

From: [MaryClare James](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Moving on next steps Cc
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 3:24:19 PM

> Hello Alameda City Council,
>
> Thank you for service to our City in your leadership roles at this time.
> These are undeniably challenging times with Covid and serious security concerns.
>
> I have been fortunate to live in Alameda for over 38 years and it is disturbing to learn of numerous recent events that make me feel considerably less safe than previously.
> The shootings around Park Street seem more frequent and flagrant than I can recall before.
> The car thefts and car breakins are closer to home - across the street and around the block etc
>
> I don't that there are any easy answers, but it appears that a lot more prompt attention, energy and resources need to be employed.
> I appreciate the surveys and hope that increased security can be put in place now and then have the survey this info sorted out and efforts adjusted as needed.
> If there is more citizen support is needed, let me know if/how I can help.
> Once again thanks for your service,
>
> MaryClare James
>

From: [sam koka](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Manager Manager](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] When will enough be enough? (Items 6B, 9B)
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:33:02 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Councilmembers:

Following up on my email sent to you on Jan 27th, I am even more concerned for the future safety of our city.

The crime in Alameda and the homeless situation is getting out of hand. We need to urgently take care of this problem.

The police may need more training etc. but overall we have a good department that we appreciate and support all that they do. But we cannot go on like this; I am concerned about the training, but what I am deeply concerned about is the safety of our city.

As a property owner, business owner and as a resident for more than four decades, I have never seen or heard of so much crime as in the past year. Almost every business on Webster Street has been affected and at times, more than once.

My neighbors and business neighbors all feel the same way: Alameda is not as safe and secure as in prior years, and though I have compassion for the homeless, having them at the entrance or exit of town is not safe for them nor for us. I was driving towards the tube the other day and a man ran across the road to the other side. Luckily he did not get hit. I have spoken to a few officers from neighboring cities and they mentioned to me that Alameda could be the easiest city to protect, if given the direction along with the tools. (i.e. security cameras, both private and merchants', license plate readers, foot patrol on main streets). A few months ago, we heard residents and even non residents, "demanding" to defund the police. At this time, I am "asking" to please, support our police. They need direction from you.

Item 6B on the agenda will likely let us know what the Chief of Police is planning to do about the crime and the word around town is if there is no punishment there is no consequence to these actions.

I support Item 9B as well.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sam Koka

From: COLLEENARNERICH@AOL.COM
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Crime/Homelessness - Windsor Drive/Marina
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:04:26 AM

Hi Lara,

Thank you for your quick response. Yes, I would appreciate my email being included for both items.

Have a good day,

Colleen

From: Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 9:18 AM
To: 'COLLEENARNERICH@AOL.COM' <COLLEENARNERICH@AOL.COM>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Crime/Homelessness - Windsor Drive/Marina

Hi Colleen,

There are two items related to your email on the February 2, 2021 City Council agenda (attached):

6-B Police Chief oral update on Police activity

9-B Councilmember Spencer's Council referral on Police staffing and crime:

<https://alameda.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4746548&GUID=A8AB5334-055D-4DB1-956A-C0A5DC47D363&Options=&Search=&FullText=1>

If you would like your email included in the meeting record for either/both items, please let me know.

Thanks,

Lara

From: COLLEENARNERICH@AOL.COM [<mailto:COLLEENARNERICH@AOL.COM>]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 9:22 PM
To: Trish Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; Malia Vella <MVella@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Crime/Homelessness - Windsor Drive/Marina

Good Evening,

Crime and homelessness is hitting Alameda hard. My neighborhood is being hit almost nightly. The homeless have decided to do nightly shopping in our neighborhood by stealing property from our cars and porches. We are now concerned that the homeless have discovered the vacant lot at the end of the street and are setting up shop. There is a man sleeping in his car off and on. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! This is not safe for our families. We have been informed that the police have been

told to stand down and allow the homeless to set up their tents. They are not to be disturbed.

I would like to know if this is true? I would like the council to provide, in writing, the direction that is being given to the police. We have a right as homeowners and taxpayers to know what we are up against. So, I ask you to respond and explain your stance as it relates to the homeless setting up "home" in the neighborhoods in Alameda.

Crime is ABSOLUTELY on the uptake (contrary to the statements that John Knox-White has made). There are only 66 members of the police department in Alameda. How is that even legal? Why is there a freeze in place (call it whatever you would like). Years ago, when the population was far less, there was over 110 members of the department. As I understand it, the former chief agreed to a number in the 80s. I understand that it may be difficult to hire officers... really can't blame people for not wanting to work for a community where some members of the council have sold out the police. How are you planning on fixing this?

