

Hi,

I'm writing regarding the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget approval, specifically in relation to police department funding. I'm hoping the city council will consider taking a critical look at how best to serve the San Mateo community and how best to allocate available funds. We all need to pause, not just go along with status quo and accept what is proposed and "business as usual". We all have room to continue to learn, grow, and re-consider how we can become an even greater city.

I work in the pharmaceutical industry and it takes a very diverse team with many varying skills and educational backgrounds to discover, develop, and eventually bring a new therapy to patients. It would be incredibly inefficient (honestly, even ludicrous) to expect me, as a nurse, to be able to provide the expertise on statistical methods. Yet, this is exactly what we ask of police officers on a daily basis. And, because of their desire to help the community, they agree to try to cover all aspect of public needs, similar to trying to ask a nurse to explain statistics. For me, it would just never work out, and luckily, my industry doesn't expect this type of exceedingly wide coverage of expertise.

Please give our police force this same consideration that my industry gives to me. Use them for the scenarios for which they've been specially trained and are highly qualified to handle. And, alleviate the burden to trying to wear the hats of a dozen different specialties. If we use the budget appropriately, to ensure the right skill set shows up to any given situation, we all benefit. Our community members get the assistance they called for, and city personnel (police, social workers, mental health professionals, etc) can have the confidence in their roles based upon their training and feel that pride of helping the community - no doubt what led them to take the job in the first place.

While it may feel easier to hire 1 group of people to cover a wide range of community needs, it isn't serving the needs of the community nor the city employees.

For me personally, if I knew the right skill set was showing up for the scenario, I'd feel more comfortable placing that call for help. I wouldn't hesitate, like I did a few weeks back, when 2 neighbors got into a dispute leading to a physical altercation in the street. But, instead, I didn't place that call, as I was too worried that police presence would only escalate the situation. I hope we can all make some adjustments, to make our community safer for everyone here, by working to connect the right skill sets with the needed jobs. It can start with allocating city funds away from one line item to the police force and instead reallocating a portion to cover the wide variety of community safety needs.

Thank you,
Shelly Folsom
North Central neighborhood

From: Carmen Hyacinth <
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:32 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Consent Agenda re: Budget

Hello,

As a resident of San Mateo, I am writing to ask that the proposed budget for the police be removed from the consent agenda.

The proposed budget of \$50.2M is 67% more than what it was in 2013-2014 and I believe the funds would be better purposed to be used towards civilian crisis intervention services that can handle 911 calls that don't require an armed response.

I'd also like to see more of those funds go toward homeless shelters and drug rehab services.

I'd love to see San Mateo at the forefront of positive change rather than continuing to feed a machine that is not servicing our people equally.

Thank you for your consideration,
Carmen Hyacinth

From: Debra Kattler <**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 6:41 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: Budget allocations and the police

Dear Council Members:

My name is Debra Kattler and I am a resident of the City of San Mateo. I am writing with regard to recent calls nationwide to examine and reconsider how our nation's cities and states allocate budgets toward the police department. Research has shown that policing does not actually improve the safety and wellbeing of residents whether in suburban, urban, or 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 was shocked to see \$50.3 million allocated to funding the San Mateo police department. This represents 26% of the budget and an increase, in dollars and percent, over last year's budget. With looming budget deficits as a result of COVID-19, I can't accept the prioritization of an increased police department budget over essential community resources in this next year. I join many other citizens of San Mateo, to 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.

I was at the recent Black Lives Matter protest and saw for myself the show of force by the Sheriff's office in coordination with the San Mateo Police Department. Much of the outrage was directed at the Sheriff's Office however no one denied that this was Standard Operating Procedure for the SMPD to call in the Sheriff's Riot Squad. This is just one example of how police are trained to resort to a show of force to address challenging situations. I feel we are beyond the point of only seeking reform and need a hard look at how funds allocated to law enforcement could be better used in service to the people of San Mateo.

I am urging you to revisit and revise the San Mateo city budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. I recognize that this is a big undertaking, but we can't miss this opportunity for real solutions to community issues that do not belong in the purview of the police. We need to have this conversation.

Thank you,

Debra Kattler

From: Joyce Keil < >

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:17 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: budgeting for police and services

Dear council,

I would like to see police jobs limited to policing and a larger portion of budget for social services and emergency responders. In addition, I would like to be sure San Mateo is teaching a strong deescalation practice to police and that the teaching be done frequently.

