

From: [Ezra Denney](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Tony Daysog](#); [Jim Oddie](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Regarding Resolution
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:01:23 PM

Good Afternoon,

I write today to express my support of the resolution to declare racism a public health emergency.

We have an opportunity to redirect funding away from our Police, who, according to the District Attorney, are not properly trained in "detentions and consensual contacts" towards community serving programs (perhaps like the CAHOOTS program highlighted in one of the Mayor's Town Halls).

Our police department has a long history of disproportionately targeting Black drivers with traffic stops. The statistics are clear. They have told us time and again that they would do better, and they have done worse. So, it's time to change what we are doing, and prove that 'Everyone Belongs Here' by investing in services for our people, not armored vehicles and SWAT teams.

Thanks,

Ezra Denney

From: [Kelley Cope](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Jim Oddie](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Declaring Racism As A Public Emergency
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:27:14 PM

Hello Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council members,

I'm glad to see that we are talking about issues of racial inequality and how these affect the health of marginalized communities. I hope the City Council, City Staff and community can continue to work to create policies and programs that truly support our community members of color. Black and other people of color in our community need to feel and be safe here.

However, I ask that you do not pass the Declaring Racism as A Public Emergency Resolution in its current form. While I agree with many of the values in this resolution, I'm concerned that we are going to further demoralize the police department members who are already striving to promote responsible and positive policing efforts. It seems that the national and local rhetoric is putting people on the defensive and pitting us against one another instead of constructively looking to reform the department and improving its relations with marginalized communities.

My experience with the Alameda Police Department has been very positive overall. In my work as a medical social worker at Alameda Hospital several years ago, I was surprised how responsive and collaborative Chief Rolleri and Officer Ledbetter were to the challenges we were having transferring patients who were at risk to self or others to appropriate psychiatric treatment after their medical treatment was complete. I say that I was surprised because I've not had the same experience with other surrounding cities' police departments that I've worked with.

My other interactions with the police department have been around a community effort for gun violence and suicide prevention. Chief Rolleri and other police department staff have been extremely generous with their time, very receptive and action-oriented on working to reduce such incidents in our community. These experiences I've had with APD reflect the same values that have been embraced by this resolution.

I think we need to focus on recruiting, training and retaining responsible law enforcement professionals and remove those who are not maintaining these standards. While we as a community are making changes to our police department, we need to be careful to avoid mischaracterizing the whole department and its leadership as untrustworthy and further discrediting the women and men who are serving our community honorably. Otherwise, how are we to retain the mature and trustworthy law enforcement professionals we already have?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelley Cope

From: [Philip James](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for item 5-A on the 2020-07-28 City Council Agenda
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:50:38 PM

Hello. My name is Philip James and I am writing to express my support for Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency.

I have no detail to add to my support that has not already been said far better by the BIPOC residents of Alameda who have written in and spoken up. I encourage my fellow Alamedans to listen the voices of our BIPOC neighbors, and I applaud the City Council for raising this issue. I urge the City Council to approve this Resolution.

Thank you,
Philip James
2125 Otis Dr, Alameda, CA

PJJ
<http://philipjohnjames.com>

Lara Weisiger

From: Lila Marshall <lilarhay1@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 6:12 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal for Adoption of Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

Dear City Council members and Madam Mayor,

I am in full **disagreement** of adopting this short-sighted, emotional reaction you are calling a resolution to declare racism a public health emergency.

Our police department and fire fighters are the only city-provided sources of protection to the citizens of Alameda. And we, the citizens are paying for it. If you “reallocate” any portion of the police department budget away from them you will leave us vulnerable to surrounding, dangerous cities to come here & replicate the sort of violence the country is experiencing at the hands of violent anarchists. I do NOT support this proposed resolution.

Our police are citizens with families and personal lives just like all of us. They deserve protection too. They risk their lives for us. Their spouses and children risk losing their husbands and fathers for us. If there are individual officers in our force that have made errors of judgement, that should be handled internally by that officers’ superiors, as well as the courts as necessary. You criminalizing an entire force because of a one or two possible bad apples? Nonsense! Dangerous!

What makes you, collectively, an authority on determining how to handle the psychology of an entire city?

I have been a resident of Alameda since 1993, and I DO NOT APPROVE this proposed resolution.

Sincerely,
Lila Marshall

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Lara Weisiger

From: Tricia Parrish <tpk501@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Defunding police

Hi Lara,

Thanks for replying to my email and sending that information.
Yes, please add my email to the written record.

Thank you,
Tricia

On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 3:11 PM Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hi Tricia,

A report went to Council last night about Police reform it is available here:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4592208&GUID=D3D35883-17AD-4994-A54B-7B1952D4EB13&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>

In addition, Council considered a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency on July 14th. The issue has ended up being continued to next Tuesday, July 28th at 5 pm. The agenda is available here:

https://legistar1.granicus.com/alameda/meetings/2020/7/5232_A_City_Council_20-07-28_Meeting_Agenda.pdf

Although oral public comment ended at the July 14th meeting, please let me know if you would like your email added to the written record for the July 28th meeting.

Thanks,

Lara

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

City of Alameda

From: Tricia Parrish [mailto:tpk501@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:53 PM

To: City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defunding police

Hello,

My name is Tricia Parrish and I am a resident of Alameda.

I'm requesting that you de-fund the police and shift resources to health-care, education and living wage jobs, this is truly safety for all. Services specifically need to be directed to black communities that have been underfunded.

I'm also asking that you reduce the role of police in responding to non-criminal issues. Mental health workers are better equipped to deal with mental health and domestic issues. We don't need

armed police to deal with these situations.

Thank you for your work.

Warmly,

Tricia

Lara Weisiger

From: Cheri Johansen <cherijjohansen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Cc: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; John Knox White; Toni Grimm
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Council & Alameda Justice Alliance positions
Attachments: We sent you safe versions of your files; Aja statement -- version 2 ,A26.pdf; Resolution.pdf; Aja Letter Police and Watkins.pdf

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Dear City Clerk, Madam Mayor, Council, and staff.

Regarding: Alameda Justice Alliance position on issues before Council on July 21, 2020

The agenda for tonight's City Council is exceedingly lengthy. In the interest of not adding undo time to the evening, the Alameda Justice Alliance would like to have our previous statements on some of the agenda items included into the record.

Items 2A and 5A on police reform and 2d repeal of A26

for 2A the AJA letter regarding Mr. Watkins and the Resolution on Chief Rolleri

for 5A the AJA statement in support of the resolution read into record by Julie Casey

for item 2D, support for the total repeal as included in the Alameda Justice Alliance. Statement

AJA also supports the renaming of Jackson Park. [2B]

The items do not need to be read in public comment, but we would like to include the Alameda Justice Alliance position in the record and packets.

Please let me know if this is not possible.

The Alameda Justice Alliance represents Alameda organizations of faith, labor and activism <https://www.alamedajustice.org/>

Thanks you so much,

Cheri Johansen

Healthcare is a Human Right,

City of Alameda Democratic Club, V. P. Programs
Alameda County Central Committee, Executive Board
Alameda Progressives, Steering Committee
Alameda Justice Alliance Council
Alameda for Bernie Sanders, Volunteer Coordinator

420 Central, Alameda, Ca 94501

4120 Masterson, Oakland 94619
505.930.1946

To: Alameda City Manager, Eric Levitt

Honorable Mayor Ashcraft

Alameda City Councilmembers: Tony Daysog, Malia Vella, John Knox White and Jim Oddie

June 17, 2020

Submitted by email

Resolution to release Paul Rolleri from Alameda Police Chief

Whereas Chief Paul Rolleri has repeatedly responded to the arrest of Mr. Watkins in a cavalier and defensive manner, and;

Whereas the arrest of Mr. Watkins is only one of many examples where he has failed the Alameda Police Department by being demeaning and racially profiling people of color in Alameda, and;

Whereas his lack of leadership does not allow his officers to engage with the Alameda residents except in a militaristic, authoritative manner, and;

Whereas the residents of Alameda do not feel real and substantive change in the Alameda Police Department towards accountability and transparency possible under the leadership of Chief Rolleri, clearly demonstrated by his denial of access to information requested by the Good Governance Committee, and;

Whereas Chief Rolleri did not consult the City Manager in advance concerning the revision of the Police Department handbook or policies, and;

Whereas Chief Rolleri did not consult the City Manager, Mayor, or Council as to what types of calls for service the Police Department would respond to or the restructuring of the Department which demonstrates his lack of accountability to the elected and appointed officials, and the community to which they serve.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alameda Justice Alliance seeks to ensure that all people are not only welcome, but respected, regardless of race in the City of Alameda, and the Alameda Justice Alliance hereby requests the City Manager, Mayor, and Council to immediately release Chief Paul Rolleri from his duties as police chief and replace him as soon as possible.

Respectfully.

Alameda Justice Alliance

Lara Weisiger

From: Rhea Boyd <rheaboydmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:59 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For the 7/21 Meeting on Racism Public Health Emergency

Hi,

I am unable to attend the upcoming hearing but would like to submit this statement in my absence.

I am a pediatrician and a member of the regional board of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which includes Alameda. I also write and speak nationally on the adverse ways racism impacts health.

I want to email in support of the resolution before the council and ask that it be passed without amendment. Racism is a Public Health Emergency, and it requires immediate action, by the council, to designate funding to address it. This includes shifting funding to address the harmful effects of police violence on the members of Alameda's communities. Police violence impacts the health of direct victims by increasing their risks for injury, disability, death, mental health impairments and the poor health outcomes that accompany arrest and incarceration. But police violence also impacts witnesses. People who live in communities with police violence have increased risk for chronic illness like hypertension and obesity and mental health impairments like depression and PTSD. Children who witness police violence have increased risk of poor school performance as well.

Defunding the Alameda police and funding community-based services that address the public health impacts of racism are critical. I urge the council to pass this necessary resolution with amendment.

