

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
City Hall
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Alameda CA 94501

CC: Vice Mayor John Knox White
Councilmember Tony Daysog
Councilmember Jim Oddie
Councilmember Malia Vella
City Auditor Kevin Kearney
City Treasurer Kevin Kennedy

Dear Mayor Ashcraft,

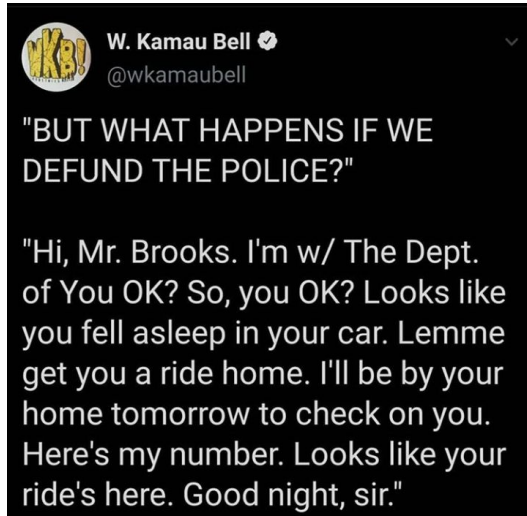
I'm an Alameda resident and homeowner and am writing to you today to urge a change to the status quo regarding policing in our city.

I am deeply troubled by the police responses across the nation to emergency calls on Black people. Too many times those calls have resulted in trauma and death for Black Americans. And in our own city, the police response to a call of a Black person dancing in the street is unacceptable.

I understand that the Chief of Police, Paul Rolleri, has responded to the backlash of this incident to say that the Alameda Police Department will no longer respond to mental health evaluation calls. I agree with this step. Can you please confirm that this will become policy moving forward?

Refraining from using police to respond to mental health crises of citizens is an important step to keep our communities safe. Police do not have the training or expertise to respond to these calls, and in cases where the police are called on Black people with mental health crises, those people often end up being treated with force and sometimes executed on the spot. (See below for examples, including in San Mateo: <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/10/17/chinedu-valentine-okobi-see-answers-int-o-death-millbrae-san-mateo-co-sheriff/>)
<https://theintercept.com/2019/09/29/police-shootings-mental-health/>)

And in light of this proposed reduction in police responses, the budget for the Alameda Police should be reduced as well and the money re-allocated to social services. As W. Kamau Bell put it, we would be better served by a "Department of You OK?"



My current reality is one in which I live in fear that my spouse or my children will be targeted or hurt by police because they will be viewed as a threat due to the color of their skin. But I can imagine a better future: one that the funds for policing are reallocated to community building. We can create this world together, and I urge you to take the necessary steps to codify police reform and reallocate the city budget.

Sincerely,

Connery Obeng

336 Laguna Vista
Alamed, CA 94501
510-995-8544
conneryw@hotmail.com

Lara Weisiger

From: Linda Asbury <linda@westalamedabusiness.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; Eric Levitt; Lara Weisiger; Paul Roller; Fireside
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police Budget Allocations

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft, Vice Mayor John Know White, Council members Malia Vella, Jim Oddie and Tony Daysog.

Considering the current climate of policing in Alameda and most every where in the United States, some changes will be necessary. On behalf of the West Alameda Business Association Board of Directors, we are asking for money currently in the budget for sworn Police Officers, be re-allocated to the hiring of Community officers to assist in non-crime issues in Alameda.

There are a number of issues on Webster Street that are no longer being addressed by the Police Department and they are detrimental to our district. Our directive is to keep a clean, safe and inviting environment for our merchants. This has been a very difficult time and the change in policing is making our district suffer. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. I am available for further conversations regarding our needs and how we can contribute to the well being of Alameda. Linda

Linda Asbury
Executive Director
West Alameda Business Association
linda@westalamedabusiness.com
510.523.5955

Lara Weisiger

From: Sienna Parker <siennaparker2018@u.northwestern.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: We Need a Budget That Represents Us

Thanks for getting back to me Lara. Yes please could you include my email.

Best,
Sienna

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:33 AM
To: [Sienna Parker](#)
Subject: RE: We Need a Budget That Represents Us

Hi Sienna,
The City Council is adopting the budget at its 6/16 meeting (<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4554133&GUID=97249095-3AE8-450B-BB29-53F8B4F2EFE3&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>) and addressing the Police policy direction at a special meeting on Wednesday, 6/17 (<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4566820&GUID=C1CC36CC-C577-4D7C-B6BF-69A5E27BCDBD&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>)

Can you please let me know if you would like your email included in the meeting record for either item (or both)?
Thank you,
Lara

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

From: Sienna Parker [mailto:siennaparker2018@u.northwestern.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Jim Oddie <JOddie@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <MVella@alamedaca.gov>; John Knox White <JknoxWhite@alamedaca.gov>; City Attorney <cityattorney@alamedacityattorney.org>; Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>; City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>; kevin@kevinkennedyllc.com; cpakearney@sbcglobal.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We Need a Budget That Represents Us

Hello,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Sienna Parker

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Lara Weisiger

From: Trish Ang <feeshsauce@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] We Need a Budget That Represents US

Wow that would be great, please include me on both!! Thanks so much!

- trish

On Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 2:16 PM Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hi Trish,

The City Council is adopting the budget at its 6/16 meeting (<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4554133&GUID=97249095-3AE8-450B-BB29-53F8B4F2EFE3&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>) and addressing the Police policy direction at a special meeting on Wednesday, 6/17 (<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4566820&GUID=C1CC36CC-C577-4D7C-B6BF-69A5E27BCDBD&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>)

Can you please let me know if you would like your email included in the meeting record for either item (or both)?

Thank you,

Lara

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

City of Alameda

From: Trish Ang [mailto:feeshsauce@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Jim Oddie <JOddie@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <MVella@alamedaca.gov>; John Knox White <JKnoxWhite@alamedaca.gov>; City Attorney <cityattorney@alamedacityattorney.org>; Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>; City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>; kevin@kevinkennedyllc.com; cpakearney@sbcglobal.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We Need a Budget That Represents US

Hello,

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

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Sincerely,
Trish Ang