

# CORRESPONDENCE

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

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**From:** Bert Newton  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 11:21 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Item 12, budget and lack of revenue

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I was looking at the staff report for item 12 tonight and noticed that one of the problems the city is facing is lack of revenue, not just this year but for the next four years (and there was a deficit last year as well). A lot of American cities are facing this problem, and one reason for it is that most American cities have very low residential and commercial density. Studies have shown that low density neighborhoods, zoned only to allow single-family homes, are a financial drain on the city whereas high density neighborhoods are a financial net positive for the city.

This entertaining video explains it and cites the studies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Nw6qyyrTel>

We need to consider this in city planning if we are going to be a financially solvent city. Even dense affordable housing is financially better for the city.

Sincerely,

--

Rev. Bert Newton  
[Making Housing and Community Happen](#)  
[My Podcast](#)

"Blessed are the poor, for they will inherit the land." Matthew 5:5 EWN Translation

**McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)**

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**From:** interfaithquaker@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 1:54 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor; Jess Rivas; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; Jones, Justin; Cole, Rick  
**Subject:** Prioritize a year-round shelter over increased police funding!

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council members,

As a resident of District 1, I am writing to urge you to fund a year-round shelter for Pasadena residents experiencing homelessness, This is not mentioned in the Housing Department's proposed budget. I agree with Council member Rick Cole and the Council that our city's unhoused residents desperately need a year-round shelter.

581 people were experiencing homelessness in Pasadena on the night of the 2025 Point In Time Count. This represents a 4% increase over the 2024 one-night count. The sheltered count included 12 people who reported being directly impacted by the Eaton Fire.

Unsheltered homelessness rose by 7% in 2025. On the night of the count, 342 people were living in unsheltered locations, with over half (54%) sleeping on the street or sidewalk, representing the most visible segment of the homeless population. This is an increase of 21 people from last year's count.

When I see unhoused people sleeping on our streets, it breaks my heart. Our city has done a lot to help our unhoused neighbors, but we cannot and should not rest until we have achieved functional zero homelessness, meaning homelessness should be rare and brief.

I realize that the city is facing bleak economic times, with deficits forecast for the next few years. It is nonetheless important to have the right priorities. It is proposed that the Police Department's budget be increased by over \$9 million from last year to \$131,910 million. Over 92% of PPD's budget is funded by the general fund.

I live in Northwest Pasadena and feel that our community is over-policed. All too often helicopters fly overhead as we prepare to go to bed, and it sometimes feels as if we're in a war zone. Are these costly flights over Northwest Pasadena really necessary?

Despite doing stellar work in creating much needed affordable housing, with over 1,000 units in the pipeline, and over 400 of our unhoused neighbors permanently housed each year, the Housing Department's recommended budget is decreased from last year's revised budget to \$58.023 million; only 4.59% of which is funded by the general fund.

06/42/20/  
There is a simple fix. Instead of increasing the police budget, allocate \$9 million to the Housing Department to be used for a desperately needed year-round shelter and other housing needs.

Anthony Manousos

05/04/2026  
Item 12

Co-founder of Making Housing and Community Happen

## McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

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**From:** Jill Shook  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 2:29 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** re: Please post this public comment for the Budget discussion tonight, '# 12  
**Attachments:** Letter to CC on May 4-26 re-budget.docx

Some people who received this message don't often get email from

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Dr. Jill Shook, D-Min Bakke Graduate University  
Co-Founding Visionary, Workshop Leader/Speaker: [makinghousinghappen.org](http://makinghousinghappen.org)  
Author/Editor: *Making Housing Happen: Faith Based Affordable Housing Models*  
Chair of CLP-Congregatoinal Land Partners: <https://www.conglanpartners.org/>  
Jill@makinghousinghappen.com Phone : ( 626 ) 675-1316  
My zoom room link

“If your dream is big enough to complete in your lifetime, then it’s too small.”