Best,
Rhea Boyd MD, MPH

Lara Weisiger

From: Jeffrey Lewis <jeffreylewis@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on items for 7/20/20 City Council meeting

Elected Officials of the City of Alameda,

I am a resident of the West End of Alameda. As one of your constituents, I wish to express my opinions about the following items that you will be voting on tomorrow evening,

2020-8182 Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency: I support this item. I strongly support diversion of funding out of the police department and the replacement of police with staff who have more appropriate training and attitude for the majority of incidents that the police are currently called for. In general, police don't understand much other than brute violence, which is rarely the appropriate course of action. Rerouting 42% of the current funding for the police department into actions that benefit our community is a good start. This is especially important as we go through the Covid-19 crisis and prepare for potential budget losses; it is good to use this moment as an opportunity to improve rather than just something to survive. I support establishing a community review process for all police physical contact with the populace and random reviews of body camera footage. I also support the creation of anti-racism programs for city staff and for contractors and vendors as a step toward building a better community.

While I know that it may take some time to make sure these changes are being done in a way that is most beneficial to our community, I would hope to see these changes enacted in a timely manner.

While training for police is often discussed and is a worthwhile goal, training is only helpful if the people being trained want to be part of the change. Unfortunately, explicit racism is rampant among police throughout the nation. As we reduce the size of the police force, I would like to see the reductions come from dismissal of officers who have engaged in violent and/or racist behavior or who are known to harbor violent and/or racist ideologies or attitudes.

2020-8183 Denaming Jackson Park I hope that there is little opposition to this. Andrew Jackson was one of the most monstrous figures in American history. It is an embarrassment to our community to have a park named after him. A city park should be a welcoming place for all, making it particularly egregious that we have a park named for someone whose life was devoted to slavery and genocide. There are many other people, natural features, animals, or plants that it would be an honor to have a park named after.

2020-8189 Election Regarding Elimination of Prohibition on Multi-Family Housing I support placing the elimination of our current prohibition on multi-family housing on the November ballot. We are in a dense urban area and construction of multi-family housing in core urban areas is going to be essential to efforts to reduce climate change. As an island city, it is of course going to be important to time development of our transportation infrastructure to keep up with increased density and it will be important to ensure that housing which is constructed is available to working class people, but these are challenges that we can meet.

Thank you very much.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Lara Weisiger

From: Ashley Gregory <gregorya4@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 8:16 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support

Good evening Council members,

I am writing in support of the resolution declaring racism a public health emergency as well as in favor of allowing multi-family housing in Alameda.

As a mental health practitioner working with young people involved in the foster care system, I hear story after story of the ways in which racism limits life choices, causes physical pain and disrupts relationships. Making this declaration is a tool to wield in the face of hundreds of years of violence. It is a necessary step in creating a vibrant and flourishing world for everyone. Similarly, permitting multi-family housing in our city is one part of striving towards a more just world for all.

With appreciation,

Ashley Gregory
West End Resident

July 17, 2020

To: Mayor Marilyn Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council
From: Don and Margie Sherratt, retired educators and Alameda residents

Thanks for taking more time to discuss the resolution of declaring racism a public health emergency and a crisis. We continue to be both sad and angry to see this resolution on the fast track, without much data being collected, broad community input and without analyzing the language of the resolution.

Racism, discrimination and injustice prevail throughout our State, Country and the World. We, as citizens in Alameda, need to address this dilemma, but in a way that is inclusive and allows all people to be heard. I believe it takes time and lots of open discussion. Zooming on a City Council meeting for a two minute time frame does not give for a viable dialogue. For example, cutting the Alameda Police Department budget up to 42% cannot be done without thorough planning and justification. We believe it could cause a safety issue in our town.

Quite a few years ago in the late 1990's, the Alameda Unified School District and Board of Education addressed racism and discrimination issues in our schools and community. "Team Diversity" was established by then Superintendent Dennis Chaconas and under the leadership of Reverend Michael Yoshi, current Board of Education member, Ardella Dailey, and educators Niel Tam, Carole Robie, Jane Lee, Debbie Bradshaw, myself and others. AUSD continues today to use and build upon the tenets and values of this program within our schools. This is what life is, never perfect but a process of continual dialogue to resolve our issues and combat injustice. Perhaps the basics and process of Team Diversity should again be brought forward to the citizens of Alameda.

I challenge the Mayor and City Council members to look to building the City of Alameda up, to look forward to positive gains, to have continual dialogue with people of all ages, and to take time with this resolution to do it right. Let's not just get it done, let's build together a resolution that recognizes, values and embraces the needs of all in our community.

Lara Weisiger

From: +15103353589@textmagic.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:34 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SMS from +15103353589

My wife and I moved to Alameda with our children to escape the crime in Oakland, San Francisco and other places here in the Bay Area. We love that the police in Alameda have made that possible and want to see them get more support and funding, not less. We know we won't ever have to wait on hold for 911 like we did in Oakland. We know that the routine speed traps mean our children are safer on their way to school and around town. We appreciate that when we do call, we always get a response from an officer who has followed up on our call unlike in other communities where you never know if anyone ever even got dispatched. If anything, we want to see more budget given to APD to continue the fine work they are doing. We feel this budget could make our community even safer by making Alameda a more difficult target for the gangs and individuals that are perpetrating the rampant catalytic converter theft, package theft, vandalization and graffiti, car theft, shoplifting and even side shows that we see popping up here more and more. We've become so used to the high levels of crime in the communities around us that we forget even the crime we do have in Alameda is unnecessarily high. We were distressed to find upon a recent false alarm at our home, it took almost 25 minutes for them to arrive. In similar sized communities we lived in back east, a 7 minute response was

the average especially on a burglary call. Certainly, we can do better here in Alameda. Criminals seek places to operate where they can do so with the least resistance and risk of apprehension. We don't want to see Alameda become even more of a target than it already is. Every decade or so communities try reducing the police presence and it always ends the same way. Crime skyrockets and then people come back begging for the police. We can be smarter than this and avoid a lot of people getting hurt along the way.

Message from: +15103353589, 14 Jul 2020 17:34

To: **Lara Weisiger** (+15107474802)

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Lara Weisiger

From: Carlos <cwmoreiras@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:34 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting Comment

Dear City Council, Mayor and all others present,

I support the resolution to declare racism a public health emergency. I especially support bullet point 6, in which the council commits to identifying up to 42% of the police budget for reallocation.

The resolution states that "The Alameda City Council commits to identifying up to 42% of the City Police Department budget to reallocate towards programs that... can respond to emergency calls for which the Police are not necessary as identified by Alameda's Chief of Police."

I don't believe that the police department should be the ones deciding which calls they are needed for. I would like to see civilian oversight of the process by which we decide which services to reallocate.

Best,
Carlos Williams-Moreiras

Lara Weisiger

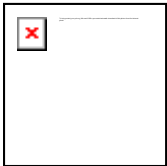
From: Ryan Soule <ryansoulephotography@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:27 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment by Ryan Soule for Special City Council Meeting

Hello,

The following is to be read in regards to discussions that will be taking place at tonight's Special City Council Meeting. Thank you for taking the time to read this. My name is Ryan Soule and I am a lifelong Alameda resident. Like many I have been completely disgusted by the actions of the police across our country and unfortunately also in my hometown. I am writing now to voice my concern over the huge portion of Alameda's budget that is spent on the Police Department. It is absolutely absurd that so much is spent on the Police and so little is spent on our education, our libraries and our parks. We absolutely need to follow other cities and start abolishing our police department that is so deeply rooted in racism. And we need to start putting more funds into services and agencies that actually help. Let's make Alameda safe for all residents. Black and brown lives will always matter on this island and will always matter worldwide. DEFUND ALAMEDA POLICE.

Thank you.

--



Ryan Soule
Owner, Ryan Soule Photography
510-821-2467 | ryansoulephotography@gmail.com
www.ryansoulephotography.com
1419 Grand St. Alameda CA 94501



Lara Weisiger

From: Chung, Eleanor <Eleanor.Chung@ucsf.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:26 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 7/14/20 Resolution -- comment

Hello,

I am a pediatrician at UCSF/SF General Hospital and an Alameda resident. I strongly support the resolution to declare racism a public health emergency in Alameda (and in all states), because structural racism has long infected our most vulnerable populations, now with even more more blatant inequalities exposed through COVID19. Childhood and intergenerational trauma can cause serious, irreversible neurobiological damage to our youth, who then go on to develop chronic heart and lung disease, hypertension, and other high-risk medical conditions in adulthood. I support redirecting these funds to initiatives designed to support community health and wellness.

Specifically, I strongly support re-designing how we promote and protect community wellness, by translocating 50-70% of police department funding into specialized mental health workers and resources, promotion of civic engagement, and investment in equitable housing and education initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Eleanor

Eleanor Chung, MD
UCSF Department of Pediatrics
Associate Medical Director of Specialty Care, Children's Health Center
San Francisco General Hospital
Ph. (628) 206-5676
Fax (628) 206-7506

Dear [The Other America: Letters for Black Lives](#) (in 30+ languages)
[ACLU "Know Your Rights" graphics and videos \(in 10 languages\)](#)
[Creating sanctuary spaces: toolkits & resources](#) (Everyone Belongs Here)

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Lara Weisiger

From: Henry Bowles <hmbowles@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:17 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Resolution

Regarding the proposed Resolution "Declaring Racism a Public health Emergency"

The first WHEREAS is obviously false. Of course there is a biological basis for race. How could it possibly be a "social construct" when the differences between races are obviously based in biology. The point should be that biological differences should not matter. But why start with a false statement except as a kind of test for what we are required to pretend to believe to avoid group displeasure.

The sixth WHEREAS regarding Black people being "disproportionately impacted by the policing and the criminal justice system" is again misleading. Black people commit a disproportionate percent of crimes in comparison to their population but not because of police policy. Although I am not discounting that this is also caused by racist police as well. This problem can be solved by helping Black people get a fair shake in the economy and in the educational system. And by Black people changing their own behavior.

Brutal officers must be punished and many need more training. But can anyone imagine the how difficult it might be right now to hire police trainees.

Focusing on the police is simply a way of not having to deal with the real issues. Actually helping Black people move forward might do more than firing the police department.