This needs immediate attention. We are no longer safe in our own community or in our own homes for that matter. Property values are decreasing. Those of us that care about this community are ready to fight for what we deserve – a safe and healthy community. One final thought... I wonder how you would like it if the homeless set up their camps in front of your homes?!

I would appreciate a response.

Colleen Arnerich
510-612-2193
Windsor Drive

From: [Cross Creason](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Referral - 2021-522 Jan 18, 2021 March - Alameda
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:50:06 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft

According to social media accounts, there was no police presence at the protest march as it made its way to the home of the Alameda County District Attorney on MLK Jr. Day, Jan 18, 2021, including when there was an attempt to block their route by someone brandishing a firearm. The protest organizers apparently saw a need, and reportedly did supply security for the march. Assuming the truth of this, and without revealing confidential information, will the Council seek to find out if the City was aware of the event in advance and, if so, why there was not a minimal Alameda PD presence?

Thank you!

From: [Linda Asbury](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Eric Levitt](#); [Randy Fenn](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Fireside](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Communication from Webster Street merchants
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:58:06 AM
Attachments: [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)
[policingonwebster.pdf](#)

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

TO: Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Interim Chief, City Clerk:
RE: Council Agenda , January 19th, agenda item 9B, referral from Councilmember Spencer.

Attached are email communications from a concerned group of merchants on Webster Street. This has been shared with our Board of Directors at our December meeting. After receiving the first one in December, we met with Officer McMullen and reviewed the list of incidents with follow-up conversations. Tuesday morning Sandy Russell, WABA President, and I are meeting with Interim Chief Fenn.

We appreciate our relationship with the APD and the resources provided. We'd like to see a full police force to keep our district safe, clean and inviting for our merchants and their clients.

As always, I can be reached through my email and my personal cell: 408.888.6747. Thank you for all the hard work done by all. Linda

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

Sandip Jariwala <sj@oaklandhs.com>

Fri, Dec 11,
2020, 10:50
AM

to Sandra, me

Sandra & Linda:

On behalf of the merchants in our district, I would like to bring to your attention the increase in crime during the past few months. I think the level of crime we are facing now is unprecedented and I have not seen this in the 18 years that I have owned a business in our district.

These are the businesses that have been victims of crime in the recent past:

Rodeway Inn (Assault, home invasion, robbery)
Bucket of Crawfish (Theft/Murder)
Walgreens (Several incidents of theft)
Circle K-76 Gas (Theft)
7/11 (Multiple incidents of theft)
Grocery Outlet (Theft, armed robbery, attempted car-jacking)
East Ocean Seafood (Assault & robbery)
Hawthorn Suites (Robbery & several incidents of car break-ins)
SK Auto (Break-in & vandalism, car break-ins)
Otaez Restaurant (Break-in, theft of cash register)
Metro PCS (break-in, major theft)
Check Cashing (armed robbery)
Aria Market (break-in)
Cafe Jolie (break-in)

We all are going through the devastation to our businesses from the effects of the pandemic and having to deal with the increase in crime is costly and very difficult to manage. More importantly, the merchants feel that the increase in crime will discourage shoppers from coming to our district.

Some of the criminals have committed multiple crimes in our district at the same businesses. We feel that criminals have become used to the fact that their crimes are going unpunished. We understand that both of you are dedicated to keeping our district safe and inviting and we are aware that other districts in Alameda are also suffering just like ours from the increase in criminal activity.

However, with the elections behind us and the new council term starting, we are requesting the WABA board to take this opportunity to work jointly with other business organizations in Alameda and discuss these issues with the new and returning city council members so that they understand that more resources are needed and must be allocated to crime prevention in all business districts

including more police presence and investigation of all criminal activity. The city council needs to direct the relevant departments and allocate sufficient resources to send a clear message to the criminals that crimes will not go unpunished in Alameda. The survival of businesses and the districts depend on the actions of our city's leaders.

Thank you.

Sandip Jariwala
Owner
Hawthorn Suites By Wyndham-Alameda
Sandip Jariwala

Fri, Jan 15,
1:33 PM (3
days ago)

to Sandra, me

Linda:

Here are the merchants that have raised concerns about increasing crime in our district and want the city council to provide additional resources to APD for beat officers, more community policing, and investigations of criminal incidents.

