
From: Sara Alavi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Sara Alavi. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

This does not align with the values that I have as your constituent and I demand that you and other city officials work together to draft and approve a budget that diverts funds from the police department and reallocates them directly to benefit those in need.

Defunding the police and restructuring the budget is an absolute necessity now more than ever. Police perpetuate a pattern of excessive violence and force, especially directed towards Black People and their communities. The police refuse to hold their own accountable and this is unacceptable.

We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has killed 100,000 Americans and more than 40 million people have filed for unemployment. Healthcare workers are without proper equipment and essential workers are not being fairly compensated or protected for the great work they do. We don't need more police, we need more social safety nets. Funds intended for police would be better off being sorted to initiatives that

Enrich our public schools and students

Provide more affordable housing and mental health care initiatives Protect and bolster our parks Support small businesses struggling due to COVID-19 Provide cheaper and cleaner modes of public transportation

Our nation is grieving the deaths of Black Americans that were murdered at the hands of police officers who have yet to be held accountable. While the police department has more funding than it knows what to do with, we have communities who desperately need funding and every day they don't receive it their quality of life worsens. Thousands have died who did not need to. You have the ability to change this, so do it.

Sincerely,
Sara Alavi

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Elias Bermeo [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Elias Platte-Bermeo. I am a resident of San Mateo, CA and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Elias Platte-Bermeo

Mayor Goethals and city council members,

As a San Mateo resident, I'm writing to express my support for a significant decrease in funding for San Mateo police, and to redirect those funds towards community-based initiatives in the city. The proposed budget for 2020-2021 includes over \$50m for police - 20% of the total city budget! And while the Black population of the city falls under 3%, Black folks account for over 20% of arrests. It's time to invest in our community instead of in a police system that targets Black citizens and perpetuates racial injustice.

The redirected funds can be put back into social services for mental health, domestic violence and homelessness, or used to fund schools, hospitals, housing and food. All of these things increase the safety and security of citizens in our community far more than cops do. Please consider these options in your next budget proposal. It's time to make a change.

Thanks for your time,

Joanna Cretella

From: Nisrine Dababo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 8:02 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Nisrine Dababo. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Nisrine Dababo

From: Isabel Decontreras < >

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 9:33 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

Hello,

My name is Isabel DeContreras and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

In reading the proposed city budget for FY 20-21, I am absolutely appalled that almost \$50.3 million is being allocated towards funding the San Mateo police department. With looming budget deficits as a result of COVID-19, I do not accept the prioritization of an increased police department budget over essential community resources in this next year. We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk San Mateo residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than one that empowers police.

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,

Isabel DeContreras

[REDACTED]

From: Natalia Diaz Amabilis [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Natalia Diaz. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Natalia Diaz

[REDACTED]

From: keagan howarth-dunn [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Keagan Howarth-Dunn. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Keagan Howarth-Dunn

Sent from my iPhone

From: Chelsea V. Price-Gallinat <>

Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 4:52 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; San Mateo Police Department <police@cityofsanmateo.org>; Community Relations Commission <CommunityRelationsCommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Library Board <LibraryBoard@cityofsanmateo.org>; PR Commission Mailbox <PRCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; Personnel Board <PersonnelBoard@cityofsanmateo.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Senior Commission Mailbox <SeniorCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission <SandICommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Housing <housing@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>; info@sanmateocert.org; Parks and Recreation Mailbox <parksandrecreation@cityofsanmateo.org>; Economic Development <economicdevelopment@cityofsanmateo.org>; Sustainability <sustainability@cityofsanmateo.org>; SMPD PIO <pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org>; Matthew Earnshaw <earnsha@cityofsanmateo.org>; Arthur Sanchez <sancheza@cityofsanmateo.org>; Ryan Monaghan <monaghan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Chelsea Price-Gallinat and I am a Burlingame resident of San Mateo county. I am writing to urge you to defund the San Mateo Police Department.

SMPD takes an enormous share of the city's general fund, and that percentage has only risen over the last two decades, taking away desperately needed resources from essential city programs and services. The investment in policing has not made us safer – SMPD is a lethal threat to San Mateo's Black and Brown communities, while increased police spending shows no correlation to decreasing crime levels over the past 20 years. With San Mateo's current finances in dire jeopardy due to the COVID-19 financial crisis, it is clear that we must defund the police.

As San Mateo residents, we therefore demand that you take immediate action to ensure the following:

- Reduce SMPD's allocation from the General Fund by 50%
- Disallow unauthorized overtime by SMPD
- Discontinue use of general fund dollars to pay for settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence
- Invest in housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, and mental health workers to keep the community safe.