00442211/



**To:** Pasadena City Council  
100 N. Garfield, Pasadena, CA

**From:** Making Housing and Community Happen.

After reviewing the budget, we are concerned that items that the City Council has approved are not reflected in this budget. We are especially concerned that there is no funding set aside for a year-round shelter. It is essential to care for our most vulnerable citizens, and the Council agreed and approved a year-round shelter.

We know what ends homelessness, and it is shelter (including permanent housing). There should be an urgency to address this issue in our city especially before the Olympic games. Since you plan to increase the budget for the police for this reason, this is also the time to support our homeless neighbors for the same.

Honestly, I question whether we need all the police we have now. On my way to church on this Sunday (yesterday) as I drove down N. Fair Oaks to the United Methodist church on Colorado and Los Robles, I witnessed three police cars—one in front of me, one behind me and one more turning onto Corson. It felt strange and a bit scary to see so many police, especially on a Sunday. I wonder how necessary this is.

I believe some of the money allocated for the police would be better spent by ensuring that our homeless neighbors have a place to stay—right now, the police don't have a year-round place where they can refer people experiencing homelessness. The police have limited tools to address homelessness. Please give them and our community what they/we need: a year-round shelter.

Thank you!

Dr. Jill Shook, cofounder Making Housing and Community Happen

[jill@makinghousinghappen.org](mailto:jill@makinghousinghappen.org)

SONJA K. BERNDT  
Pasadena, CA

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May 10, 2026

Mayor Victor Gordo  
Members of the Pasadena City Council  
Pasadena, CA  
[correspondence@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:correspondence@cityofpasadena.net)  
(By Email)

City Council Meeting May 11, 2026 Agenda Item # 19

Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

A. Introduction

I am a long-time resident of Pasadena and an advocate for the unhoused residents of our City. This letter is to express my deep concerns regarding the FY 2027 proposed Operating Budget as a whole and the Housing Department's budget specifically. I am most concerned about the grossly inadequate resources for our 581 unhoused residents, 342 of which have no shelter at all. I am hopeful that after consideration of this letter you will approve a substantial increase in the proposed appropriations to the Housing Department specifically for interim (transitional) housing for our unsheltered and a year-round shelter.

I will discuss the narrative provided by Housing Department ("Department") staff, providing comments based upon my research and posing questions related to its homelessness program. Scrutiny of the narrative and data presented by staff is necessary to ascertain precisely what is being done for our unhoused residents and where there are gaps in meeting their needs. Transparency and accountability are crucial, or the City will never make any meaningful progress in ending its homelessness crisis.

B. Background

Last December, staff was given five City Council priorities including investing in a year-round shelter and transitional housing for our City's hundreds of unsheltered residents. Staff was told to find potential ways to fund the Council's priorities. However, a year-round shelter and transitional housing appear **nowhere** in the proposed FY2027 Operating Budget. And what is staff's answer to the 7% **increase** in unsheltered homelessness in our City? To **decrease** the Housing Department's General Fund budget to a pathetic 0.69% of total General Fund appropriations to departments.

For years, interim and permanent housing as well as critical services for our unhoused (and especially our unsheltered residents) have been vastly underfunded because our Housing Department receives only “crumbs” from City-generated sources to serve our most vulnerable residents.

Meanwhile, the Pasadena Police Department’s (PPD’s) General Fund appropriations have increased by over \$10 million over last year’s adopted budget with a nearly \$10 million increase in personnel costs. The year-after-year steep increases in PPD salary and pension costs are unsustainable. To make matters worse, the Council continues to approve every piece of equipment that PPD wants, at the expense of people suffering on the street.

Significantly, the Interim City Manager’s transmittal letter states “Without adjustments to service levels, staffing, or long-term financial strategies, the gap between revenues and expenditures will continue to expand.” The necessary “adjustments” need to start with PPD which receives over \$121 million from the General Fund. If the City provided housing for our unsheltered residents, the calls for service would substantially decrease and PPD staffing and pension costs could be substantially reduced as well.