Hawthorn Suites By Wyndham
S K Auto
Otaez Mexican Restaurant
Metro PCS
Rodeway Inn
Bucket of Crawfish
Circle K-76 Gas
Grocery Outlet
East Ocean Seafood
Check Cashing
Dreams Autoworks
Alameda Auto Lab
Garden Cleaners

Thanks.

Sandip Jariwala

From: [Patricia Baer](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Referral 9B
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:27:45 AM

Hello Council Members

I am concerned with the increasing crime in our city. Please vote to allow Police Chief Fenn to give a current report on what the department is doing to address the situation.

Thank you,

Patsy Baer

From: [Dan McDonald](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re Council Referral 2021-522 for 1/19/2021 Meeting
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:15:07 PM

Dear Members,

I've written before about the increasing incidents of serious crime in Alameda and the need for council to do something about it.

With member Spencer's Referral request (Item 9-B), you have a chance to show you are taking this seriously.

At this point, I don't allow my kids to go more than a block for a walk and never leave the house with anything but a few dollars in cash. Is this the way we should be living?

It's not enough simply to say you've been told that recruiting of new police officers is difficult and throw up your hands.

Please give this referral due consideration.

Thank you,

Dan McDonald
(Very) concerned resident

From: [Dorothy Freeman](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Referral, January 19th Item 9-B
Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 1:50:36 PM

Dear Ms Weisiger and Mr. Levitt,

This did get sent to all the council members. My email was not wanting to send to 7 address so some had to go separate.

Dorothy Freeman

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Council Members;

I am writing in support of Council Member Spencer's Council Referral, January 19th Item 9-B.

Alameda residents are posting almost daily their experiences with increasing crime in Alameda and expressing their opinion that nothing is being done by our local Police Department. It is important that we be informed on exactly what is being done to protect our property as well as our physical well-being.

Property crimes, referred to as "victimless" are not actually victimless. While at the time of the crime a person is not in physical danger, the repercussions of the crime can be as damaging as if there was direct danger.

Replacing a stolen catalytic converter can cost a person \$1000 to \$2000 in insurance deductibles. And there is the cost to the insurance company often resulting in increased insurance premiums. With so many catalytic converters being stolen the ability to get repairs can take longer than a month. If the vehicle is needed for a business or to get to work, the costs and inconveniences just increase. Some reports on nextdoor.com are from those who have lost two converters.

If someone's home is invaded by a robber, that home never again feel safe to the person and their family. The items lost are often expensive to replace or have sentimental value. Again there is emotional cost for the family to return to normal, if they can.

Another discouraging aspect of having experienced a "victimless crime" and having reported it to the police is never hearing back from the Police Department about their complaint. The lack of a response leaves victims feeling like their complaint has been ignored.

I personally have not experienced a crime, but every time I have to park my newer vehicle in a public place I worry about it being stolen or damaged. I have become more worried about carrying a purse in public places so apprehension has been added to my public life here in Alameda. I implore the Council to elevate the reports of "victimless crimes" to a more important level, and to communicate crime statistics to our citizens with more humane understanding. Our citizens deserve no less.

Respectfully

Dorothy Freeman

CC: City Clerk Lara Weisiger
City Manager Erick Levitt

From: [Dan Tuazon](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting 1/19/2021 9B Crime Update
Date: Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:56:43 AM

Re: Support for Council Member Spencer's Referral

Dear Mayor Ezzy-Ashcraft and Council Members:

As a member of the Alameda community for 60 years, I am very concern with the increase in crimes within our city. Our community demands to hear from our interim Chief of Police as to what his plans are in coping and addressing these crimes. Considering the strained resources that APD is currently in, what is the Chief's future strategy for effective policing.

As elected officials, you all have the responsibility for safeguarding the safety and security of the citizens who live, work and visit our city. There can be no excuses or complacency in shirking your most basic duty: protecting our properties, lives and children from violence and crime.

I encourage/demand of you to support Council Member Spencer's Referral 9B.

Respectfully,

Dan Tuazon

From: [Gig Codiga](#)
To: [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 1/19/2021 9B Crime Update - Support for Council Member Spence's Referral
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:28:56 PM

Dear Mayor Ezzy and Council Members,

It is fair, appropriate and timely for Alamedans, and the City Council, to have an opportunity to hear from the Alameda Interim Chief of Police as to what is going on with the increase in crime in our home town, how the Alameda Police Department is coping with their strained resources, and the APD's strategy for addressing the increase in crime resulting in risks to our neighbor's property, lives and children.

It is responsible to have this information to be shared at the soonest which this Referral allows.