We are amplifying calls to defund the police, not reform them. I urge you to advocate for a meaningful reallocation of the city's expenditures: away from policing, and towards social programs and resources that support housing, jobs, education, health care, child care, and other critical community needs.

San Mateo cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to Defund SMPD.

Thank you,

Chelsea Price-Gallinat

Joan Diskin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:37 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: FW: SMPD calm display of gear at Demonstration's end sent a clear message to outside organized gangs

My editorial is below, but I did want to further thank and commend the Council, Police and Sheriff Departments and Staffs for the team effort, hard work and organization I know it took to plan this.

I would adamantly oppose any defunding of our police department. I would support an effort to work with management and SMPD Union to allow removal of officers who should not be in the police force.

Perhaps in responding to end-of-protest Gear complaints, you could reinforce the outside threats people are so conveniently forgetting.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:48 PM
To: letters@smdailyjournal.com
Subject: SMPD calm display of gear at Demonstration's end sent a clear message to outside organized gangs

The well-organized San Mateo Protests were a credit to organizers, demonstrators and police. Marchers communicated strong positions, and SMPD exhibited willingness to listen and collaborate.

The extra gear at the end was reassuring to me. Earlier, organized looters used stolen cars to circle and block Stanford stores. In San Francisco, thieves had waiting vans for property stolen from smashed windows, and videos of Bay Area and national violence demonstrated a clear possible threat after the march ended.

The strong but calm SMPD display sent a clear message to organized outsiders: The community of San Mateo and our PD stand together on the need for change, but support protection of our people and property.

Well done on both sides.

C Gillett (Jon--prefer you use only the initial if you print this--Carol)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Tyler Gindraux [REDACTED] >

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:16 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; San Mateo Police Department <police@cityofsanmateo.org>; Community Relations Commission <CommunityRelationsCommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Library Board <LibraryBoard@cityofsanmateo.org>; PR Commission Mailbox <PRCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; Personnel Board <PersonnelBoard@cityofsanmateo.org>; Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Senior Commission Mailbox <SeniorCommissionMailbox@CityofSanMateoOrg.onmicrosoft.com>; Sustainability & Infrastructure Commission <SandICommission@cityofsanmateo.org>; Housing <housing@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>; Parks and Recreation Mailbox <parksandrecreation@cityofsanmateo.org>; Economic Development <economicdevelopment@cityofsanmateo.org>; Sustainability <sustainability@cityofsanmateo.org>; SMPD PIO <pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org>; Matthew Earnshaw <earnsha@cityofsanmateo.org>; Arthur Sanchez <sancheza@cityofsanmateo.org>; Ryan Monaghan <monaghan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Defund the San Mateo Police Department

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tyler Gindarux and I am a resident of San Mateo county writing to urge you to defund the San Mateo Police Department.

SMPD takes an enormous share of the city's general fund, and that percentage has only risen over the last two decades, taking away desperately needed resources from essential city programs and services. The investment in policing has not made us safer – SMPD is a lethal threat to San Mateo's Black and Brown communities, while increased police spending shows no correlation to decreasing crime levels over the past 20 years. With San Mateo's current finances in dire jeopardy due to the COVID-19 financial crisis, it is clear that we must defund the police.

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We are amplifying calls to defund the police, not reform them. I urge you to advocate for a meaningful reallocation of the city's expenditures: away from policing, and towards social programs and resources that support housing, jobs, education, health care, child care, and other critical community needs.

San Mateo cannot wait any longer for a budget that meets the needs of its residents. The only way to achieve this is to take immediate steps to Defund SMPD.

Thank you,

Tyler Gindraux

[REDACTED]

From: Jhoana Rose Juen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 12:56 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo); goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan
Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

Hello,

My name is Jhoana Rose Juen and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

In reading the proposed city budget for FY 20-21, I am appalled that almost \$50.3 million is being allocated towards funding the San Mateo police department. With looming budget deficits as a result of COVID-19, we do not accept the prioritization of an increased police department budget over essential community resources in this next year. We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk San Mateo residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than one that empowers police.

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,

Jhoana Rose Juen
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear City Council members,

No one in their right mind would even consider defunding a police department. Our police do a fantastic job and all deserve our respect and support. Please let them know how much we all appreciate and need them.

