

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sonja Berndt <sonja.berndt@pasadenacalifornia.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:59 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Hampton, Tyron; Jomsky, Mark; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Kennedy, John J.; Masuda, Gene; Williams, Felicia
Subject: City Council Meeting 6/21/2021: Agenda Item #1

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...](#)

APPROVAL OF COMMITMENT OF GENERAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE GENERAL FUND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY COMMITMENT AND GENERAL FUND OPERATING RESERVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council:

I have reviewed the staff report for Agenda Item #1. It is a disservice to the community to provide such a staff report without also providing an explanation that community members will actually understand.

As I understand it, staff is asking you to approve committing the General Fund balance for FY 2021 to the General Fund Emergency Contingency and General Fund Operating Reserve. Further, as I understand it, \$10 million of the funds requested to be made part of the Emergency Contingency Committed Fund Balance and Operating Reserve will be used to bail out the Rose Bowl Operating Company (debt service) and to fund Amerifest. Does the community understand that? Have you provided sufficient explanation to the community in order that community members can ask questions and provide public comment?

Our City needs to start investing in PEOPLE. We have over 500 persons experiencing homelessness, almost 300 of which have no shelter at all. Further, we have far too few outreach workers to enable our unhoused to overcome substantial barriers to achieving permanent housing. You need to do the right, moral thing and approve a portion of the General Fund balance to assist our most vulnerable residents.

Finally, do I understand correctly that the Police Department was allowed to use its purported \$2.3 million in operational savings to fund its building remodel and the mobile command center rather than have those purported savings be made part of the Emergency Contingency Committed Fund Balance and Operating Reserve? If this is correct, it is unconscionable. Those purported savings could also have been used to bail out the Rose Bowl Operating Company. The City should not engage in such obvious preferential treatment amongst departments. Thank you.

Sonja Berndt
Pasadena

06/21/2021
Item 1