Thank you

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Joyce Keil

From: The Fresh Avocado <

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:39 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 SMPD

Hello,

My name is Sasha Lagocki 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,

Sasha Lagocki

From: Carina Lo < >

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:40 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 Carina Lo 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,
Carina Lo

Dear San Mateo City Council Members,

I understand you are getting a range of comments about budgeted expenditures for police activities within the City of San Mateo. I'd therefore like to focus my request on the **revenue** side of the ledger.

According to Page 45 of the proposed 2020-21 budget:

- For fiscal year 2020-21, there is \$2,830,000 in forecasted revenue against the category "Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties"
- For fiscal year 2021-22, there is \$2,415,000 forecasted in that same category.

My request is this: **zero out any forecasted revenue in the City Budget that could result from any police activities.**

Remove those figure completely. After that, amend Article V of the City Charter to expressly forbid the City of San Mateo from forecasting revenue generation based on future punitive actions against the residents and citizens of the City of San Mateo for offenses that haven't even been committed. Any such revenue can be treated as general fund surplus as it comes in, and — rather than being concerned about category-level budget shortfalls — we can celebrate police collecting no revenue as a sign of community health because no one committed acts worth punishing.

When we discuss systemic issues in policing, we must recognize that we as a city place an unjust burden on the critical relationship between civilians and the police force charged with protecting them when we place *any* expectation of revenue collection on police forces. An institutional process that even hints at an expectation of law enforcement agencies collect revenue creates a destructive incentive for those agencies to require their officers to go find people doing punishable things (and to look aggressively if forecasts are behinds). This jeopardizes the essential trust between a community and those to whom we as citizens & taxpayers charge with the maintenance of community peace.

In the wake of the economic collapse related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be tempting to seek other ways to generate revenue to offset painful program cuts. Revenue from police activities must absolutely and unconditionally be removed from the zone of temptation, lest the cost be born by erosion of civic trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ian McCullough
Zip Code: 94403

From: Ashley Pérez <>

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:45 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 Ashley Pérez, 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. 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.

Adding an [Accountability page](#) and hosting town halls are simply not enough. Policing is an institution with historical roots in surveilling and criminalizing Black and brown people in the U.S. simply for being, which continues to this day, including in San Mateo. In order to truly "protect" our local community, you need to invest in their health and well-being by reducing the police budget and instead investing this money in social services. In order to meet the needs of and make San Mateo a stronger community, I urge you to implement actual change, such as removing police officers from all local schools and completely revising the city budget.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Pérez

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Ashley Pérez, ScM

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

University of California, San Francisco



June 15, 2020

Subject: Please Schedule Public Study Sessions on the Police Budget and the Vision of Policing in San Mateo

Dear Mayor Goethals, Deputy Mayor Rodriguez, and Councilmembers Bonilla, Lee, and Papan,

As all of us are aware, our nation is going through a serious reevaluation of our society's relationship with policing and especially how that relationship impacts communities of color and in particular black Americans, who are disproportionately likely to be killed by police. The public debate over the police response to the June 3rd protest that Coalition Z organized in San Mateo underscores how relevant these issues are locally.

Peninsula Family Service strengthens our community by providing children, families, and older adults the support and tools to realize their full potential and lead healthy, stable lives. We serve over 700 children, families and older adults in the City of San Mateo.

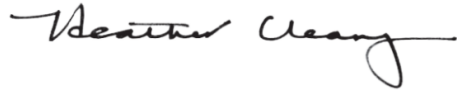
We understand that San Mateo's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operating and Capital Budgets are up for a discussion and a vote at this Monday's City Council meeting and that the San Mateo Police Department has scheduled a second "Virtual Town Hall" for Wednesday afternoon. However, given the intense interest in police budgets and the broader vision of policing in our communities, including the [8 Can't Wait use of force policies](#). It is essential that these two topics be given much more extensive evaluation, along with extended opportunities for community input. It's difficult for the public to engage meaningfully with a citywide budget that is fully or nearly fully complete, and one-hour Zoom town halls can't possibly allow all citizens who wish to provide input to do so.