Sincerely, Beth and Chuck Kabala

[REDACTED]

From: Justin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Justin Kawakami. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has killed 100,000 Americans and more than 40 million people have filed for unemployment. Healthcare workers are without proper equipment and essential workers are not being fairly compensated or protected for the great work they do. We don't need more police, we need more social safety nets. Funds intended for police would be better off being sorted to initiatives that

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Sincerely,
Justin Kawakami

[REDACTED]

From: Chyna M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 6:50 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo); goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan
Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

City Council

Mayor Joe Goethals, Deputy Mayor Eric Rodriguez, Council Member Rick Bonilla, Council Member Amourence Lee, Council Member Diane Papan

Hello,

My name is Chyna Mangubat and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

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We the people deserve to be heard and action to be taken place.

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,

Chyna Mangubat
[REDACTED]

From: Julianna >

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:48 PM

To: goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

Hello,

My name is Julianna Mendez and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

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Thank you for your time,

Julianna Mendez

Joan Diskin

From: Emely Morales <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 2:37 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo); goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan
Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

Hello,

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

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[INSERT PERSONAL ANECDOTE OR DELETE]

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,

Emely Morales
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Emily Morris [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:21 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Defund the police and invest in San Mateo communities

Dear City Council,

As your constituent, (my zip code is 94401 and I live close to Downtown San Mateo), I am asking you to cut funding for the San Mateo police department and divert those funds to Black community-led education, health, and safety programs (such as funding for schools, treatment for opioid abuse, and especially conflict intervention programs that don't rely on the police).

As we've seen not only this week but over many years, police do not serve communities equally and with compassion, but instead put people in harm's way and escalate situations. Please, as your constituent, I am asking you to cut funding for the police department and instead invest funds in community-led solutions (particularly led by Black and Latino communities in San Mateo).

Thank you,

Emily

[REDACTED]

From: Kiley Ortisi [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 8:38 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Kiley Ortisi. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Kiley Ortisi

From: Jonathan Rozen < >

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 3:50 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourance Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: San Mateo PD should be defunded

Hello,

My name is Jonathan Rozen and I am a city of San Mateo resident. I am writing with regard to recent nationwide demand to reconsider how our nation allocates its budget towards the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that sometimes policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

In reading the proposed city budget for FY 20-21, I am appalled that almost \$50.3 million is being allocated towards funding the San Mateo police department. With looming budget deficits as a result of COVID-19, we do not accept the prioritization of an increased police department budget over essential community resources in this next year. We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk San Mateo residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. \$50.3 million should be spent on government services that help people who have seen COVID-19 ruin their lives, improving our impoverished schools, and other things that will benefit the community in general. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than one that empowers police.

I frequently see police officers speeding, breaking traffic laws, and using their phones in their cars. While I've thankfully never had an encounter with the police because I meet their arbitrary racial ideal, many of my friends who don't meet their ideal have had horrible experiences with the police.

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathan Rozen

From: Audrey Jane [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Patrice Olds
Subject: WE DEMAND CHANGE

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Audrey Sanguinetti and I am a resident of San Mateo, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

1. Redirect Police Funding

Phillip McHarris (doctoral candidate focusing on race) and Thenjiwe McHarris (strategist with the Movement for Black Lives) [explain the problem](#) with current police reform efforts:

“More training or diversity among police officers won’t end police brutality, nor will firing and charging individual officers. Look at the Minneapolis Police Department, which is held up as a model of progressive police reform. The department offers procedural justice as well as trainings for implicit bias, mindfulness and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, bans ‘warrior style’ policing, uses body cameras, implemented an early intervention system to identify problematic officers, receives training around mental health crisis intervention, and practices ‘reconciliation’ efforts in communities of color.”

Evidently, that was not enough. Instead of heightening the resources that officers have, they advocate redirecting funds to alternative emergency response programs, which can also be fueled by state-level and local-level grants. The McHarris’ argument is that we should work towards a reality in which healthcare workers and emergency response teams should handle substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, or mental health cases, while rapid response social workers provide individuals with the care they need. Community organizers would be responsible for spearheading responses to the pandemic. “The average police recruit spends [58 hours learning how to shoot and only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate.](#)” Police officers are not trained nor necessary in reacting to such crises—specialized responders are.

Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, [Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing](#) nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

For-profit policing is a large culprit. Even though [Governor Brown’s 2016 bill](#) helped protect Californians from civil asset forfeitures, this is far from sufficient. As of 2020, [66.25% of forfeiture profits go to police](#)—a C+ rating.

The Black Lives Matter Movement [demands](#) “acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police... We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive.”

The McHarris' conclusion states, "We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence."

A persistent, genuine, and well-thought-out legislative effort to redirect police funds and end for-profit policing is imperative.