#### C. Department’s Narrative in the Proposed FY2027 Operating Budget

In FY2026, 91.4% of the Department’s budget was received from the federal and state governments. For FY2027, it is slightly higher. This is significant since the Trump Administration has threatened substantial cuts in federal funding for programs benefiting our unhoused residents and the state faces a structural deficit of \$20-30 billion. Shockingly, only 4.59% of the Department’s proposed budget is funded by the City’s General Fund.

It is unclear what specific federal funding is at risk or what funding is included in the multistate case against the Trump Administration related to cuts in federal funding for state homelessness programs. Recent media reports state that HUD’s discretionary budget authority will be cut by \$10.7 billion starting this October. But it is not clear how that will affect the substantial funding the Department hopes to receive from the federal government. There must be a full discussion on this BEFORE the FY2027 Operating Budget is approved.

#### 1. FY 2026 Accomplishments (Proposed Budget, p. 87)

#### Housing Production

I compared the list of FY2026 accomplishments with the list of FY2025 accomplishments in last year’s proposed budget to ascertain what **new** units of housing

were developed in 2026 to avoid “double counting” of units already reported in the 2025 accomplishments.

- Door of Hope (20 units of transitional housing under construction): these also appeared in the Department’s list of FY2025 housing production accomplishments and should not be double counted.<sup>1</sup>
- The Starr (57 units): according to the developer’s website it is in “pre-development” phase. It is unclear whether necessary funding has been identified.
- Ramona Senior Housing project (100 units): the Disposition and Development Agreement for this project was approved by the City Council **five years ago** and it remains mostly a weed lot after all these years. The project, with a reported ballooning estimated cost of \$83.1 million, will have only 48 units set aside for seniors experiencing homelessness, and not until possibly in 2028.
- CalTrans Homes: the City has reportedly netted \$18 million from the sale of these homes. At page 87, the Department states it will deploy the sales proceeds for affordable housing projects. A substantial portion of the money should be used for interim housing to rescue our hundreds of unsheltered residents from our unsafe streets.

### Rental Assistance Program

At page 87 of the FY2027 proposed budget, the Department states that 1,350 households received rental assistance (from the federal government). This is apparently through the federal (Section 8) Housing Choice Voucher Program. As discussed above, is any of this very substantial funding at risk?

“Implemented new subsidy (HOME TBRA, Local Solutions Fund) and transferred 42 EHV households before EHV sunsets. The Department previously advised the Council that the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program was sunsetting at the end of 2025 and that 35 of the 87 very low-income households in the program would be funded by the City’s Measure A Local Solutions Fund allotment. At the May 6, 2026 HHP Committee meeting, staff advised that no funding has been found to fund continued housing vouchers for 42 EHV households.

### Homeless Services

At page 88 of the proposed budget, the Department states that 489 formerly homeless individuals were provided ongoing permanent supportive housing. The city “provides” this housing through non-city financial resources. The real question is how many **new**

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<sup>1</sup> At the May 6, 2026 HHP Committee meeting, Housing Director Wong stated the Door of Hope units should not be included as they will not be completed until early 2027.

units of permanent supportive housing the City has created to address our rising number of unsheltered residents. What progress, if any, did the City make in FY2026?

Last year, the Department reported the number of formerly homeless individuals provided ongoing permanent supportive housing as 505. There is no explanation for the **decrease** in the number of permanent supportive units. Is it because the City **lost** 142 units of permanent supportive housing when Centennial Place was repurposed for senior housing? Councilmember Jones has repeatedly stated that Centennial Place, with an SRO model, suffered several substantial problems. But that opinion does not address the fact that the City still **lost** 142 units of permanent supportive housing at a time when those units are desperately needed. The City could have chosen to renovate Centennial Place for formerly unhoused persons, but it specifically chose senior housing instead. The failure to even mention these lost units illustrates a lack of transparency in the Department's narrative.

At page 88, the narrative states that 65 households experiencing homelessness were placed in permanent housing through 12/31/2025. Were any of these 65 households simply transferred from Centennial Place to another permanent supportive housing site? If so, those persons were not experiencing homelessness at the time of the transfer and should not be counted as such. Transfers of a housed person to another housing site does nothing to decrease our unsheltered count.