While I can get behind some of the ideas in the proposed resolution most of it is misguided and false.
Henry Bowles

Lara Weisiger

From: Gottlieb, Laura <Laura.Gottlieb@ucsf.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:50 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's meeting

I am writing in support of declaring racism a public health emergency. As a physician researcher at UCSF with a practice at the county hospital, I have both studied the science on race and health and seen first hand how racism is embedded in our institutions, creating and maintaining health inequities. Now is the time to mobilize our community to examine and overturn the policies and programs that sustain and teach racism. Alameda has an opportunity to be a true role model for cities and counties across the nation. I look forward to seeing us confront this emergency and learn to overcome it together.

Laura Gottlieb, MD, MPH
Professor, UCSF School of Medicine

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: Defunding Alameda Police - VOTE NO

Just came through...

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: Brock de Lappe [mailto:bdelappe@oaklandmarinas.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; John Knox White
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defunding Alameda Police - VOTE NO

Please vote **"NO"** resolution to defund the Alameda Police Department.

I have lived in Alameda since 1989 and I tremendously value the service provided by our local police department.

Redirecting 42% of their budget would be absolute insanity.

This is way too important a decision to be made with full involvement all of the residents of Alameda, rather than a small but vocal subset.

Your action on this matter will have consequences at the polls.

Thank You,

Brock de Lappe
3272 Liberty Avenue
Alameda, California 94501
bdelappe@alamedamarina.com
(510) 384-1083 cell

Brock de Lappe | Oakland Marinas
Harbor Master / Marina Manager
1853 Embarcadero, Suite 2A Oakland, CA 94606
510.834.4591 Office 510.384.1083 Cell
bdelappe@oaklandmarinas.com
www.oaklandmarinas.com



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Lara Weisiger

From: Manager Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department

Hi Lara,
Please see attached letter. Thanks.
Michelle

From: Eric Levitt
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: RE: A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department

That works.

From: Manager Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Eric Levitt <elevitt@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department
Importance: High

Hi Eric,
Looks like she sent it already to all of council. I could forward to Lara if you want.
Michelle

From: Sue Roderick [<mailto:rodsroost@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department
Importance: High

City Manager Eric Levitt
City of Alameda

Please see that the Alameda **City Council members receive this email** as it relates to tonight's agenda. Thank you so much.

From: Sue Roderick <rodsroost@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:46 AM
To: 'tdaysog@alamedaca.gov' <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; 'joddie@alamedaca.gov' <joddie@alamedaca.gov>; 'messyashcraft@alamedaca.gov' <messyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; 'jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov' <jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov>; 'mvella@alamedaca.gov' <mvella@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department

John and Marilyn Sue Roderick

3206 Fir Avenue, Alameda, CA 94502

510-521-6754 (telephone)

510-517-4727 (cell)

510-205-1908 (cell)

rodsroost@comcast.net

rodsroost1@comcast.net

July 13, 2020

Honorable Members of the Alameda City Council

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Vice Mayor John Knox White

Councilmember Tony Daysog

Councilmember Jim Oddie

Councilmember Malia Vella

Re: A Plea to Reconsider 42% budget cut to Police Department

We have been residents of Alameda for over 50 years as well as our parents before us. It has long been a city where we have enjoyed not only the beautiful environment but the lifestyle and the safety net that the Alameda Police Department has always provided for all of us. It has long been the mission and practice of the APD leadership and officers to be there for us.

When we learned of the impending resolution asking for a 42% decrease in the APD budget, we were mortified and actually scared. The department has long been providing needed life health and safety efforts for residents with budgets that have been way below what is needed for our city. They have not been able as it is to hire new officers as the needs of our city continue to drastically expand.

It is truly important for all of us to do what we can to eradicate any racism in our city. That is certainly admirable and long overdue; however, to put our city in constraints as the resolution purports to do with the drastic decrease of 42% in the APD budget is certainly not a way to do it. We implore you to reconsider this action now or at a minimum to place it on the ballot in November for all citizens of Alameda to give you their vote.

Sincerely,

John and Marilyn Roderick



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Lara Weisiger

From: Neil & Forest <bootsdadz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:28 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Racism Is a Public Health Emergency Proposal

Dear City Council of Alameda, California,

We, both long time residents of the city of Alameda, fully support the proposal as written that Racism Is a Public Health Emergency and affirm that this proposal will go a long way in correcting long-standing disparity in equal justice for all and advance much needed soul-searching dialogue in our city, state and country.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Genson & Forest Hartley

Lara Weisiger

From: Emma <e.hochschneider@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:10 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment for Special City Council Meeting 7/14

Dear Alameda City Council,

I am writing to voice my support for the declaration to declare racism a health emergency. I have lived in Alameda almost my entire life and am fully in support of Alameda putting more financial resources toward mental health crisis management, healthcare, unsheltered persons support, better housing opportunities, childcare, education, and away from the police department. I look forward to seeing more specifics on plans to achieve these goals in the near future from the collaboration between City Council and the community.

I appreciated listening to the CAHOOTS presentation from the other week which laid out an inspiring and achievable plan for community care. Obviously, no plan is perfect initially, but I am glad to see Alameda adopting several aspects of the CAHOOTS model, but of course there is always more we can do. Taking 42% of funds from the police department is definitely a place to start, but as the city of Eugene is discovering, the services that CAHOOTS provides are saving the city money and saving lives in a way the police have been unable to do. If Alameda truly wants to support all its residents, this declaration and promised actions are an important place to begin dismantling the systemic biases that disproportionately negatively affect BIPOC in Alameda.

Once again, I support the declaration to declare racism a health emergency and the proposed actions.

Emma Hoch-Schneider

Marie J Femminis
2239 Pacific Avenue #C
Alameda, CA 94501

July 9, 2020

To the Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am writing this letter from my heart. Part of me, because of past experiences, feel that my letter won't be taken into consideration and why should I even bother. And I might get someone who will roll their eyes while reading what I wrote, but you know what, I don't care anymore. I'm tired of not voicing my opinion or defending what I know in my heart to be right. I'm sure our Police Department isn't "perfect" but nothing in life is! But to go backwards instead of forward in trying to correct what is wrong and make it better is so wrong on many levels. I have recently learned that the city I've lived in for almost 49 years is seriously considering cutting our police force budget by 42%: removing the SWAT division, no intention of replacing any of the staff who are or have recently retired and no intention of hiring any new officers to help build our police force. I know that this has primarily become a topic because of two reasons: the death of George Floyd AND the circumstances surrounding Mali Watkins here in Alameda. While I strongly agree that Mr. Floyd's death should not have happened and it appeared excessive force by the policeman that was involved, this man was no saint, of course none of us are. He had a previous record, albeit over ten years ago and it did appear he was living a good/clean life...up until the supposed counterfeit \$20 bill which led to his uncalled for death. I firmly believe that all who have done wrong should be given second chances in life if they are willing to make the change. Being a Christian, it is not my place to judge anyone...of course we have to have law and order and judge and jury here on earth when laws are broken but in the end, there is only one true Judge, God. As for Mali Watkins and his dancing in the street incident, only one time did I hear the real reason he was being detained....it was because he was not obeying the orders of the policemen who responded to the call. ONE TIME!!!! I won't bother to paste all the different news outlets who reported the incident but here is one that you can look up at your leisure should you wish: <https://abc7news.com/dancing-in-the-street-police-alameda-news-ca/6245722/>. In this article, it made NO MENTION of why the officers responded the way they did. They implied he was simply in trouble for dancing in the street. Of course everybody has a fit and right away, the police are the problem, they need to be punished....never mind what the whole story is. Now don't get me wrong, I do know and believe there are bad policemen/women out there. I'm not naïve. Growing up here in Alameda, my boyfriend in high school was Mexican. He drove a '75 Chevy Monte Carlo in very nice condition. We had an officer follow us from the middle of the island to my parent's house on Bay Farm Island accusing us of selling items out of the trunk of his car on Webster Street. We were nowhere near Webster Street! But this incident did not scar me to the point where I think all police are bad because I know there are more good than bad....just like in everything, every nationality, every religion...there's good and bad. I always say God didn't discriminate when he made idiots...they are in everything...we need to quit discriminating against once race or religion because not all are bad. In my heart, all lives matter. I respect everyone unless of course they are disrespecting me then I will not be so nice back to them...but it's not because of their skin color, nationality or creed. If they are an asshole (excuse my language) then damn it I'll be one back. I won't let anyone walk all over me or treat me or my family or friends that way. Because of Floyd's death, this country is now accusing all the police, everywhere, as being the problem and they need to go. Let me rephrase that...certain groups are pushing this agenda. These groups never speak up or defend the innocent cops who get

killed in the line of duty trying to protect the innocent. Two black officers that I remember hearing about dying because of the recent riots, no one was defending their lives! They were black...but wait, because they were cops, they don't count???. Absurd!!! But that's what is being portrayed. I for one want to know that my local police are here for me should I ever need their assistance in my residence or place of business or anywhere in Alameda for that matter.

Defunding our Police is not the answer especially when this city keeps building more damn homes and over populating us (yeah, I'm one of THOSE residents who is not pleased with that direction). We've got four bridges and one tunnel on and off this island and in the COVID free world, it's a nightmare getting on or off of it. When I was a kid it took ten to fifteen minutes to get from Bay Farm to the Navy Base. Now it takes ten to fifteen minutes just to get off Bay Farm Island and over the BFI Bridge! I am also not a fan of the current Park Street lane closures so restaurants can spread out onto the sidewalk/street for more outdoor dining. I get it...they need to make as much money as possible to survive during this crap but that's just an accident waiting to happen with some impaired driver plowing into diners. And what will happen also are the stores that are surrounding them...people won't be able to find parking so they won't bother to patronize them and go somewhere else so that will cause them to close their business permanently. Oh! And don't get me started on these flippin' "safe streets" because if you pay attention to my address on the first page, you'll see I live on one of them. Because of this, more and more people are walking in the streets everywhere and act entitled and oblivious to vehicles! So everything I mentioned just now, minus the patronizing of the non-restaurants on Park Street, has/will/can have an affect with the Police Department. Impaired driver plows into tables...pedestrians being hit by a vehicle because they were walking/running in the street and paid no attention that a car was coming...when the innocent party needs help in a timely fashion, what's going to happen? "Oh sorry, because the city has reduced its police presence, we can't get anyone to you until possibly tomorrow."

