

From: Tony Wilson>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 5:35 PM
To: Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re: Police sleeping barracks.

Drew,

Here is my letter regarding my opinion of the sleeping barracks for SMPD officers. I would really appreciate it if you could add it to the public record for the city council meeting I believe October 7, 2019.

Thank you for all your help,
Tony Wilson

To San Mateo city council members,

I'm a 55 year old retired union sheetmetal worker and long time San Mateo resident and homeowner. I've lived in San Mateo for 26 years and struggled to afford living here. The sacrifices I've made to live here have been difficult but possible. Many of my fellow union workers chose to not make the sacrifices I chose and moved out of the area and commute to work. That was their choice. I have recently learned that the SMPD wants to build or renovate an area of, I believe an older fire department on Norfolk st (?) in San Mateo to house or sleep officers between their shifts who have made the choice to live other places. If this renovation is privately funded then I have no problem because it would be none of my business but if my tax dollars are being used for this project then yes I have a big problem. Why should my tax dollars be used for officers who have chosen to live in other cities? No one cared about my fellow union workers who made the commute every day. They either did the commute or had a little apartment or stayed with family or friends. Some had RVs and some stayed on little boats in Pete's harbor. All of this is doable for anyone. If officers choose to live other places then the commute was THEIR decision. I was in touch with chief Manheimer who tried to explain the thought process of these sleeping quarters. She basically was saying some officers could possibly work a double shift or have court early in the morning and so on. My two best friends are officers with different departments and they constantly discuss how happy they are with all of their overtime and brag about how much money they make from this overtime. Well since they are so handsomely paid for their overtime then they can easily get a hotel room for the few times they would need a sleeping area. Why should my tax money go towards overtime pay AND a place for the officers to sleep between shifts or whatever the case may be. I absolutely feel this is a waste of my tax money. If officers will be using these sleeping quarters often then they need to make other arrangements such as renting a room and so on. If it's just because of an overtime shift or something like that once or twice a month then they should get a hotel room. It's not my responsibility to pay for their real estate decisions. I'm sure my tax dollars can be utilized in much better ways. I'm absolutely firm with my beliefs and other residents I discuss this with agree also. Please take my suggestion seriously and decline this request for tax funds being allocated for this renovation for people who choose to not live here. Their commute was all part of their decision. My fellow workers made it work for them so it can be done. Thank you for your time.

Tony Wilson