Another FY2026 accomplishment listed is an award \$2.19 million in Measure A funding for homeless services. This is troubling. In last year's report of **FY2025** Homeless Services accomplishments, the Housing Department reported a total of just under \$5 million in grants. Was there a substantial decrease in state and federal grant funding received for homeless services in FY2026?

2. Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Operating Budget (Proposed Budget, p. 88)

The Department notes that the FY 2027 Recommended Budget of \$58,022,974 is \$8,904,349 or 18.1 percent higher than the FY 2026 Adopted Budget. However, the FY2027 recommended budget is \$2.5 million **lower** than the FY 2026 revised budget. The Department's appropriations are 95.41 percent funded with federal, state and local sources and 4.59 percent General Fund support. The Department's General Fund appropriations for FY2027 are less than FY2026.

3. Future Outlook (Proposed Budget, p. 89)

Homeless Services

The Department's plan for addressing homelessness in FY2027 is as follows:

In FY 2027, the Department will continue to work to support the goals as outlined in the Pasadena Continuum of Care's Homelessness Plan. The Department will also administer County Measure A funds allocated to the City under the following fund categories: Local Solutions Fund, Continuum of Care Allocation, and Renter Protection and Homelessness Prevention.<sup>2</sup>

There is no plan stated for accomplishing the goals set forth in the Continuum of Care's Homelessness Plan other than the City will administer whatever Measure A or other non-City-generated funds come its way. This is unacceptable. The continued neglect of our unsheltered residents is inhumane.

### Conclusion

For all of the reasons stated, I respectfully request the HHPC to do the following:

- For the FY2027 Operating Budget: Recommend additional appropriations from the General Fund, reserves, and/or other source to create a year-round shelter;
- For the FY2027 Operating Budget: Recommend additional appropriations from the General Fund, reserves and/or other source to fund interim housing for at least 100 currently unsheltered residents; and
- Explore on an urgent basis a dedicated funding stream for interim housing and permanent supportive housing.

The stark reality is that the City cannot possibly address its homelessness crisis in any meaningful way with the meager amount of city-generated funds the City contributes year after year. And the plan addressing homelessness set forth in the proposed FY2027 Operating Budget will do little to alleviate the suffering endured by our unsheltered residents living on our streets.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sonja K. Berndt, Esq. (retired)

Cc: James Wong, Housing Director

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<sup>2</sup> In the FY2026 recommended budget, the following was stated: "In FY 2026, the Department will complete capital improvements at the Bad Weather Shelter location." Were the capital improvements at the Bad Weather Shelter completed?

## Correspondence for 6/8/26 Council Meeting. Agenda #25

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From Sonja Berndt

Date Sat 6/6/2026 2:52 PM

To Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; Cole, Rick <rcole@cityofpasadena.net>; Hampton, Tyron <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>; Jones, Justin <jjones@cityofpasadena.net>; Lyon, Jason <jlyon@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; Masuda, Gene <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>; Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>; PublicComment-AutoResponse <correspondence@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc Harris, Eugene <eharris@cityofpasadena.net>

 2 attachments (239 KB)

FY2027 Proposed PPD Budget.City Council.pdf; FY2026 PPD Equipment appropriations.xlsx;

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Dear Council members and City Clerk staff:

Please see the attached letter and attachment to the letter I am submitting on Agenda #25 - The FY2027 Operating Budget. Please ensure it is made a part of the official record of the meeting. Thank you.

Sonja Berndt  
Pasadena

SONJA K. BERNDT  
Pasadena, CA

June 6, 2026

Mayor Victor Gordo  
Members of the Pasadena City Council  
Pasadena, CA  
(By Email)

Re: City Council Meeting June 8, 2026, Agenda Item #25: The Recommended FY 2027 Police Department Operating Budget

Dear Members of the City Council:

A. Introduction

I am a long-time resident of Pasadena and an advocate for the unsheltered residents of our City. This letter is to express my deep concern about the FY 2027 Recommended Police Department Operating Budget. Year after year, the Pasadena Police Department (PPD) receives a grossly disproportionate level of General Fund appropriations as compared to other vital departments in this City. Critical services for our unhoused and especially our unsheltered residents are vastly underfunded because PPD, with its escalating salaries, pension and liability costs, continues to swallow up our General Fund, leaving insufficient crumbs for departments that serve our most vulnerable residents.