I am sending a copy of my letter to the Chief of Police, Paul Rolleri, so that he knows how this Alameda resident feels about him and his brothers and sisters. I hope that he shares my feelings with them too so they all know that they do have supporters/cheerleaders rooting for them...for their job, for their safety. What used to be a safe, small town, almost Mayberry-ish of when I was growing up is sadly no longer that way. I personally know Chief Rolleri's mom and his brother because he was in my class in grammar school for a few years. The Chief himself doesn't know me but that doesn't matter to me. I also know Sgt. Mark Reynolds as his brother was in my class all through grammar and high school. These "connections" I have with these two is the only thing that makes me feel like there is still a little Mayberry left here for me. I don't expect to be a hero and save the world with this letter but I sure do hope you give very serious consideration on this defunding topic and don't listen to the haters who majority believe that APD only did what they did because of dancing in the street. We are innocent until proven guilty but sadly our Officers don't seem to get that treatment.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,



Marie J Femminis

cc: Chief of Police, Paul Rolleri, APD

July 14, 2020

To: The Alameda City Council
From: Robert Farrar, resident, homeowner
Subject: Agenda 5-A 2020-8165

Police are human, they work long hours. They have families and actually have lives outside of work. They are our neighbors. The vast majority of our country's law enforcement heroes honor their uniforms each day by saving countless lives and keeping our neighborhoods free from drugs, theft, and violence.

Yet in recent weeks the men and women in blue have faced attacks from rioters and hostility from leftwing pundits and politicians. Radical Democrats in both congress and city halls across our country have echoed calls to defund or even abolish police forces.

I understand the City Council is looking into defunding or redirecting up to 42% of the Alameda Police Department's budget. Have you looked at the calls for service in the last year with so many positions open and calls not being answered? There seems to be more calls and less response. I have a better idea, why not redirect budgets from other departments, up to 5% each and redirect these monies to the Police Department? With the extra money, the City could fill the police officer vacancies and hire social workers to ride with the police. These social workers could make contact with people and give them advise and information as to where they could go and obtain additional help.

The City Council should go in the right direction. The City Council should obtain cameras and have them placed on each bridge and tunnel. Additional cameras should be placed at large parking lots for the ferry terminals. There should be large signs at all entrances to Alameda

stating the citizens support the police and that any and all laws will be enforced. We need to curtail crime, not give a free pass to criminals to come onto this fine island city and wreak havoc!

In conclusion, I would like a show of hands at the zoom meeting of each City Council member and any other city employees at this meeting, that in the last year, have gone on a ride-along with Alameda Police on a Friday or Saturday night up to 2:00 a.m. when the bars close? I would also like to know if any City Council members have been on a ride-along with Alameda County Social Services to see what they can and can't do?

Lara Weisiger

From: Alex Gabriel-Yingling <a.gabrielyingling@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DEFUND APD

Dear City Council,

I am writing today in support of declaring racism a public health emergency as well as the proposed 42% cut to the City Police Budget.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the inexcusable racial discrepancies in health care in this country. Alameda County is no exception. BIPOC are disproportionately affected by the virus in comparison to their white counterparts; Hispanic/Latinos make up almost half of the 8,000 confirmed cases in the county. Systemic racism exists in our healthcare system, though some do not want to accept what the data shows, and declaring racism a public health emergency is long overdue.

The police system has always been used to oppress BIPOC; since its origins as the Slave Patrol to modern day police brutality. No amount of reform can change a system that has racism burned into its roots thus causing defunding to be the only logical step forward. The responsibilities of the police span far too wide. Officers do not have the proper training to deal with disabled and mental health clients- simply look at the fact that half of those killed by police have a disability. Those with backgrounds lending themselves to be well-suited to handle such emergencies if they arise should be called rather than police. Alamedans worry that defunding the police will result in longer response times and higher crime rates. Police do not make a safe community; education, housing and public health initiatives do. The lack of these programs correlated largely with poverty rates, which then statistically have shown to correlate greatly with crime. Reallocating the funds from the City Police to these areas is crucial to the well-being of our community.

I urge City Council members to support defunding now, rather than later. The problem of systemic racism will not simply go away with time. Let Alameda be the example for other cities in the Bay Area and beyond to follow. We are all morally responsible for becoming more ethical than the society we grew up in and defunding APD is a step in that direction.

Alex Gabriel-Yingling
Alameda Student

Lara Weisiger

From: +15103270487@textmagic.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:18 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SMS from +15103270487

When I first moved to Alameda 13 years ago, to start my business and a family, it was a safe, quiet place. Over the years it's rapidly declined in quality of life. We need more police funding to get it back to the city it used to be, not the crime ridden, homeless haven it's turning into. Only people committing crimes would want less police to stop them. Protect the law abiding citizens by not making the situation worse by defunding.

Message from: +15103270487, 14 Jul 2020 12:17
To: **Lara Weisiger** (+15107474802)

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Lara Weisiger

From: johnsen cyndy <cyndyjohnsen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella
Cc: City Clerk; Manager Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bike Walk Alameda Comments for 7/14 City Council Meeting, Item 5-A

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Councilmembers,

We are writing in favor of those points which pertain to strategies around traffic safety in tonight's agenda Item 5-A, Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency. However, we feel that the resolution needs to be revised to **prioritize the implementation of street infrastructure that, by design, reduces traffic conflicts and injuries**, in many cases preempting the need for enforcement. Resorting to enforcement signals a failure of design, and we believe that addressing the issue at the source is a better strategy, worthy of significantly more investment than we've historically committed. A real focus on preventative solutions will be key to creating streets that are truly safe for everyone in Alameda.

We hope you will work in language that prioritizes and fast-tracks street infrastructure projects that encourage safe behaviors and self-enforce safety, without discretion or bias, and then pass this resolution.

Thank you for your hard work on this,

Bike Walk Alameda Board

July 14, 2020

To: Members of the Alameda City Council:

Re: Issue of Police funding

I am very disappointed in the lack of Council leadership. Under the cover of a pandemic, three members are trying to make substantial changes to the structure of public safety. No

one on the dais has policing expertise and clearly each is way above their pay grade. No one even understands what qualifies as a public health emergency. This is embarrassing and looks more about political ideology than city governance and safety for the community.

Please get back to business. What are you doing to help save our businesses? Who is working thewith County to get the variances our island is entitled to. And on and on. Please, get to work.

Sandy Sullivan

Alameda resident

Lara Weisiger

From: ps4man@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Jim Oddie; 'Tony_Daysog'
Cc: Eric Levitt; Yibin Shen; Lara Weisiger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 5-A Special City Council Meeting of July 14,2020

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers Knox-White, Vella, Oddie and Daysog:

I object to the above captioned Item on both legal and substantive grounds as stated below:

1. Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance Issues: This special meeting was called by a process of attaining a majority vote of Council outside of a public meeting. While I recognize the time issues involved in calling a special meeting on the authority of a majority of Council at a properly noticed public meeting, I believe the process described above constitutes “action taken” as defined by Sec. 54952.6 of the Brown Act and thus violates Sec. 54952.2 (b) of the Act and Sec. 2-91.1 (b) of the Sunshine Ordinance. It is my understanding that the Councilmembers who took this action may have been acting in reliance of the opinion of the City Attorney that such a process was lawful so long as Ms. Vella was not made aware of the subject matter of the meeting. In my opinion voting to call a special meeting without knowing the basis therefore aggravates rather improves the process. I implore Council to request public comment by the City Attorney at tonight’s meeting as to the legal authority for his opinion.

2. The Scheduling of Item 3-A for disposition at a special meeting: This resolution comes from a referral filed by two Councilmembers on July 6. The referral form requires that it be filed, “on the Monday two weeks before the Council meeting requested”, thus indicating that referrals are to be submitted in time to be noticed for regular meetings. Yet it is scheduled for a special meeting on minimum 7 days-notice. There is nothing in the resolution that indicates that it is time sensitive. Why could it not have been noticed for the regular meeting of July 21 or at a well noticed special meeting approved by Council later in the month, especially since there was no advance discussion of such a resolution being in the works? A special meeting on minimum notice may be called for reasons other than urgency, but doing so without stating a compelling reason therefore evidences a disregard for proper public input into the issue.

3. This item is outside of the emergency authority and powers of Council: With regard to this issue, I adopt the argument of Attorney Robert Sullwold as set forth at <https://alamedamgr.wordpress.com/2020/07/13/reform-by-referral/>

4. Sections 2, 5, and 7 of the resolution are long term mandates with fiscal impact that should be addressed in a proposed ordinance, not a resolution: Requiring a long-term and on-going anti-racism training program for all City staff (Sec. 2), annual reporting that assesses City policies and procedures regarding racial justice and equity (Sec. 5), and the creation of a staff position to oversee these programs (Sec. 7) are all long term mandates with significant fiscal impact and should be presented in the form of a proposed ordinance and subject to the close scrutiny by Council, staff and the public that any ordinance requires.

In addition to all of the above I see the following issues regarding the merits of the proposed resolution:

Sec. 2 mandates an annual City staff and Council training program “to address staff and community concerns about organizational and community relations issues related to racism in Alameda.”, while containing no identification of any issues specific to Alameda other than policing. It seems to me that we first need a process that identifies specific City government internal and external racial issues, before we determine if an annual training program is an appropriate action.

I have a problem with Sec. 3 (A) because it commits the City to “providing” rather than promoting services that are far beyond its scope of City authority and finances, thus, making promises it cannot keep.

Sec. 5 troubles me for the same reasons. The first sentence requires an annual report assessing. “all City policies and procedures to ensure racial justice and equity are core elements of city government.” which is appropriate, but then goes on to include collection of data on issues that are far beyond the scope or control of city government and imposes a significant burden on City staff and the budget. Section 7 troubles me for the same reasons.

Sincerely,

Paul S Foreman

Lara Weisiger

From: Kate Richardson <katemrichardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:48 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting - 7/14, 6pm

Dear City Council Members,

I am a mother, lawyer, and resident of Alameda. I am writing to voice my strong support for Vice Mayor Knox White and Councilmember Oddie's co-sponsored Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency.

In line with this resolution, I also strongly support a further reduction, beyond 42%, to the police budget and a reallocation of those funds to mental health, community wellness, and housing support programs, services, and initiatives. As we know, data evidences that non-serious, low-level offenses constitute more than 80% of arrests. We need more funding for community support services to ensure our residents and community members are housed, healthy, and stable. We do not need to fill our jails with more people who have committed low-level non-violent offenses.