Respectfully,
Gig Codiga

From: [Meena Meena](#)
To: [Trish Spencer](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeowner concern on Alameda Crime
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:31:01 AM

Dear Alameda City Leadership - regarding Crime

I am a single female living alone in Alameda, I bought a house in Alameda 12 years ago, stretching my budget to feel safe, after being terrorized by crime living in Oakland, including being held up with a gun in my face. When I came to Alameda I had tremendous relief to finally feel safe. Now that has all changed. Every day I see the robberies and burglaries occurring in Alameda as the Oakland criminals have come over to terrorize the island. I no longer feel safe going to Shoreline center or 5th Street shopping area, I'm watching my back every minute here in Alameda like I did in Oakland. What happened to the days where the Alameda Police had a reputation for pulling people over for driving 30mph? We need to get that reputation back. We need these criminals to feel afraid of getting caught and pulled over when they drive through. We need them to know they are on camera including their license plates.

Partial list of crimes and suspicious activity I have recently witnessed in Alameda:

1. Recently I had to go to Walgreens in Alameda late at night due to an urgent medical situation. I witnessed people stealing in there and I didn't feel one bit safe and didn't feel I could report it for my own safety. It was full of people with backpacks behaving suspiciously.
2. I drove by Burger King one morning and there were what appeared to be heroin addicts laying down in the the parking lot, and some homeless people in their cars, with trash everywhere.
3. I see suspicious people every day, driving around with cars with no license plates, and walking around casing my neighborhood. They jump off the bus and walk around and stop in front of each house and study the house. I had one of them inquire about whether my alarm system works, he said he could only talk with me if my alarm system is broken. I asked 2 guys whether they had a city permit to go door to door and they took off running.
4. I encountered a guy claiming to be with the gas company wearing an orange vest, he was taking a picture of license plates in everyone's driveway on my street. I told him to get off of my property. I was scared to death he would come back to retaliate.
5. I witnessed on my video camera a man checking all around my front door looking for a key.
6. Last week when I heard of the cat burglars entering homes on Beach Road in the middle of the night I was in complete fear and had anxiety for 2 days, terrified someone was going to come inside my house when I'm asleep.
7. I recorded on my camera the voice of the man that stole my next door neighbor's catalytic converter. He was singing loudly the whole time he was sawing away. No fear of getting caught.

Please help get the tough reputation back of our Police Department. Please check in with Piedmont Police to learn how they have handled the crime, being so close to Oakland. It will be tragic if I need to sell my house to go somewhere safe. We need to stop this "defund the police" gossip, the word is getting out on the streets that Alameda police is weak.

Thank you for your consideration.

Meena M.

From: [Joe Vachon](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A Call for Action in Alameda | Increased Crime Issues
Date: Saturday, January 9, 2021 7:59:30 AM

To the members of the Alameda City Council:

I write to you, probably late in the game, after the increase in crime that has occurred in Alameda. In the last week of 2020 and the first week of 2021, there have been numerous reports of car thefts, a smash-&-Grab of yet another US Postal Truck and most recently as of Wednesday, the theft of at least 3 catalytic converters that we know of through NextDoor. There would have been a 4th occurrence, being mine, had my neighbor not been up at 2:30am to deter the criminals using her car remote to honk her horn, scaring them off. She did attempt to file a report with the APD, and while she tried to convey the description of what she could see out her window, being elderly with poor vision, she tells me the APD was more concerned about asking questions she couldn't answer. I followed up later with another call and description. Because no 'crime' had occurred, they couldn't file an official report, but took my information in some sort of reportable way (8-01052021). I've been watching reports of these particular thefts for many months. After my post asking for neighbors to be vigilant in looking out for each other, many posts following all told of their unfortunate losses due to increased criminal activity.

Why am I writing this? I've lived in Alameda for over 4 years, so not a long time. My neighbors have lived here 20, 30, 40 or more years... and they tell me that crime has never, ever been this bad. Yes, the global pandemic has put people out of work and out of their homes. People are desperate and I feel so very terrible for them. I have that 'luxury'... but as you run the City of Alameda, you don't have that luxury. One of your prime responsibilities is being stewards of this city, and by doing so, taking all steps to protect it. When I look at the price I paid for our house, far and above all the prior selling prices, and the taxes I pay, I know in my head we should be receiving a lot for what we're paying for.. but as crime continues to rise, I'm not so sure any more.

I understand that agenda item 9-B during the [upcoming meeting](#) on 19-January addresses these concerns. Please give it some serious consideration.

Cheers,

-Joe Vachon, Alameda Resident
858-688-0201