

## Irma Glidden

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**From:** Ruth's Gmail <ruth.abbe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Item 4

On behalf of Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, we would like to acknowledge the leadership provided by Liam Garland, Alameda's Public Works Director, in the City's sustainability initiatives, including the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. We will miss his collaboration and enthusiasm. Thank you Liam for your partnership!

Ruth Abbe on behalf of the Steering Committee

## Irma Glidden

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**From:** Rene A <renepsalms37123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:42 PM  
**To:** Lara Weisiger  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Comment for City Council Meeting

Please read it now.

On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, Lara Weisiger <[lweisiger@alamedaca.gov](mailto:lweisiger@alamedaca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Rene,

Is this for tomorrow night?

Thanks,  
Lara

**From:** Rene A [mailto:[renepsalms37123@gmail.com](mailto:renepsalms37123@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[CLERK@alamedaca.gov](mailto:CLERK@alamedaca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment for City Council Meeting

Dear City Council,

Thank-you to the city of Alameda and the APD for its service to our community. There are many of us who appreciate the countless hours that go into making our neighborhoods safe places.

My family has been in Alameda since the sixties and the city has been refuge. My parents immigrated here as teenagers. The safety and stability (much of which is provided by APD) allowed them to work hard, save their money, and purchase multiple homes in Alameda. Moreover, the police department's visibility throughout the years has also ensured school safety for their children and everyone. Three generations later, our family continues to pour back into this gem of the Bay Area.

We have been closely monitoring the events in Alameda this past month and have found ourselves deeply troubled by the mistreatment and characterizing of our police officers. What has been equally disturbing is that the cries to defund the police are not being contrasted against the thousands of civil interactions that our police officers have on a yearly basis.

No one I know agrees with the mistreatment and wrongful arrest of the man dancing in the street. However, it is both naive and dangerous to promote divesting rather than investing for our police force. The way forward is not backwards. The inexcusable behavior of four officers in Minneapolis cannot be promoted as justification for degrading the entire police force and rejecting the need for a policed society. Think of the absurdity that would abound if we applied this logic to school districts. Should we defund the school district because one teacher in the district commits an act of impropriety?

It's extremely troubling how on social media there has emerged an observable millennial mindset that calls for reckless, unfounded, lawless action. There are dangers associated with defunding the police. The only thing worse than being uniformed is being misinformed. Words matter and it is the responsibility of educated adults to teach our youth that motte-and-bailey fallacies are not how you express your discontent with society. Who will tell our youth that the Bay Area is a sex trafficking capital and its victims have no physical protection other than the one offered by the police?

The residents of Alameda and their governing officials cannot and must not fall prey to egregious demands to defund the police or decrease the police budget. Paradoxically, this will only lead to lawlessness on one hand and excessive police monitoring technology on the other. Cities like Camden, NJ and Detroit are perfect examples. In Camden, the city is overrun with surveillance

cameras. In Detroit, the defunded police department is powerless to stop youth killings. Since defunding, more than 500 children have been shot or murdered.

We need to increase our police force, keep officers on school grounds, and increase our police budget. Anything less is societal suicide.

Thank-you for your time,  
A concerned resident