I urge you at this Monday's Council meeting to schedule at least one but hopefully two study sessions on these topics. Citizens deserve to understand in a very detailed way how dollars are spent on public safety and have the opportunity to ask extensive questions of police leadership, and it's essential that community members who would like to see a different vision of policing be able to express their views to the Council.

Given the difficulty of coordinating the schedules of five councilmembers and the urgency that many in the public feel, perhaps a subcommittee of the Council could work on the content and scheduling of these sessions, so they can happen as soon as possible.

Thank you for your work on these issues, and I look forward to being able to engage more deeply on what an inclusive vision of public safety in San Mateo looks like.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather Cleary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Heather Cleary
CEO
Peninsula Family Service
24 Second Avenue, San Mateo

Subject: Please Schedule Public Study Sessions on the Police Budget and the Vision of Policing in San Mateo

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Thank you for your work on these issues, and I look forward to being able to engage more deeply on what an inclusive vision of public safety in San Mateo looks like.

Best regards,

Heather

Heather Cleary

CEO

Peninsula Family Service

24 Second Avenue

San Mateo, CA, 94401

650.403.4300 Ext. 4418

www.peninsulafamilyservice.org

Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers

Joan Diskin

From: Chris Snook <chris.snook@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Please remove budget from the consent agenda

Clerk -

There are a lot of people who would like to comment on the proposed budget and ask for modifications prior to final adoption. Please remove it from the consent agenda so that the public has the opportunity to comment at tomorrow's meeting.

- Chris

From: Chris Snook <>

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 4:25 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: 2020-2021 proposed police budget

Council -

I am disturbed to see that the 2020-2021 proposed budget includes police funding (\$50.2 million) that represents a 67% increase over 2013-2014 actual expenditures (\$29,955,263). While it's great that some of that went to de-escalation training, nothing in my experience as a resident supports an increase in policing overall.

With renewed attention on police violence, it may be tempting to spend more on training to get better police, but research has shown that the impact of that kind of reform is marginal at best. We need to transform emergency response, not reform it. Instead of giving police a bit of social worker training, we should dispatch experts in the appropriate fields for calls that don't require an armed response, which is the vast majority of them.

That transformation needs funding far more than the police department does. If they want more de-escalation training, they can pay for it by eliminating the unnecessary activities league and reducing field operations where the mere arrival of police is an unnecessary escalation no matter how well behaved they are.

- Chris

To City Clerk:

Subject: Please Schedule Public Study Sessions on the Police Budget and the Vision of Policing in San Mateo

Dear Mayor Goethals, Deputy Mayor Rodriguez, and Councilmembers Bonilla, Lee, and Papan,

As all of us are aware, our nation is going through a serious reevaluation of our society's relationship with policing and especially how that relationship impacts communities of color and in particular black Americans, who are disproportionately likely to be killed by police. The public debate over the police response to the June 3rd protest that Coalition Z organized in San Mateo underscores how relevant these issues are locally.

I understand that San Mateo's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operating and Capital Budgets are up for a discussion and a vote at this Monday's City Council meeting and that the San Mateo Police Department has scheduled a second "Virtual Town Hall" for Wednesday afternoon. However, given the intense interest in police budgets and the broader vision of policing in our communities, including the [8 Can't Wait use of force policies](#), I think it is essential that these two topics be given much more extensive evaluation, along with extended opportunities for community input. It's difficult for the public to engage meaningfully with a citywide budget that is fully or nearly fully complete, and one-hour Zoom town halls can't possibly allow all citizens who wish to provide input to do so.

***I urge you at this Monday's Council meeting to schedule at least one but hopefully two study sessions on these topics.** Citizens deserve to understand in a very detailed way how dollars are spent on public safety and have the opportunity to ask extensive questions of police leadership, and it's essential that community members who would like to see a different vision of policing be able to express their views to the Council.*

Given the difficulty of coordinating the schedules of five councilmembers and the urgency that many in the public feel, perhaps a subcommittee of the Council could work on the content and scheduling of these sessions, so they can happen as soon as possible.

Thank you for your work on these issues, and I look forward to being able to engage more deeply on what an inclusive vision of public safety in San Mateo looks like.

Sincerely,

Susan Veneziano

San Mateo resident

--

Susan Strong Design

aka Susan Strong Veneziano

From: Eugene Wang < >

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:49 AM

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 Eugene Wang 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,

Eugene Wang