The Interim City Manager notes in his May 4, 2026 budget transmittal letter: “Without adjustments to service levels, staffing, or long-term financial strategies, the gap between revenues and expenditures will continue to expand.” The necessary “adjustments” need to start with PPD which receives over \$121 million from the General Fund. I do not believe in “de-funding” PPD. However, cost savings can be accomplished in that department with more cost-effective and smart policing in our City.

B. Background

The City’s budget discussions were supposed to be different this year – more insightful than in years past. At the budget workshop last December, the Council gave staff five basic priorities for funding in FY 2027. One of those was investing in a year-round shelter and transitional housing for our unsheltered residents. But the proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget contains no funding for either of those projects.

At a Council meeting later that same month, staff prepared an agenda report for the Council which stated in relevant part as follows: “The current Five-Year Forecast for the General Fund projects ongoing shortfalls, with annual pension obligations to CalPERS being a key contributor to rising expenditures.” The report also noted that the General Fund provides about 31% of the funding for the Miscellaneous (Pension) Plan while the General Fund supports more than 90% of the funding for the Safety (Pension) Plan. “Personnel and pension costs are the largest portions of the General Fund and play a significant role in expenditure growth until FY 2031 due to increasing UAL [Unfunded Accrued Liability] payments.” (M. Hawkesworth 12/15/2025 Agenda Report, Item #11.) While the Council authorized an additional discretionary payment of \$7 million to CalPERS to pay down the Unfunded Accrued Liability of the Safety Plan, the five-year forecast still shows budget shortfalls.

C. Gross Inequities in General Fund Support for Critical City Services

The Recommended FY 2027 Operating Budget shows the following appropriations from the General Fund:

- Police Department: \$121.70 million (92.3% of its total proposed FY 2027 appropriations of \$131.91 million);
- Housing Department: \$2.66 million (4.59% of its total proposed FY 2027 appropriations of \$58.02 million); and
- Public Health Department: \$2.54 million (14.36% of its total proposed FY 2027 appropriations of \$17.69 million).

PPD has had, and continues to have, skyrocketing increases in total appropriations, General Fund appropriations and personnel expenses over the last three years.

<u>Total Operating Budget</u>	<u>Total General Fund Appropriations</u>
FY 2024 Actual = 110,919,589	FY 2024 Actual = \$ 100,318,066
FY 2025 Actual = \$117,166,398	FY 2025 Actual = \$ 107,775,235
FY 2026 Adopted = \$121,471,180	FY 2026 Adopted = \$ 111,336,250
FY 2027 Proposed = \$131,909,702	FY 2027 Proposed = \$ 121,697,000

Personnel Expenses

FY 2024 Actual = 90,612,112
FY 2025 Actual = 95,106,187
FY 2026 Adopted = 101,819,978
FY 2027 Proposed = 111,480,506

The FY 2027 proposed budget notes 95.41% of the Housing Department’s budget as coming from federal (mostly), state and (minimal) local sources. This is significant since

the Trump Administration has threatened substantial cuts in federal funding for programs benefiting our unhoused residents. Recent media reports state that HUD's discretionary budget authority will be cut by \$10.7 billion starting this October. It is unclear how that will affect the substantial funding our Housing Department hopes to receive from the federal government. For example, at the May 6, 2026 Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee meeting, staff advised that no funding has been found to replace federal funding for Emergency Housing Vouchers for 42 Pasadena households. There must be a full discussion of this BEFORE the FY 2027 Operating Budget is approved.

The 2025 Pasadena Point in Time Homeless Count showed 581 unhoused individuals – 342 of which have no shelter at all, which is a 7% increase from 2024. Yet there is no plan stated for accomplishing the goals set forth in the Continuum of Care's Homelessness Plan other than the City will administer whatever Measure A or other non-City-generated funds come its way. This is unacceptable. The continued neglect of our unsheltered residents is inhumane.

