

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