Finally, this resolution calls for a staff member to work as a city racial justice / equity officer. While a step in the right direction, I urge you to commit to founding a new Department of Health and Wellness centered around racial justice and equity.

Many thanks for your consideration to this urgent and important resolution.

Sincerely,
Kate Richardson

Lara Weisiger

From: Chris Miley <chrisamiley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:25 AM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Item #5-A City Council June 14 Agenda

Madam City Clerk Weisiger,

If possible please provide a copy of the below email to the Mayor and Council. I do not need my email read aloud before the Council. As an aside it seems odd that this is done, since it was not done prior to COVID. Folks retain the ability to conference in via computer or telephone if they would like to comment. Just thought I'd share my two-cents, since I'm apparently in a sharing mood at the moment. Thank you and be well!

Subject: Item #5-A Resolution preempts process Council outlined on June 29

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I do not typically write or comment on items before you. I first want to echo the Mayor's sentiments that each of you is sacrificing to serve our community and I thank you and appreciate your commitment to Alameda. I am concerned about Item #5-A on your agenda this evening. While I believe Councilmembers Oddie and Knox White have the very best of intentions, it appears that the resolution preempts the process the Council outlined on June 29, 2020 for a community-led, council supported, citywide discussion on these topics.

There are elements that I agree with in the resolution (data collection) and elements a disagree with (anti-racism training for staff). However, the timing of this resolution puts the cart before the horse based on my understanding that the Council was going to establish steering and subcommittees that would discuss many of the issues outlined in the resolution. How are we to engage in community-led, council supported, citywide discussion on these topics if the Council adopts a resolution that sets the agenda and preempts discussion with Alameda's diverse citizenry on these items? In my view, what is the point of any resident with a dissenting, contrary, or nuanced perspective engaging in that process if the Council has made up its mind to move in a particular direction?

A/26 is a good example of the community, staff, boards and commissions, and the Council struggling with a major issue. The Council appropriately provided ample space for numerous discussions on this issue to review its merits and has reached a place where it is prepared to place the questions before the electorate.

I felt a responsibility to share my thoughts on this topic as the Council's potential action on this resolution does not appear to align with their desire to provide space for all of Alameda's diverse community to be engaged in these discussions. Let's have that discussion honestly and without hesitation. But let's do it through the process the Council designated as that venue on the 29th.

Be well,
Chris Miley

Lara Weisiger

From: Michael Wong <mcn.wong@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog; John Knox White; Malia Vella; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for agenda item 5-A at July 14 council meeting

Dear Mayor Ashcraft,

I am a member of the Asian American community in Alameda. I have been the victim and beneficiary of racism created by white control over all facets of American society. Institutionalized and invisible. Intentional and ignorant. We must take this opportunity as a community to take the first step to valuing people of all races equally. This is your chance to fall on the right side of history, to redirect this city from the misguided path that has been passed down to us for generations. This should and will be uncomfortable because this system was intentionally set up to be difficult to break down. We need to do work that is outside of our comfort zone, inconvenient, impolite to speak about, but has the power to save LIVES.

This resolution clearly names racism as a problem, provides a path to repair, and begins to outline how we will shift funds from policing into health, housing, and community transformation that supports the health, safety and wellbeing of Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color. Our BIPOC neighbors are too often targeted by police violence, and are disproportionately harmed, abused or killed by unequal treatment and access to opportunity in education, healthcare, and housing. Shifting funding from policing to program services of healthcare, housing, and non-police responses to community needs will increase the safety and quality of life of all Alameda residents. This is the Alameda I want to live in and I hope you do, too.

Regards,
Michael Wong

July 13, 2020

Re: DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
AKA Defunding Alameda Police

Respected Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Respected Vice Mayor John Knox White
Respected Council Members: Tony Daysog, Jim Oddie, Malia Vella

Thank you for your dedication to service for the greatest good in the City of Alameda. I have participated in Alameda's Citizen's Police Academy, attended council meetings and have been honored to represent Alameda County Adult Protective Services in receiving a Proclamation of Elder Abuse Awareness Month from the City of Alameda. I am proud to be a member of this community and hold my public service in Social Services in Alameda County with high regard and integrity.

I have never been so angered and alarmed as I found myself upon discovering a significant proposed budget cut to my local police which is not listed on Council Agenda. My anger resides with the fact that this proposed funding reallocation will be so significant and impactful to all Alamedans and yet no one I spoke with in Alameda is aware of this proposed action. It is shameful that this significant action is buried 3 pages into this otherwise progressive resolution entitled "Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency." Alamedans will care about major cuts impacting police responsiveness but would never think to look into this document to find out what happened suddenly in July 2020? As such I call each of you out for accountability on this matter of public trust and transparency. Bring the police fund reallocation agenda item out of it's hiding place into the open where it belongs.

My alarm stems from the disturbing idyllic "top-to-bottom change" work plan which reportedly will be made by July 21, 2020. This is truly frightening to me that such a significant and drastic change to our safety net is being rushed through in warp speed for reasons unknown. What is this extreme haste about council? It appears that my council is now in reaction mode not response mode. Given my professional experience in Social Services as noted below this thrown together plan for reallocation is unbalanced and not worth the losses we will suffer as a community.

I implore you to step back from the herd and deeply consider the rush to react and instead work progressively and collaboratively with trusted partnerships, including law enforcement for our community responsibility to systemic racism.

Furthering my concern is my professional experience with fourteen years in Alameda County Social Services, working specifically in crisis management and protection of elder and dependent adults, including working with multiple agencies to address mental illness and homeless populations. I am fully aware of the limitations in outcomes due to complex conditions and rights of refusal for treatment and limited housing or placement options. The proposed up to 42% police budget cut to "reallocate towards programs that support public health, wellness and resilience and can respond to emergency calls" is theoretically commendable

but not balanced or practical. The impact of budget cuts to police will far exceed the minimal outcomes for the aforementioned reallocated emergency response calls; greatest good and equitable solutions need to be paramount.

Collaboration between social services and mental health agencies with your law enforcement is already happening and should be expanded. I urge you to call upon your police community relations team to enhance those collaborations but keep police funding at a level that the police can make use of this collaboration and Alamedans can still have relevant policing in our community. I do not want Alameda to become ineffective in fighting crime due to inefficient policing as we have seen and I have experienced professionally in many jurisdictions throughout Alameda County. Alameda has a large cohort of elders who depend upon your judgment and sound decisions for safety and protective measures; do not destroy our reputation as a safe Alameda.

Finally, I would like to call out additional areas of concern as a taxpayer in Alameda.


The Resolution stated in #6

"The Alameda City Council commits to identifying up to 42% of the City Police Department budget to reallocate towards programs that support public health, wellness and resilience and can respond to emergency calls for which the Police are not necessary as identified by Alameda's Chief of Police."

- a. The Chief of Police is not identifying these based exclusively on his experience in law enforcement, as it appears in this resolution but rather at the command of the Mayor/City Council of which Police Chiefs are appointed and at the mercy of.
- b. The Resolution does not definitely state how those funds would be allocated. Nothing prevents them from being allocated to the General Fund.
- c. It is routine practice in many jurisdictions to move funds to a popular allocation for a brief time, then the Council quietly reallocates those funds elsewhere in a year or two.

In conclusion, based on the significance of your next actions, the need for public transparency and discourse I call upon all members of this Council to "refer the matter to staff to schedule as a future City Council agenda item." As such, the future City Council agenda item should be entitled something unclothed, such as "Proposal to reallocate up to 42% of Police Funds" to provide appropriate notification of this proposal to Alamedans.

Respectfully,


Colette Supica, MSW

Lara Weisiger

From: Grover Wehman-Brown <grover@ebho.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:00 AM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Cc: John Knox White; City Clerk; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of the Resolution to Declare Racism a Public Health Emergency

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft,

I am writing to ask you to support the proposed resolution to declare Racism a Public Health Emergency.

In our county, because of discrimination in housing, employment, and healthcare, thousands of Black residents are forced to sleep on the street at night, and are 47% of the unhoused population despite being on 11% of the county population. I believe you know these statistics. I also believe you know how foundational a safe, quality, affordable home is to a person's health and wellbeing. I know you care about housing as a human right.

However, to cross the bridge between our feelings that something must be done about racial inequity, and addressing the need, we must reckon with just how unequal the distribution of wealth, resources, and opportunity is based on race, and then take proactive steps to address it **as a priority**. That's what this resolution outlines for our community. It is an opportunity to turn and face how structural racism impacts BIPOC people of all income levels, and agree to take steps to address the whole of it. As a priority.

Leslie Gregory, director of [Right to Health](#), argues that racism meets the four criteria the CDC requires for something to be considered a public health problem. (1) it places a large burden on society that continues to increase, and (2) impacts certain parts of the population more than others. In addition to that, (3) there's evidence that preventative strategies could help, but (4) this hasn't happened yet. Racism is the single variable able to explain why, for example, Black mothers of all income levels die in childbirth at significantly higher rates than white mothers. Racism- in lending, in housing, in employment- is the well documented cause of the wealth gap between Black and white Americans. There are clear strategies to address structural racism, and they have not happened yet at the scale that is needed.

This resolution is a frame for the council and wider Alameda community to reckon with and begin to address the structural differences between the funds we provide for the police to patrol to streets and place a young adult in Santa Rita Jail vs. the funds we provide for a family with children to live in a safe, stable home. It sets up a reporting mechanism to evaluate the specific inequities in policing, healthcare, housing, and education that force Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and some Asian-American children into poverty and interactions with police far more often than white children.

I thank you for seriously considering this community-generated resolution and welcome any questions you may have.

Thank you,

--

Grover Wehman-Brown
Communications Manager

[EAST BAY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS \(EBHO\)](#)

grover@ebho.org

538 Ninth Street, Suite 200 | Oakland, CA 94607

pronouns: she/her/hers or they/them/theirs

Lara Weisiger

From: John Platt <johntplatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:44 PM
To: City Clerk; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog; Malia Vella; Eric Levitt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Resolution

I hope you will read my letter at Tuesday's Council special meeting.