Likewise, Pasadena's Public Health Department (PPHD) is severely unfunded. Almost half of all FY 2027 appropriations are proposed to come from grants at a time when both federal and state grants are at great risk. Nine grants sunset by the end of this calendar year, including grants for homeless outreach (which is already severely underfunded). There is a decrease of 21.54 FTE's from FY 2026 and unfunded personnel costs of \$510,000. The failure to adequately fund PPHD has severe ramifications on its health and safety programs which face potential further cuts from the federal government.

While both PPHD and the Housing Department are severely underfunded from City-generated sources, PPD's General Fund appropriations have increased by over \$10 million over last year's adopted budget with a nearly \$10 million increase in personnel costs. The year-after-year steep increases in PPD salary, pension and liability costs are unsustainable.

Significantly, cost savings could be achieved by decreasing the number of PPD officers while maintaining public safety in our City. In FY 2021, there were 5,766 PPD calls for service listed as "transient-related." In just the first six months of FY 2025, documents produced by PPD in response to my Public Records Act request show over 4,100 calls for service listed as "TRST," i.e., "transient" related! In the "Cleared By" (i.e., disposition) column of a very lengthy spreadsheet, over 4,000 of those calls for service were listed as "no further action needed/resolved" (the vast majority), "gone on arrival," canceled," and "unable to locate." Instead of incurring the huge expense of responses to calls for service related to unhoused individuals, PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THEM in the first place! This would decrease PPD salary and pension costs and at

the same time alleviate suffering and promote health and wellbeing. Moreover, these calls for service may not need responses by uniformed police officers. Deploying trained civilians would be cheaper in both salary and pension costs.<sup>1</sup>

#### D. Huge PPD Equipment Expense

PPD salaries and pension benefits are not the only drivers of skyrocketing PPD expenses. Attached to this letter is an excel spreadsheet that shows just some of the appropriations PPD received for equipment thus far in FY 2026. This is on top of years of appropriations for multi-year contracts related to license plate readers, helicopter equipment, etc. which have added significant expense to PPD's budget. The City Council approved every piece of equipment that PPD requested in FY 2026, most of which is to be paid from "existing & future General Fund appropriations" at the expense of critical community programs and human suffering on the street.

Two of the equipment purchases, the mobile data computer replacement and 12 police dispatch radio communication consoles, were paid for with the budget surplus from FY 2025 for a total of \$2,996,424 – money that could have been used to shelter our unsheltered residents. There was no mention in the staff report of whether these items could have been purchased with funds from the Asset Forfeiture Fund which are specifically restricted for law enforcement purposes. I personally have never heard a council member ask staff whether funds are available in the Asset Forfeiture Fund to pay for law enforcement equipment rather than using funds from the General Fund needed for other critical City services.<sup>2</sup>

One particularly egregious example of appropriations for PPD equipment was for the purchase of two new helicopters to replace functioning "airworthy" helicopters. The City had a total of five "airworthy" helicopters (to be reduced to four) at the time the Council appropriated \$12.54 million for the two new ones along with two multi-year service contracts. While the downpayment of \$4 million is to be paid from the Asset Forfeiture Fund, the balance is supposedly going to be lease financed with debt service to be paid from the Asset Forfeiture Fund and the Foothill Air Support Team. (See Agenda Report, 12/8/25 Council Meeting, Agenda # 2.) This is confusing because slide 8 in the PPD PowerPoint presentation for the May 28, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting shows a

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<sup>1</sup> I have been informed by staff that currently, calls for service in which a "suspect" is involved are responded to by a uniformed police officer. Civilian Community Services Officers respond to calls without suspect information such as traffic collisions, burglaries, etc.

<sup>2</sup> The appropriation approved for the mobile data computer replacement was \$1,507,109. However, Mr. Hawkesworth's December 18, 2025 memorandum to the City Council states that \$2.1 million was allocated for that project. Please ask staff to explain this discrepancy to determine whether some of the surplus funds from FY 2025 are available for our unsheltered residents.

