

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

Aja Letter Police and Watkins

Dear Mr. Levitt, Madam Mayor and members of the city council,

The Alameda Justice Alliance joins many citizens as well as yourselves in being shocked at the treatment and arrest of Mali Watkins for the innocent activity of dancing in the street on Central Avenue May 23.

This unfortunate event, coming right before the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police, highlights how much work lies before us in Alameda. We, too, have a sordid history of injustice by our police department towards people of color. It is no secret.

We expect discipline of the officers involved and a review of policy. Yet, we also believe it is an historic moment across our country for a wholesale reassessment of the police role in our community. There is no need for the further militarization of the police with equipment used mostly in war zones - - even if the costs are borne by the Department of Homeland Security. The same goes for sophisticated surveillance technology like license plate readers. It may be time to consider disarming the police -- as they do in England -- making them truly "peace" officers.

To do so, Alameda must assess its values and determine if crime fighting -- in a city proud of its low crime rate -- is a higher priority than these needs: library, health, cultural activities, affordable housing, keeping city workers, supporting small business or funding pensions.

The Alameda Justice Alliance believes **everyone** in Alameda is responsible for creating a welcoming city -- not just the police department. To do so, we recognize the need for a truth and reconciliation process to examine the history of city policies affecting people of color. It will help all residents take responsibility for attitudes that continue to stigmatize people and fueled the interaction Mr. Watkins had with APD on May 23.

Again, we want to create a sustainable, loving community where everybody is safe and can thrive. It is not a pie-in-the-sky ideal anymore. It is a necessity. We're here to help.

Sincerely,

Laura Thomas

on behalf of the Alameda Justice Alliance

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 Roller from Alameda Police Chief

Whereas Chief Paul Roller 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 Roller, clearly demonstrated by his denial of access to information requested by the Good Governance Committee, and;

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

Whereas Chief Roller 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 Roller from his duties as police chief and replace him as soon as possible.

Respectfully.

Alameda Justice Alliance

Lara Weisiger

From: Jelani Gould-Bailey <jelanigb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:41 AM
To: City Clerk; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police funding / City Council discussion 7/21

Hello,

I recently read in one of the local newspapers that the City Council is considering re-allocating some of the funding away from the police department and wanted to hear additional thoughts from residents ahead of the meeting on 7/21. I have been a resident of Alameda for the past 4 years and wanted to weigh in.

I haven't personally had any negative experiences with the Alameda Police Department and I know that police officers put their lives at risk to do their work. I am sure it is not an easy job to do, in part due to the number of different types of tasks that police are asked to handle.

At the same time, I think the important conversation that is happening nationally, state-wide and locally (due partly to the "Dancing In the Street" encounter, which I do not think was an appropriate response by law enforcement) is an important conversation to have. It brings up some key questions about how we as a community envision safety, community relationships and use of taxpayer money for services; how police interact with communities of color; and to what extent specialists trained to handle certain types of situations may drive positive outcomes in situations that don't require an armed response.

I'm supportive of diverting some of the funding currently allocated to the police department towards other types of services such as mental health and social services, as I think those can also have a positive effect on community safety. I think the "Dancing in the Street" encounter is just one example of a type of situation where police are perhaps not the ideal first responders.

I would encourage the City Council to consider a vision that includes role diversification when thinking about the funding. I can envision an Alameda where police are able to focus more efficiently on a narrower set of tasks for which they are well-suited while other types of first responders or city employees focus on other types of tasks. For that model to operate well at scale, without significantly increasing taxes, reallocation of existing budget would be necessary.

I don't know the full details of the city budget and what degree of reallocation would best serve the community while balancing the need to continue to operate a police force, but I'm supportive of reallocation for the reasons mentioned above.

Sincerely,

Jelani Gould-Bailey

Lara Weisiger

From: Burny <bmatt556@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; John Knox White; Malia Vella
Cc: Manager Manager; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Police Department Downsizing

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers and Citizens:

I write to supplement my recent email by addressing your role as leaders. The issues facing Alameda and this country are significant. But they also provide a unique opportunity. In order to seize that opportunity, you will have to look at the bigger picture with the goal of a long lasting solution. The initial response would be to talk to your constituents and that is a great place to start. But in order to overcome the divisiveness and systemic issues, you will need to consider and address the needs of the various and diverse community members. That is where true leadership come in - to not do the easy quick fix. But to take the time and put in the effort and create a program and approach that will address the needs and solve the problem.

