

From: [Is Sullivan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 7-C on September 21 Agenda
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:59:24 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Councilmembers,

I urge you to approve Alameda Family Services' proposal to collaborate with AFD to provide mental health crisis support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. I hope that this pilot program can begin as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Is Sullivan

From: [Alexia Arocha](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment, 9/21
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:16:45 PM

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I hope everyone is well during these times, please find my public comment below:

Item 7-C: I strongly urge you all to approve recommendations to begin negotiating the agreement with Alameda Family Services to provide mental health services. We waited so long for the steering committee to make recommendations and then again since those recommendations - please do not further delay what is essential for so many.

I work with folks in Alameda County who are unhoused and disabled - I've had clients that live here in Alameda. You all have heard me complain many times about how unhoused folks are treated here; they need assistance and not to have the cops called on them or harassing them. Please accept Alameda Family Services proposal and I am especially partial to their Option 1-C. It is imperative to have a 24/7 option, but case management is vital as well. This combination will yield the greatest outcome, as will having impacted folks serve on the recommended oversight board. We have all too often seen oversight boards or other mechanisms of decision making not involve the people with lived experience, expertise, and who will suffer the greatest consequence. Please involve those actually impacted in this board and process.

Item 7-B: I hope that the City Council will urge Chief Joshi to also present what has been going on in the case of Mario Gonzalez. Or what he will do to ensure so many rookie cops having just graduated from the Academy will be properly trained; it's concerning to see what looks like several newbies joining the force here. The presentation is further concerning as it seems very basic and not much in the way of preventing bias, correcting a legacy of racism within Alameda police, or any actual accountability. It is more of the same and I do not see how that will change anything or prevent further criminalization of BIPOC folks and/or prevent civilian deaths from occurring. Of course I have not seen the actual presentation, but I am basing these opinions on the slides and what has been happening in the actual community.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Alexia Arocha

From: [Heather Little](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [Eric Levitt](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment in support of Item 7-C Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with Alameda Family Services
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 3:32:24 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Levitt, Mayor Ashcraft, and members of the City Council,

I am reaching out in support of the city approving the contract with Alameda Family Services that will be discussed this evening. As a sitting AUSD Board Member who is also participating in the Wellness Subcommittee, I cannot state enough how important and critical the services that AFS provides to our educational community have been. These last 18 months have proven to be just as complicated as we had originally anticipated, and the resulting impacts on student, teacher and staff mental health and wellness is paramount.

And now we have an opportunity to extend this relationship out to the broader community. This proposal, which would create a partnership between AFS and Alameda's fire department to provide an alternative to police response for MH calls has been long overdue. We have seen countless examples across the nation, and in our own city, of the potential and very real negative impact that unnecessary police intervention can have, and to which I have spoken to in other city-led community discussions. It is imperative that this proposal, which is a direct response to the public's expectations and requests for alternative supports to fill a serious gap in mental health services needed in our City, be approved tonight so that Alameda can proactively move forward with a comprehensive plan for supporting our community's mental health needs with compassion, cultural sensitivity, and without further violence.

Thanks,
Heather Little

From: [Jackie Zipkin](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Eric Levitt](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for AFS Contract for Mental Health Pilot
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:30:56 PM

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am an Alameda resident, and I am writing today to urge the Council to adopt staff's recommendation to negotiate a contract with Alameda Family Services (Item 7c), and to move as expeditiously as possible to implement the mental health response pilot program.

Our city's most vulnerable residents deserve support in their time of need. In too many cases, our neighbors experiencing mental health crises have been criminalized (or worse) as a result of misguided protocols and norms that put police as first respondents for everything. This pilot program is a step in the right direction, and it is long overdue. We cannot wait to treat our residents with dignity. We need to start yesterday.

In addition to requesting urgency, I strongly encourage the city to ensure that the program provides 24/7/365 service, since there are no business hours for crises. Lastly, I support the oversight board suggested by AFS and recommend that it also include city residents who are directly served by the program, as well as members of the Police Reform and Racial Equity Sub-Committee that developed recommendations for the city's mental health-first response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jackie Zipkin