FY 2030 Forecast for the Asset Forfeiture Fund of (-84,761), long before the helicopters and service contracts will have been paid in full.

At a time when hundreds of our residents languish on our streets and City budget shortfalls are predicted for years to come, why does our City need four helicopters? How many other cities of our size have four helicopters? City appropriations for PPD equipment must be reined in. The City Council cannot expect to keep rubber-stamping all the PPD appropriations for equipment without community push back.

**In fact, there was community pushback at the May 28, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting regarding enormous past PPD equipment expenses and huge additional expenses expected going forward: active intelligence center, new equestrian unit (was disbanded in 2005), drones, technology, etc. Significantly, Chair Vice Mayor Rivas confirmed with Chief Harris that, as for all the proposed technologies in the work plan, the contracts will come through Public Safety Committee as well as the City Council “and that’s where we can really dig into the specifics of what’s proposed.” (5/28/2026 Pub. Safety Mtg., at timestamp 1 hr. 19 min.)**

#### E. Huge Spike in General Liability Expense

Finally, slide 6 of PPD’s PowerPoint presentation for the May 28, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting notes “General Liability increased \$4.1M -- Claims spike in FY25 and new methodology for Outside Legal allocation.” General liability expenses were \$3.05 million in FY 2025 and for FY 2027 is budgeted as over \$8.87 million! At the May 26, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting, staff gave an explanation for the huge spike in this expense. This needs to be discussed by the entire City Council and this expense needs to be carefully monitored going forward.

#### F. Conclusion

In conclusion, the enormous General Fund appropriations for PPD and the huge increases in those appropriations year after year leave other critical departments of our City chronically and severely underfunded. The City Council **as a whole** needs to undertake a serious examination of the proposed FY 2027 PPD Operating Budget to look for ways to decrease PPD’s General Fund appropriations. Additionally, the City Council must scrutinize PPD equipment and technology requests going forward and approve only those that are truly NECESSARY and time sensitive as opposed to simply desirable and/or that can be deferred.

For the reasons discussed in this letter, please request PPD staff to do the following:

- Find cost savings in PPD’s proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget to create and fund a year-round shelter and interim housing for our unsheltered residents;

- Explore on an urgent basis ways to decrease expenses associated with calls for service involving our unhoused residents; and
- Diligently look for greater grant funding opportunities through its Grant Procurement Unit.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and your service to our City.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sonja K. Berndt

Pasadena

Cc: Eugene Harris  
Chief of Police

Attachment

DATE	ITEM	APPROPRIATION	NOTES
7/21/2025	HCI ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING	<b>\$1,777,750 -existing &amp; future GENERAL FUND appropriations</b>	Crime scene cleanup services. For three years.
7/21/2025	AIRWAVE COMMUNICATIONS	<b>\$750,000 -existing &amp; future GENERAL FUND appropriations</b>	Police vehicle upfitting. For three years.
9/29/2025	CAL OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY	\$545,000 - <b>GRANT</b>	Support traffic safety programs.
10/6/2025	VITAL MEDICAL SERVICES	<b>\$1,607,250 - existing &amp; future GENERAL FUND appropriations</b>	Medical services for inmates in Pasadena jail. For five years.
12/8/2025	CNC TECHNOLOGIES	\$12.54 million; \$4 million Asset FF down payment; lease financing for balance	Two NEW helicopters + two 5-year service contracts. Asset Forfeiture Fund and Foothill Air Support Team Fund pay debt service.
12/15/2025	CDW GOVERNMENT, LLC	<b>\$1,507,109 - from \$10.1 million 2025 budget surplus</b>	Mobile Data Computer Replacement (laptops). (Discrepancy from memo.)
12/15/2025	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC.	<b>\$1,489,315 -- from \$10.1 million 2025 budget surplus</b>	12 police dispatch radio communication consoles, installation, and training.
2/23/2026	LEHR UPFITTERS OPSCO, LLC	<b>\$750,000 -- existing &amp; future GENERAL FUND appropriations</b>	Police vehicle upfitting. Up to three years.