Your role as a leader also necessitates that you understand the implications and consequences of your decisions. Solving one problem and creating another - is not effective or productive. I speak from experience as your Alameda Police Chief for nearly 12 years. I know this City and I want to make sure that you understand consequences. I do not believe that any of you want to make this City unsafe. It will take some work and collective effort, but I do believe that we can achieve the various goals without sacrificing the well being of our residents.

Keeping the need to understand consequences and implications in mind, I share some information for you to consider:

The Patrol Division is the most important division for the sake of overall public safety needs. The number of officers on patrol has been significantly reduced from the authorized 46 to 34 to staff an entire 24 hour period. Other units within the department have also been reduced. The current implication of that right now is that there is an inadequate number of officers to provide the necessary service to our citizens. Any further cuts will only further create a dangerous situation for our city.

Right now, there are only two detective sergeants and two detectives assigned to investigate crimes and soon will be three. Existing investigators currently have over 250 open crime-cases to investigate. That means there are not existing resources to solve many crimes and that effects your and your loved ones in Alameda. Even in Alameda there are murderers, robberies, rapes, burglaries and also other minor crimes. Not only is justice failing to be served, but the perpetrators are out there repeating the crimes. Any further reductions will significantly and further dangerously impact the situation and our residents.

Additionally, total authorized departmental strength for sworn positions is at 88. Presently, that number is down to 72 or minus 16 sworn positions down. This already low number will continue to go down. To put this into perspective, when I was chief of police the authorized strength was 112 - that is 40 positions less! It is my professional opinion, as your former chief and with nearly 40 years in law-enforcement, that you cannot safely protect the citizens of Alameda with such a reduction. And this is the existing situation. Any further proposed cuts would make that situation catastrophically worse.

Now the council has placed a hiring freeze which can be additionally terrible and detrimental as it takes well over a year to properly train a certified officer to be on patrol. This will further reduce that number. These existing cuts present a compromised safety situation for the citizens of Alameda. And this is all BEFORE any additional cuts of up to 42% the budget!

It is now to the point that citizens may not get a prompt response to a 911 call. And the delay will only get worse with any further cuts. I suggest, upon reflection, you determine that when an Alameda resident calls 911 and there must be an available officer to show up in a timely fashion.

In summary, the following is happening and will get much worse with any proposed cuts:

- *Inability to handle calls for service
- *Inability to investigate crimes thoroughly

*De-emphasis on traffic enforcement resulting in unsafe streets. (Covid19 reductions aside). When Patrol Division is understaffed Traffic officers out of necessity will be transferred to Patrol.

Bottom line, this is a call for residents of Alameda to take an active part in letting members of the City Council know their reaction to the current situation and the actions proposed. I believe the universal perception will be that this reduction in services, existing and proposed, to downsize the department creates danger to the safety of our citizens. Yes, there are problems to be solved. But let's look at the bigger picture and create a solution without creating another problem.

Remember, your police department is the guardian of your safety and an important cog in the machinery of our community and our Democracy.

Burny Matthews
Alameda Police Chief (retired)

Lara Weisiger

From: Barry Parker <parkerortho1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Lara Weisiger
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] "Reform the Police"

Yes, Lara, you may include my email in the meeting record.
Thanks,
Barrett Parker

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 20, 2020, at 11:15 AM, Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hi Barrett,

The City Council will consider an agenda item regarding Police at its meeting tomorrow night. The report is available here:

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

Can you please let me know if you would like your email included in the meeting record. Also, members of the public can comment via Zoom and you can register here: https://alamedaca.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-RCw706HRley8mfnTdDqfA

Respectfully,
Lara

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

From: Barry Parker [mailto:parkerortho1@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; John Knox White <JknoxWhite@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <MVella@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Jim Oddie <JOddie@alamedaca.gov>; City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Reform the Police"

Dear Council Members and City Manager,

I just finished watching an hour-long interview called "Race and Sports Across America" with some of the top Hall of Fame athletes who spoke eloquently

about their past and present experiences with race in cities across our country. All of them agree that today is the time to make changes in so many of our institutions. There was a good segment on police departments and everyone agreed that the terminology should be “Reform the Police”, not “Defund the Police”. I agree with the terminology and from what I have heard and seen across this country over the last month is a proposed de-escalation of force with the use of social and psychological professionals to replace many of the tasks presently done by police departments.

My question to you during these difficult times and the need for these trained professionals is where are we going to find competent people to fill these positions? We need trained boots on the ground before we kick the feet out from under the good men and women of a police force we can and should reform. Please don't put the future social/psychological cart before the horse until we create the needed cart.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely yours,

Barrett J. Parker