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council,

I do believe systematic racism is a public health emergency. I am not a lawyer and do not understand the legal ramifications of stating a public health emergency, but all citizens of Alameda need to be treated with respect and equally. This is the only correct standard for Alameda.

I do fully support the committee that is being formed to analyze systemic racism and working on coming up with actionable items by the end of this month.

I listened to the ZOOM meeting hosted by our Mayor with the Mayor of Eugene Oregon and the head of the Eugene Cahoots program. They stated that their program just got a raise to \$900,000, provides a van 24/7 with a mental health professional and a medic to help people in distress. There is a second part time van also. Their police budget is 60 million for a much bigger city.(It is unfortunate that Alameda had to payover \$900,000 to our former City Manager due to the unwise actions of Council members Vella and Oddie. It would have paid for a year of his program.) I believe money should be taken from our police budget and the details worked out immediately to institute such a program. I believe the community and the police would wholeheartedly support this kind of service and let the police deal with crime.

Without solid analysis and a business plan I can not support redirecting up to 42% of the police budget to unspecified programs.

A friend of mine went hiking in the Oakland Hills the other day. On her way home in Oakland she was hit by an uninsured driver who did not have a license on her. In Oakland all you can do is fill out a report online. I never want to see Alameda sink to that level of police service.

It is imperative that we address the historic and ongoing racism that has oppressed our Black neighbors. What I ask is that we start to take immediate action, redirect funds to do the most good to serve our community ,but do it with a thought out plan that our city can rally around.

Thank you for listening.

John Platt

Lara Weisiger

From: Jenna Rentz <jennadies@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:37 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting 7/14 6 pm

Hello,

I am writing to submit a comment for the city council meeting on 7/14- I understand this comment will be not be read but will be submitted into the record.

I fully support Alameda adopting a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency.

However, I am also very concerned that the Alameda city council is not significantly decreasing the APD budget. If 42% of calls are being rerouted, why is the budget not being proportionally cut? I understand that 15 vacancies will continue to be held, and that the ballistic equipment will be sold, but I also urge council members to reduce the police budget as soon as possible. I would also like clarification on if/when the city council will vote on a new budget- must it wait until October or can it happen sooner?

Thank you,
Jenna Rentz

Lara Weisiger

From: nova wehman-brown <supadupanova@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:59 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support the resolution

Born and raised in Oakland, I have been an alameda resident for 5 years.
I support the resolution to declare racism a public health emergency.
Thank you,
Nova Wehman-Brown

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Alameda - Defunding the Police Department

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: Sandi Kaney [mailto:stkaney@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 9:33 AM
To: John Knox White; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie
Cc: Paul Rolleri; Sarah Henry; Manager Manager; Gerry Beaudin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda - Defunding the Police Department

Dear John Knox White (and the City Council),

We will have to agree to disagree that in Alameda we have a large systemic racial issue with our Police Officers.

I agree with you that our police officers can use each and every encounter they have with our citizens as a training opportunity. However, in my opinion you are throwing all our officers under the bus - which is causing division within our community.

I would like to hear support from you and others on the City Council for our officers and our community. There is a lot of good happening in Alameda where the Alameda Police officers are serving and protecting us.

Is there racial injustice and bias' in the world? Yes. And can we use each and every encounter we have with other people - or that the police have - to learn and grow in love and compassion for each other. Yes.

As far as defunding the police, I like the idea that if we call 911, Alameda would have enough officers that the response would come in a timely manner.

When you suggest that we have less police officers, I wonder, if by this action, you are greatly hurting those citizens who live in neighborhoods that may have high crime.

Again, thank you for your service ... *I'm sure it's time consuming and it's not easy!* I'm trusting that you will serve all the citizens of Alameda "with liberty and justice for all".

Sincerely,

Sandra Kaney
3002 Cerro Vista
Alameda

cc: Police Chief; City Manager's office

On Jul 10, 2020, at 11:59 AM, John Knox White <JknoxWhite@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Thank you for emailing me about the City Budget and your thoughts on the City's Police Department funding.

Last night, at just before midnight, our council unanimously approved a mid-cycle budget that:

- * Holds ~15 vacancies in the Alameda Police Department vacant until October when the city budget will be revisited.

- * Directs staff to sell Alameda's Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport response vehicle and prohibits the purchase of military-grade equipment, including items to maintain such equipment

- * Approves the removal of Police Staff from Alameda Schools, an agreement reached with the School District staff two weeks ago.

Additionally, the Council started to lay out a process for engaging our full community in a discussion about how the City delivers calls for service and the role of law enforcement. The first meeting is tonight, Wednesday June 17th <<https://alameda.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=793698&GUID=CFDDD5A6-37AE-4BDA-A817-D2EFAE25D3D0>> and will be more limited in scope, providing some quick, short-term policy fixes within our existing system and a second public council workshop will be scheduled before the end of June to layout the goals and process for addressing community needs and concerns and working on more systemic changes.

The council also agreed to forgo it's traditional August recess in order to engage in the work around enforcement and calls for service.

Finally, the council adopted a requirement that all policing policy decisions must come to the city council for approval and public notice before they go into effect and that any changes in policy must be documented and posted on the City Website.

We have a lot of work to do, but tonight we heard a council that is united and working together to affect transformational change in the way that our City delivers safety and security to all Alamedans. We did not vote to eliminate the police department, but we will work to identify a right-sized law enforcement effort that may include social services and other efforts to respond to the many non-emergency, non-crime related calls that our city policing staff currently responds to.

I am feeling very lucky to serve our fabulous community and with my four

council colleagues. I'm looking forward to engaging with all of our community and hearing all perspectives as we engage in this work in the coming month.

Best,

John Knox White
Vice Mayor, Alameda

Miss the Town Hall on Enforcement in Alameda?

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5iSIIdYjFm8>

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5iSIIdYjFm8>>

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Alameda City Resolution Entitled "Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency"

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: John Kaney [mailto:jmkaney@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:08 PM
To: John Knox White; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie
Cc: Paul Rolleri; Sarah Henry; Manager Manager; Gerry Beaudin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda City Resolution Entitled "Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency"

Dear City Council Members:

I have read the subject Resolution and am appalled that our city leaders would spend time creating such a document. I believe the entire document is ludicrous. Some of my thoughts are as follows:

- I do believe racism has no place in our society, but I do not believe that racism constitutes a "public health emergency" or that racism is responsible for all the social ills specified in the document.
- Whereas I do believe some individuals do, in fact, practice racism, I do not believe racism is systemic in our police departments or in our society.
- I believe decreasing APD's budget will result in longer response times and, consequently, decreased safety for Alameda citizens.
- I have seen absolutely no evidence of racism in the APD. Perhaps the fact cited in the Resolution that the number of Black people arrested in Alameda exceeds their representation in the population is due to more offenders being Black.
- Time spent by City staff developing and attending anti-racism training programs will have very little, if any, impact on racism in the City and will only divert City staff from performance of their duties. Time spent auditing APD's activities, preparing annual racism reports, conducting non-police reviews of instances involving physical contact and uses of force and random monthly review of APD bodycam footage will have similar impacts.

- Limiting City vendors and contractors to those who provide their staffs with racial equity and anti-racism training may negatively impact competitiveness and increase the City's costs.

I close by making the following pledge: I will vote against any City Council Member who votes in favor of this Resolution in any future political race they may enter.

Sincerely,

John M. Kaney
3002 Cerro Vista
Alameda

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] July 14 meeting re defunding our Police Dept

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: CANDY DEWITT [mailto:candydewitt@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Tony Daysog; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Cc: Paul Rolleri
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 14 meeting re defunding our Police Dept

Dear City Council-members;

RE: July 14 Item 2020-8165 .

I have been a resident of Alameda for the last 37 years and my husband who is 65 years old was born and raised in this city. His father, Al DeWitt Sr., was the first African American Vice Mayor of Alameda.

Our family has had multiple contacts with Alameda police over the years mostly for the reason that our son became ill with serious mental illness after graduating from Alameda High School and because our family was desperately in need of help. In each incident our family and our son was treated with the utmost respect, compassion and professionalism even when there was concern for safety.

We are a biracial family. Our son and his friends have been stopped over the years on occasion by police while riding their bikes when growing up. This was always a group of kids from every background and color. Were our kids stopped because of the color of their skin? Were they stopped because of a report that some young kids were doing something wrong in the neighborhood? Or just

because they were riding on the sidewalk and they were African American? I don't know but they were treated with respect and fairness during questioning.. Still I believe people may have other experiences and it is important to hear these.

Being a Police Officer during this time is an especially difficult job and they need support. Alameda should not be looking at defunding our police but they should instead look for ways to better our department by providing de-escalation and crisis training for officers and by instituting mobile crisis units 24/7.

Alameda residents deserve to have a special meeting or town hall with City Council before there is decision on de-funding our police department and how. Only after you hear all voices and experiences will you be able to make your best decisions.

Sincerely,

Albert Hans DeWitt Jr.

Candy DeWitt

Cc; Officer Paul Rolleri

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to defunding Alameda Police Department

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Corica [mailto:tonycorica@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy; John Knox White; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to defunding Alameda Police Department

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I am opposed to any defunding of the Alameda Police Department. I personally observed and was impressed by their efforts in my over 40 years at Alameda Hospital as they would defuse potentially dangerous situations involving patients, staff, families and visitors. As a lifelong Alamedan, I have always felt safe in our community. Violent crimes have been lower in Alameda than our neighboring cities for many years. I do not believe that reducing our already understaffed police department will benefit Alamedans.

Tony Corica

Sent from my iPad

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Please vote AGAINST resolution to defund the Alameda Police Department at July 14th council meeting

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: svinterlude@mindspring.com [mailto:svinterlude@mindspring.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:41 PM
To: coa-zoom-2@alameda.gov; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; John Knox White
Cc: Paul Rolleri
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote AGAINST resolution to defund the Alameda Police Department at July 14th council meeting

Dear City Council Members,

With regard to the City of Alameda Special Council Meeting to be held on July 14 at 6:00 PM, Agenda Item 5-A that would result in defunding our Alameda Police Department by 42% we urge you to vote AGAINST this resolution. While the wording of the resolution indicates that black people are arrested at a higher percentage than represented in the population of the City of Alameda, there is no mention of what percentage are residents.