2. Abolish Legislative Police Protections

Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. [BLM](#) "demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence."

It is vital to ensure that police officers are met with precisely the same consequences as their badgeless counterparts. Accountability has been denied to Black people for centuries, and it is crucial to impose legislative confirmation that accountability is ensured.

[Campaign Zero](#) is an organization dedicated to "limiting police interventions, improving community interactions, and ensuring accountability."

They propose a solution of independent investigations. Because only [1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime](#), "independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers" must be mandated to eliminate biases. A broken system should not be evaluating itself.

3. Demilitarize the Police

Campaign Zero emphasizes that [studies](#) show how "more militarized police departments are significantly more likely to kill civilians." Unfortunately, "the federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments."

[Campaign Zero](#) continues that to demilitarize, we must "prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment."

California is not void of this indictment. In total, 41 MRAPs [are in the possession of law enforcement agencies in California](#). All in all, California's quantity of purchasing such outlandish and high-level military technology is unmatched: "In terms of cash value, California gets more 1033 gear than other states."

Even though the LAPD has refused to take on more military equipment, they stated that ["the department will replenish and replace"](#) existing equipment. Such measures must be barred in an effort to eventually demilitarize the police force entirely in the long run.

Police departments should be [restricted](#) from using federal grant money to purchase military equipment, using the SWAT team, or conducting no-knock raids. Over-weaponized departments must reduce their use of weapon stockpiles, as "agencies should seek to return to the federal government the military equipment that has already been received" as [places like San Jose already have](#).

The [warranting](#) is simple: "Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization," contributing to the war-like mentality implicitly enforced by the police, who have no place fighting wars against the most disenfranchised members of their communities.

I hope that our legislators can take tangible, policy-level initiatives to defend Black lives, something they have failed to do so up until this point. Please listen to the pleas of the Black entities listed above and countless others, and help give rise to a future where Black folks do not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis.

Sincerely but not silently,

Joan Diskin

From: Candela Graciarena <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Joe Goethals; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan; City Mgr; Clerk; Richard Lee
Subject: We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

My name is Candy Su. I am a resident of San Mateo and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

This does not align with the values that I have as your constituent and I demand that you and other city officials work together to draft and approve a budget that diverts funds from the police department and reallocates them directly to benefit those in need.

Defunding the police and restructuring the budget is an absolute necessity now more than ever. Police perpetuate a pattern of excessive violence and force, especially directed towards Black People and their communities. The police refuse to hold their own accountable and this is unacceptable.

We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has killed 100,000 Americans and more than 40 million people have filed for unemployment. Healthcare workers are without proper equipment and essential workers are not being fairly compensated or protected for the great work they do. We don't need more police, we need more social safety nets. Funds intended for police would be better off being sorted to initiatives that

Enrich our public schools and students

Provide more affordable housing and mental health care initiatives Protect and bolster our parks Support small businesses struggling due to COVID-19 Provide cheaper and cleaner modes of public transportation

Our nation is grieving the deaths of Black Americans that were murdered at the hands of police officers who have yet to be held accountable. While the police department has more funding than it knows what to do with, we have communities who desperately need funding and every day they don't receive it their quality of life worsens. Thousands have died who did not need to. You have the ability to change this, so do it.

Sincerely,
Candy Su

Sent from my iPhone

Joan Diskin

From: Samantha Susa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 8:40 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo); goethals@cityofsanmateo.org; Eric Rodriguez; Rick Bonilla; Amourence Lee; Diane Papan
Subject: Defund San Mateo PD

Hello,

My name is Samantha Susa and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to look at and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate our budgets toward the police department. As I am sure you are aware with regard to this now national conversation, much research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents across many different landscapes be it in suburban, urban and rural areas. What does, however, support the wellbeing and safety of community members in cities across the United States is deep trust and investment in our communities through housing, health care services, jobs, mental health services, and education (some of these I am fully aware are under county rather than city jurisdiction).

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It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Mateo city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you for your time,
Samantha Susa

[REDACTED]

Hello,

My name is Isabelle Tingin. I am a resident of San Mateo, CA and I am emailing to demand the restructuring of our city budget, so as to prioritize more social services for our community, and to drastically minimize spending on Police. It is unconscionable that 1/3 to 1/2 of the city's budget is going to the police department.

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Sincerely,
Isabelle Tingin

[REDACTED]

From: Joy Zhou <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Patrice Olds
Subject: WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joy Zhou and I am a resident of San Mateo, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely,
Joy Zhou