SoCal Women's Conference*  
[www.socalwomenconference.com](http://www.socalwomenconference.com)



07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**Subject:** FW: Public comment - citizens police oversight commission

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ann hickambottom <amhickambottom@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 27, 2020 at 12:58:47 PM PDT  
**To:** "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomskv@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Public comment - citizens police oversight commission

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

-----

Dear City Council: please be advised that as a member of the Pasadena NAACP I urge your support of the proposal presented from the Public Safety Committee. It has been vetted by experts; and is a foundation for a way forward and upon which we can build.

Ann Marie Hickambottom

Sent from my iPhone

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**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 Gutierrez      **Email:** ericagutierrez@gmail.com      **Phone:** 626-333-1111      **Address:** 1000 Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

---

### 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**

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** ANDREA GOODMAN <sistermac@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Civilian police oversight

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Safety Committee and crafted by Chairperson and Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*

*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, are safer when everyone knows that there is independent oversight over the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to build.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safety Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

Andrea Goodman  
626-399-7229  
852 Chapman Ave, Pasadena CA 91103

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13



**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**From:** Diane Mitchell Henry <henrydchenry83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** DIANE MITCHELL HENRY-PUBLIC COMMENT

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Pasadena Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*


*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, is safer when everyone supports the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to improve our community.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and support the formation of a Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

*Diane Mitchell Henry  
91103*

 ReplyForward

--

**Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Brilliant to Be Better**

*"If you hold your hand closed, nothing good can come in. The open hand is blessed, for it gives in abundance, even as it receives." (Bridget "Biddy" Mason, A real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, mid-wife/nurse, 1818-1891)*

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** Len Tang <len@missiocc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** support for civilian oversight

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council,

I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee being presented by the Public Safety Committee. This is good for the public AND good for PPD because it establishes/rebuilds trust in PPD.

Let's take this moment to really make a change for good.

Sincerely,

Len Tang

Pasadena 91107

-----

Len Tang, Lead Pastor  
Missio Community Church  
100 N. Hill Ave, Pasadena

Phone: (503) 550-3598  
Web: [www.missiocc.org](http://www.missiocc.org)  
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** susan dembowski <susandembowski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Comment re City of Pasadena's proposed Oversight Commission for the Police Department.

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

-----  
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

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** Dianne Magee <dmagee626@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Dianne Magee  
**Subject:** Public Safety Committee/Creation of Community Police Oversight Commission

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

-----

Dear Mayor Tornek and Pasadena City Council Members,

I support the proposal for a Community Police Oversight Commission as described in Agenda Report dated July 22, 2020

from Terry Tornek, Mayor, and John Kennedy, Public Safety Committee Chair, to the Public Safety Committee. I have great respect for

our police force but I also realize that today's police force is dealing with a lot more than safety and criminal issues.

Indeed, as the Agenda Report points out, there is a conversation about this topic at all levels of government in this country.

The City of Pasadena should be engaging in that discussion too.

However, civilian oversight must be done carefully and with respect for the police force and all the issues that they deal with. And similarly,

the police force must respect the concerns of the oversight committee. Respect on both sides and willingness to listen and learn

is essential!!! I feel that this recommendation is an excellent one—and it can be undertaken without a lot of delay.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Magee

PS Full disclosure: My grandfather was a police officer in Chicago 1920-1945

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** LUGENIA ANDERSON <lujeannie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Police Oversight Committe

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear  
Mayor Tornek and Pasadena city councilmember, I support the oversight committee as presented by the public safety committee and  
crafted by the chairperson  
councilmember John Kennedy and committee member  
Mayor Terry Tornek.  
I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena  
City Council vote in favor of the proposal by the Public  
Safe Committee.  
Sincerely  
Lugenia Anderson  
455 MacDonald St.  
Pasadena, Ca. 91103

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13











**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 5:07 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:** Paula Kelly    **Email:**    **Address:** Pasadena, CA 91104-1241

---

### **Comments:**

Hello, my name is Paula and I am a resident of Council district 1.

My comments refer to Agenda Items 12 and 13 regarding review of civilian oversight of the Pasadena Police Department and revision to the City Charter.

All police officers need to be held accountable. Pasadena residents deserve to know when an officer uses force unlawfully especially when it causes injury or death to the victim, or when an officer is using racial profiling to harass residents, or when the department is using surveillance technology like facial recognition. Today, that is not case.

Creating strong civilian oversight of the Police Department is a tangible step the city can take to re-imagine how police duties and public safety are performed in our community.

I am calling on the City Council to create a community police oversight commission and a full-time Independent Police Auditor position.

The community police oversight commission should be selected from the community and consist entirely of non-law

enforcement appointees. The auditor should have the authority to provide civilian oversight of the department including subpoena power, selecting the commission staff and reporting to the City Council.

Please place a City Charter Amendment on the ballot.

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

Thank You,  
Paula Kelly

---

**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**