While crime is disproportionally committed by people, of any color, that lack a good education, upward mobility and a strong and stable family support structure, we don't see how taking resources away from officers of the law will result in changing these structural issues in society.

Statistically crime is on the rise in most cities and right now is not the time to be defunding our police department that has a difficult enough job with the budget they have.

Please vote AGAINST this resolution and instead show some support of the Alameda Police Department.

Kurt Braun (lifelong resident, 60 years)
Katie Braun (resident for 36 years)
3365 Fernside Blvd
510-522-4727

Lara Weisiger

From: Paul Rolleri
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: July 14 Council Meeting Item: 2020-8165

In no particular order...

Paul Rolleri
Chief of Police
Alameda Police Department
1555 Oak Street
Alameda, Ca. 94501
(510) 337-8300
prolleri@alamedaca.gov

From: David Greene [mailto:writedg@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Paul Rolleri
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: July 14 Council Meeting Item: 2020-8165

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Greene <writedg@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 1:07 PM
Subject: July 14 Council Meeting Item: 2020-8165
To: <mezzzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>, <jknnoxwhite@alamedaca.gov>, <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>, <mvella@alamedaca.gov>, <joddie@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: <alamedanews@bayareanewsgroup.com>, <editor@alamedasun.com>

Council Members:

Bottom line of this email:

As an Alameda citizen, I urge you to drop this resolution as written for both foundational standing concerns and consequences (intended and unintended) of the directive actions. However, keep the discussion going.

The below identifies significant flaws in the writing of this resolution's premises and actions. It also offers topics for more meaningful outcome potential for affecting needed change for all of Alameda's citizens.

Resolution Premises

Policing Activities

Population data benchmarks are called out on the first page of this resolution as an evaluation of police activity. This is data invariably used by racial-advocacy groups and the media. If blacks have proportionally more encounters with the police than their representation in the local population, the conclusion of advocacy groups and the press is that police bias and racism is the reason.

- The resolution cites Alameda County data, so I will too. In Alameda County, Blacks make up 11% of the population but are arrested for 22% of all felonies in Alameda County (per openjustice.doj.ca.gov,

2019 figures). Case closed, argue the advocates. Being arrested at twice their make-up of the population proves the police are singling out blacks based on their race.

But this view has serious flaws – and thus this resolution has a serious foundational flaw in this respect.

Disparity in population to police killings, arrests, or even contacts should not be the relevant basis for measure of police activity. Crime rates should be the relevant benchmark for police activity. Why crime rates? Because policing today is data-driven. Cities, counties, states, and federal level activities across the country have demanded this for years – Alameda included. Officers are deployed to where civilians are being victimized, and that is overwhelmingly in minority neighborhoods.

- Again, per the openjustice website, in Alameda County blacks are 23% of violent felonies. This no longer makes the data appear police are biased. When crime rates are used to measure police activity, policing no longer looks disproportionate. This data is easily available and repeatable examples can be seen across many measures. But it does not fit the advocate and media narrative. So, it is shunned. It is derelict for the City Council to shun it as well.

Specific to the “... Black men and boys can expect to be killed by police in the country (at a) fatality rate 2.8 times higher than whites”. Math, not racism, explains why this is the case:

Per the FBI [data](#), whites and blacks each accounted for about 1/2 of all homicides in 2016. However, blacks are only 13-14% of the overall population, blacks are 45% of all murder victims, and black murders are 90% of the time committed by blacks. Again, data based policing has policing taking place where crimes happen. Thus, the behaviors in black neighborhoods have Police there working to lower the percentage of blacks who are murder victims.

- About three times higher for black than whites makes sense when looking at this more complete picture. Blacks VICTIMS are three times their population and just about all these victims are killed by blacks. In fact, it points to a potential outcome that statistically speaking factoring recorded behaviors (murder rate) compared to population, blacks are **less** likely to be killed by police than whites.

Health Care Outcomes:

As basis for this resolution, one “where as” postulate states that more than 100 studies that linked racism to worse health outcomes. You can find these on the internet – you can find anything on the internet. As related to work activity, a couple of years ago I looked into research that included perinatal rates.

- [Perinatal](#) conditions accounted for 38% of children deaths in the black community which was three fold compared to other ethnic groups (not just whites). At first take, this would certainly point to bias/racism. However, it wasn't:
 - In further looking into this, discussion with the researchers revealed lack of education and knowledge about proper childcare was a predominant reason. And this was driven in large part because the age of the mothers in black communities are typically younger and thus education and knowledge is likely lower.
 - The point is that outcomes that are disparate do not necessarily mean racism.

The basis of this resolution and the resolution determinations regarding racism as a “public health emergency” and the resolution actions are highly suspect and deserve more mature critical thought given the impacts to all the citizens of Alameda – especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) citizens.

Also note staffing for police will be at 75% come end of year due to scheduled retirements (66 of 88 positions filled).

- Since announcement of “defunding” in NYC, they have had to stop taking retirement requests from officers as too many were being submitted. Think about that... they are not able to quit! What is that morale like? How hard do you think it will be to recruit in that environment?
- City of Alameda Part 1 Crime (most serious offenses) was up 19% in 2019 vs. 2018.

- It simply is not rational to think crime isn't going to get worse as folks are still in stages of economic shut down, many unable to earn, and they are farther away from getting their stimulus checks. **We have the recipe for higher crime in front of us.**

This letter is not written in naivety. Policing needs reforms.

One reality of our current politics (local and nationally) is how quickly bad events trigger a rush to bad policies. Some cities are seeing these already, let us not repeat their mistakes. Breaking up the current police dept into other component parts has consequences of their own that can pose trouble for Alameda. Other options are available.

I urge you to drop this resolution as written for both foundational standing concerns and consequences (intended and unintended) of the directive actions. However, keep the discussion going.

We need to discuss and reform key areas which include but are not limited to:

- Qualified Immunity
- De-militarization of Police (I understand Alameda has already taken steps to dispose of the armored vehicle... that's a first step)
- Community Policing
- No-Knock Warrants
- Union Reform
- Drug laws.

These are foundational areas that will affect real change for all citizens with greatest benefit to the city's BIPOC members.

Sincerely,
David Greene
609 Sand Hook Isle
c. 510-919-5024

--

c. 510-919-5024

Lara Weisiger

From: Susannah Hufstader <susannah.hufstader@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:17 PM
To: City Clerk; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 14 Special City Council Agenda Item 5-A: On traffic enforcement and systemic safety

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and City Councilmembers,

I am writing in partial support of item 5-A on Tuesday's City Council agenda, a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency. This is the correct framing to address the depth of the problem in our community, but I have significant concerns about the resolution as currently worded, specifically in regard to traffic enforcement. **I support the resolution with a revision to section 6-D on traffic enforcement.**

In the context of a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency, it is alarming that section 6-D doubles down on enforcement--with it's documented racial bias and violence--as a solution for traffic safety rather than proposing a reinvestment in preventative solutions. [Our Vision Zero program just published a report on our most dangerous corridors for all road users](#) (see below for map). Instead of asking the police department to do more targeted traffic enforcement, this resolution should take action against the complicity of traffic enforcement in our racist police system and provide transportation planning and public works with the resources needed to implement quick-build safety interventions on all of our tier 1 and tier 2 high injury corridors by the end of 2021. Considering the impressive pace of implementation for the Park Street Commercial Street, it is clearly not outside the realm of possibility for our small city to implement excellent infrastructure improvements with the urgency they deserve. This type of intervention will save lives and not risk any more violence or trauma at the hands of police.

Problems with traffic enforcement and systemic racism in our broader justice system are not limited to uses of force. It is important to remember that there is proven racial disparity and negative health impacts from traffic enforcement because of the ways that [fines punish poverty](#); because of the trauma people of color experience in all police interactions; because of the risk of arrest and incarceration during a traffic stop; and because of the reputation for racism in Alameda that is linked with a long history of racially biased traffic enforcement. We must actively work to undo these racist systems that constitute a public health crisis. While traffic crashes and street safety also pose a public health crisis, we have other tools at our disposal that do not rely on the harm and violence of policing and the punitive justice system. We must focus resources on crash prevention through infrastructure, education, and encouragement programs, all with an equity lens.

Please direct staff to revise the resolution to reduce and reallocate a significant portion of traffic enforcement funds to public works with direction to implement a citywide quick build program on our high injury corridors. This will be an important step in creating **systemic safety** on our streets.

Thank you as always for your time and dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

Warmly,
Susie Hufstader
1815 Broadway, Alameda
860-455-5861

injury corridors. The high injury corridor map was d streets with the highest crash densities and weighti Crashes that resulted in a fatal or life-altering injury other injury crashes. The high injury corridors map design improvements and other roadway safety str to have the largest impact on improving safety for a

73% of crashes occurred along 20% of Alameda's roadways.

High Crash Intersections and High Injury Corridors - All Modes

Crash Analysis, 2009-2018 Data
City of Alameda,

- High Crash Intersection
- High Injury Corridor Tiers
 - Tier 1
 - Tier 2
 - Tier 3
- Hospital
- Shopping and Business
- Parks
- Future
- Schools and Libraries
- Municipal



Lara Weisiger

From: Patty Pforte <patricia.pforte@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:23 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment for the record for July 14 Special City Council Meeting

Dear Clerk,

Since I am unable to attend the Zoom Special City Council Meeting, I am sharing my comment to be added to the record.

I have lived in Alameda since the Spring of 2013 and have loved the community that Alameda fosters. However, in its institutions, racism has not only festered but has intimidated black and brown community members, and visitors, since I arrived, making the community I love blighted by discrimination and inequity. I have known friends who have been pulled over, sometimes multiple times in a week for reasons that do not condone the action. I have heard, and seen, truly discriminatory actions occur and shared on neighborhood sites, and community pages, and a few times, happening right outside my window.

