

From: [Trish Spencer](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: Fwd: Regarding the Big White "lead abatement budget item 3-C"
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 5:35:41 PM

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From: Shelby S <sheehan.shelby@gmail.com>
Date: Jun 20, 2023 12:50 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding the Big White "lead abatement budget item 3-C"
To: Trish Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Ott <jott@alamedaca.gov>, Henry Dong <HDong@alamedaca.gov>, Andrew Thomas <athomas@alamedaca.gov>

Councilmember Spencer,

This comment is regarding Item 3-C budget for lead paint removal and repair work in the Big Whites. I am thrilled to finally see the City's public acknowledgement of the poor condition of the Big Whites after so many years of residents' complaints of substandard housing.

However, please note that this project is long overdue. Further, as is tradition, it only partially addresses the numerous ongoing and overdue significant repair and maintenance needs in the Big Whites.

Recall the Reuse Department asked for this funding in May 2019, but City Council "parked" it, with no regard to the lead hazards and the health of renters when they decided to delay the Big Whites painting. They sure kept taking that rent money though!

Additionally, Mayor Ashcraft showed she also had no regard for the Historic value of this District when she bemoaned the fact that the City can't just tear them down at will to put up high density housing in their place. I believe she called them a "Waste".

I would also like to remind you that these homes are **REVENUE-PRODUCING**, and the City made a profit of (that's right, I said profit--after expenses) of **\$2.3 million** off the residential properties at Alameda Point just in 2021 alone.

That profit money should rightly be going back into proper repair and maintenance of the residences. Instead it is essentially stolen to fund other projects, while the renters continue to suffer from dilapidated and hazardous conditions.

The Code Enforcement Department wont even record--much less inspect-- code complaints from residents. The City Manager and City Attorney's office also similarly ignore code complaints, leaving renters with no options.

Heres a good example of that: in a 2020 email between John Le and Nanette Mocanu, he said he's not too worried about lead hazard complaints because he knows that "...EPA has been lax in enforcing lead abatement rules for awhile now."

---You can look it up, it's all public record.

Now---let's relate all this back to the Big Whites painting project in the current budget and how it's going so far:

Well, in keeping with the City's given the City's long-standing and continuing practice of

deferred repairs and improper maintenance, you should know that exactly **zero** work completed so far is compliant with the relevant regulations---The City and the hired vendors are cutting corners, using improper techniques, and failing to submit required reporting documents among other things.

For example, wood rot is still in place (it should be removed and replaced prior to control work), some houses just have spot-primer on them and were never finished (and are now dripping lead primer and flaking paint worse than before), and workers painted over the copper gutters (ruining a historic architectural feature).

Oh, there's more, that's just a taste of the various wrongdoings, by the way. And that doesn't count the other maintenance needed.

Most egregious part of it all is that there is no objective or outside oversight because the City is the landlord, the County has no jurisdiction, and the work is going completely unreported to the required state and federal agencies.

How's that for being a "Good landlord"?

The City has been neglecting its responsibilities here since they took over the Base, and my hope is that--very soon--the City holds itself at least to the legal standards it holds to all other landlords in Alameda.

My biggest hope is that the City returns the rent revenues that have been used elsewhere in the form of repairing and maintaining **all** the homes here to the proper standard, and then ultimately protects and preserves the Historic neighborhood in "good condition" as required by the Navy EDC.

The money is there, now we just need the City's will to do it.

Please follow up on this important matter.

Thank you,

Shelby Sheehan

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Shelby
510-435-9263

From: [Transform Alameda](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tracy Jensen](#); [Malia Vella](#)
Cc: [jackie.zipkin@gmail.com](#); [City Clerk](#); [jrakowski@gmail.com](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Budget
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:30:38 AM
Attachments: [TA FY23-25 Budget Letter June 2023.pdf](#)

Madame Mayor and Council Members,

Attached please find comments from Transform Alameda on the City's proposed FY 23-25 Operating Budget under Item 3-C on tonight's City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration.

TRANSFORM ALAMEDA

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Re: June 20, 2023 City Council Meeting, Item 3-C

Dear City Council Members,

[Transform Alameda](#) is a collective of Alamedans working together to pursue racial justice in Alameda through education, policy, and action. We found one another online in 2020, and since then we have taken up a variety of projects and campaigns to focus Alameda on racial justice and community care. As we've commented previously in this budget review process, Transform Alameda believes that municipal budgets are not only policy documents, but moral documents that express a community's values. In support of this framework, we conducted the [Alameda Community Budget Survey](#) at the end of 2022.

When asked what makes up their ideal community, survey takers identified these five components as most important:

- Infrastructure (maintaining roads, bike lanes, beaches, sidewalks; climate resiliency; public landscaping)
- Parks and recreation (community events and spaces)
- Alternatives to police response (programs like CARE Team or non-police traffic enforcement)
- Housing security and affordability
- Health Services (mental healthcare, access to healthcare, and support for vulnerable individuals)

These priorities are further contextualized through the lives of three Alamedans, and we encourage you to read their stories on our [website](#). For example, Jayden, a young man from Alameda Point says, "I would like to see the base provide for the people, not just for temporary moments. If the base was to hire maybe five counselors. Every day, they meet with at least three kids, 45 to 50 kids each week, just someone there knowing that they care about you."

Transform Alameda supports the priorities identified by staff that have been incorporated into this budget in response to Council feedback:

- House all Alamedans/Expand Housing and Human Services
- Build Resilience to Climate Change and Water Level Rise
- Enhance Community and Safety Services
- Invest in Transportation and Infrastructure
- Practice Fiscally Responsible and Inclusive Governance

These priorities largely align with those highlighted by our survey. However, one key distinction is that when residents think of community safety, they don't universally think of police. In more than 400 qualitative, open-ended answers, respondents to the Alameda Community Budget survey expressed interest in directing public money towards meeting the community's basic needs rather than funding expanded police presence and tools. Respondents identified safety as a priority but did not necessarily equate a sense of safety with the police.

Transform Alameda commends staff for putting forward a budget that invests in housing, sustainability and climate resiliency, transportation, and infrastructure. We support the establishment of a Housing and Human Services Division, as well as continued funding of the CARE Team, which we are pleased to see moving from a pilot phase to a more sustainable core service. However, we believe that even more investments are needed in these areas.

Until our community's basic needs are met, it is irresponsible for the City to spend \$34 million, or 22.8% of the General Fund, on police. We note that this proposed budget includes over \$6M for police administration alone. In contrast, only \$2.8M is allocated to housing and homelessness. This doesn't seem well aligned with the Council's stated priorities.

Transform Alameda supports a care-first budget, and specifically requests the following:

- Streamline police administration and support services to free up funds that can be invested in meeting community needs.
- Reduce the number of funded police positions. One stated goal of the CARE Team is to reduce the reliance on APD for responding to mental health calls. If work is removed from their scope, they should not need the same number of positions.
- Provide funding for continuation and expansion of Alameda's Guaranteed Basic Income program, [Rise Up Alameda](#).

If we want Alameda to be a City that values compassion and care, that supports residents in ways that promote community health and safety, we need to allocate our residents' tax dollars accordingly. Please consider looking critically at the police budget and reallocating to services that prevent crimes rather than respond to them.

Sincerely,
Transform Alameda