In learning about the extremely large budget provided to the APD, I must put my voice with many on the Island and demand that APD is defunded, and by a significant percentage and that those funds go to:

- 1) mental health care workers who can be on call for residents who see their fellow unhoused community members suffering
- 2) conflict resolution and de-escalation specialists for disagreements and aggressive behaviors happening on the island
- 3) Those who work directly with those ill from addiction be it alcohol or drugs

I demand that racism be considered a disease that Alameda must work to eliminate, from its schools, to its policing, to how the government is structured. The best way is to put our money where our mouths are, and defund places of power where inequity has always lived, such as in the APD.

I believe in this city and the people in it, I know we can do better and we want to be better. I add my voice to the broader Alameda community to use its funds to help and heal, and make a better, safer, and more just Alameda.

For Councilmembers Oddie and Daysog, the time for learning and listening is upon you. Listen to the QTBIPOC people of the Island, confront unconscious and conscious bias in extensive trainings, and make changes to yourself and your politics. Alameda needs councilmembers who listen and respond to the struggles of its QTBIPOC residents, neighbors, and those who visit and spend their dollars on the island. If not, there will be a electoral reckoning.

Thank you for including my words in the record.

Best,

*Patty
Lincoln and Sherman Resident*

Since April 2013

--

Lara Weisiger

From: Jon Spangler <goldcoastjon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Cc: John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Racism is a public health emergency -- and has been for centuries

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice mayor Knox White, and Council members,

Racism has probably been with us as long as our species has existed: we may not be able to eliminate it but the City of Alameda *can* take bigger steps to deal with it in our community. I support the declaration of a public health emergency to reduce racism of all forms.

Lauren Do's blog post today (7-13-2020) offers some of the relevant supporting data on racism in the USA:

<https://laurendo.wordpress.com/2020/07/13/its-an-emergency/#comment-175059>

More importantly, we have seen too many examples of racist behavior here in Alameda, including the police discrimination against African Americans in the 1990s that was echoed recently on Central Avenue. It is time for our community to mobilize its generally-good-hearted resources to face racism here in "Mayberry." Census data notwithstanding, we need to do a lot better in making sure that *everyone* feels — and is — safe, welcome, and secure in Alameda, no matter what their race or ethnicity may be.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jon Spangler
2060 Encinal Avenue, Apt B
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"Bicycling has done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world. It gives her a feeling of self-reliance and independence the moment she takes her seat; and away she goes, the picture of untrammelled womanhood."

— Susan B. Anthony

Lara Weisiger

From: Susannah <susannah_churchill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:30 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for racism being a public health emergency

Hello city clerk,

I am a resident of the city of Alameda and I am in support of the upcoming resolution that would make racism a public health emergency in our city. I urge you to make the resolution even stronger and thereby allow greater cuts in the police departments budget, which can be diverted to more supportive purposes like mental health and counseling.

Thank you.

Susannah
415 335 0317
Sent from my iPhone

Lara Weisiger

From: Rich Sherratt <rsherratt@ertecsystems.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog; Marilyn Ezy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; John Knox White
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Resolution (July 14, 2020)

Dear Madame Mayor and Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am appalled at the ill-conceived resolution on your agenda for July 14, 2020. It is a knee-jerk, politically-motivated resolution which insults Alameda residents and crucifies a dedicated government workforce in our City—for no apparent reason.

If you, the City Council members, feel you do not already adhere to the principles of racial and economic justice, then this resolution might ease your collective conscience. However, many people in our City, who already volunteer at religious and/or community-based non-profits and organizations, are greatly offended by your insinuation that residents of our City are not working toward racial and economic equality.

Alameda is fortunate to have dedicated law enforcement. You have no idea of the overall impact of your unfounded proposal to cut 42% of the APD, which is currently understaffed. Your “pie-in-the-sky” idea of cutting the traffic division and replacing it with non-sworn personnel is ridiculous. In your one-sided resolution you announce to the world, “no more traffic stops for speeding, running stop signs and DUIs.” Are you prepared for the chaos that will take place?

Since it appears you may have short memories, several months ago this Council asked the Police Department to increase monitoring of traffic violations around our schools and high traffic areas. Now you want to defund the APD, eliminate the traffic division, and imperil the safety of our children and citizens?

What is the hurry to defund the APD? Alameda is a great place to live. Please do not destroy our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Sherratt

Former Alameda Vice Mayor and Council Member

Lara Weisiger

From: Andrea Dunlap <dunsnap@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:10 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Racism—public health emergency

Hello!

I'd like to voice my support for the measure to consider racism a public health emergency. Real, timely and substantive change to dismantle systems of structural racism in our town are more important now than ever.

Thank you!

Lara Weisiger

From: Burny <bmatt556@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella
Cc: Manager Manager; Gerry Beaudin; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Council Action

Dear Mayor, Council Members and Citizens:

I write wearing many hats: former Alameda Police Chief for 12 years, long term resident of Alameda, nearly 40 years law enforcement veteran but most importantly a person who understands and has been trained in effective problem solving.

There is a special Council meeting set for July 14, 2020 to adopt a Resolution which contains goals but also specific directive in paragraph 6 pertaining to the Alameda Police Department. I am not aware of and do not see any analysis attached to the agenda item.

The end result of any problem solving exercise is to do just that: to solve a problem. To start, you identify the problem, then the goals, options, consequences and then do an analysis. Yes, the country is torn by the racism issue. But we are Alameda - and must identify the problems that exist here. Rushing to implement this proposed action is not only ill advised, it is dangerous. The last thing that I would think that you would want is to put the citizens at risk. I think that you are doing this here. Also, you note a two week time frame for a top to bottom change in the Police department and a work plan - that is an impossible timeline to do any effective and worthwhile analysis. You proposed to do the cuts first and then the study next. This is exactly the opposite of what you need to get done. Identify the problem, the options, consequences **FIRST**. Your job is to be an informed decision maker - so I request that you do that and get the needed information before any decision and cuts.

If you want to effectively address your goals, you need to refrain from including paragraph 6 and the cuts to the Police Department in any resolution and instead do the needed analysis. I urge you to recognize that political rhetoric is not a problem solving tool.

I must include support for the fine men and women of the Alameda Police Department in my comments. They actualize the motto of "Protect and Serve." They put their life on the line for you and the community. Every day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Burny Matthews
Alameda Police Chief (Retired)

Lara Weisiger

From: Don Sherratt <drsherratt@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:46 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming Resolution re Racism a Public Health Emergency
Attachments: Resolution .doc; ATT00001.htm

Please forward the attached letter to Mayor Ashcraft, City Manager Levit, and all City Council members.
Thank you.

Don Sherratt - resident
74 Basinside Way
Alameda, Ca
510 846-1288
drsherratt@comcast.net

July 10, 2020

To: Mayor Marilyn Ashcraft, City Manager and Members of the City Council
From: Don Sherratt, Alameda Resident
Subject: Comments and Questions regarding the “Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency”.

At the current time, I am not in favor with the above resolution for the following reasons:

1. This is a very important resolution that seems to be on a fast track. There is little if no chance for community input. This quickly set special Council meeting seems to be the only opportunity for community members to express themselves before a vote is taken.
2. This resolution infers that Alameda is a racist community, and that racism is a crisis affecting our entire community. This is a vital subject that requires much conversation.
3. I totally disagree with cutting up to 42% of the Police Department Budget. In order to maintain an effective police department, this drastic percentage cut would not be feasible. How did the council arrive at 42%?
4. Public Health and Safety is vitally important. The resolution regarding the Community led Steering Committee is not clear. The City Manager should be in charge of forming this committee that focuses on health, wellness and resilience for all citizens. This task should fall into the City Manager’s or his appointed current staff members’ responsibility. If reviewed thoroughly and correctly by the City Manager, a new staff position should not be necessary.

This is a time in our community that we can and should work together to build a stronger and equitable Alameda. Cutting the Alameda Police Department by up to 42% is not the answer, and certainly not the path to take so swiftly without input. This resolution leaves one wondering if this is a vendetta against the Department. This quickly proposed resolution is not one that will help us with the needed focus on Racism and Public Health and Wellness.

I urge you to put a hold on passing this current resolution and set aside time for public discussions, town hall meetings where the people of Alameda can listen to/speak to ideas and solutions to better our community relations.

Lara Weisiger

From: Danielle Hutchings Mieler <daniellemieler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:12 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Special Council meeting July 14

Dear Clerk, Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing today in support of the resolution before the Council declaring racism a public health emergency. I think it is important, and way past time, for us to clearly articulate and understand the direct health and wellbeing impacts that racism has on BIPOC members of our community and that our collective prosperity depends on every single resident having equal access to opportunity. Our community cannot truly embody our slogan "everyone belongs here" until the health and criminal justice outcomes, incomes, and access to housing and education are not pre-determined by the color of one's skin.

The community has been having a deep and productive discussion about racism in policing in Alameda, this is one very concrete way in which we can have a meaningful impact on addressing racism in our community and we must continue that effort. It is the gateway to addressing racism within the other institutions and departments within our community. Reallocating the police budget to other health and social services will allow Alameda to more truly live its values and transform Alameda government into one that truly provides for all Alamedans, especially our communities of color. The police department must be overseen by an independent community oversight committee with enforcement capabilities. Appointing an equity and Racial Justice Assistant City manager to oversee the broad work product will ensure that our anti-racist values are carried out in all the work that the city does.

At a time when COVID-19 has simultaneously decimated the city budget and disproportionately impacted communities of color, this transformation of city services has the potential to more effectively direct limited city resources where they are most needed, in direct health and social services for communities of color in Alameda. Thank you for your time and effort and commitment to learning to address this crisis within our community.

Sincerely,
Danielle Mieler
Alameda resident

Lara Weisiger

From: Lorin Laiacona Salem <lolasa29@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:49 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support: Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency (7/14 meeting)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed Resolution declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency. In particular, I approve of the plan to cut the City Police Budget and reallocate funds towards programs for public health, crisis intervention, the homeless, and the mentally ill. I appreciate the interim steps you are taking in redirecting the Traffic Safety Enforcement Division I and look forward to supporting you in your work to change state law to allow for unarmed, civilian traffic enforcement, instead.

I ask, though, that you reconsider the Resolution's language that commits to reallocating up to 42% of the Police budget. Instead, I ask that you set the goal higher, and strive to further reduce the need for sworn Police officers in our City.

Thank you for your time.

Lorin Salem
Alameda Resident