

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: South San Francisco Civic Ballet program
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:07:31 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Tina Lewis and I live in San Mateo. I am writing you today to urge you not to cut funds from the South San Francisco Civic Ballet program.

The program as been very special to my family. My daughter who recently graduated from high school has been one of Maria Spremich's pupils for three years. Ms. Maria's teaching is topnotch and is highly regarded when it comes to ballet programs throughout the county. With Ms. Maria's guidance my daughter will continue her dance education in college in New York this fall. Programs like SSF are so important to the community especially for youth looking to continue their dance education and for young women to gain confidence.

Every year I have about 20 friends and family members that come to the nutcracker. I would be completely heartbroken not to watch my daughter dance in the SSF nutcracker again. I would feel even more sadness for this ballet program that has gone on for decades to end in South San Francisco.

Sincerely,
Tina Lewis

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:49:21 AM

I am writing this comment as a community member and teacher. I would like to urge the city council members to consider more city funds, especially from the police department be allocated for programs such as mental health services, wellness programs, affordable housing, schools, youth programs, early childhood programs, etc. that benefit our whole community. How can we as a community encourage our youth to be successful? How can we ensure our families are successful? If we can all work towards community improvement, our crime numbers will surely reflect that. Additionally, I would like to hear more from the police department about their involvement with our community and what they are doing with their resources and time. Transparency and a positive relationship with the community are also needed. Much like all of us are doing right now, this should be a continual conversation on being anti-racist and approaching all situations with empathy. The limited interactions I've had with the SSFHS police department has led me to believe that some do not trust our youth and feel insecure in knowing that they can "get away with crime" because of their age. Please help my community improve and to have the police department with their enormous power be held accountable for their actions and where they put their resources. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: [General Comment] Police Budget Reform
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:24:09 PM

Dear Mayor, Vice-mayor and Councilmembers,

I support reexamining the city's police budget and I hope you will consider doing so. My uncle was (now retired!) in law enforcement and I respect the difficult job that the police are called upon to do, but I think we call upon them far too often when they should be our last-line-of-defense. It only escalates the situation when an officer with a gun shows up when someone sees a suspicious person in the neighborhood, when someone is going 50 down ECR, or when someone homeless is stranded without support in our community. I applaud the reforms proposed by "8 Can't Wait" campaign and I hope you consider them also, but the current situation gives us an opportunity to move beyond reforms to fix structural issues in our community.

Social workers, teachers, and librarians all deal with unstable individuals without needing the tools or funding we give to the police; I believe we need to look at how we can provide more resources to them and share budget cuts equitably across departments.

Thanks so much,
Roderick

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:39:01 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am writing in for my public comment:

It saddens me that we are still giving a large proportion of our taxes to a system that doesn't benefit the majority of our community. We are a community of minorities, a group that has been criminalized for centuries. Stop funding a system built off of racism and white supremacy, a system meant to belittle us and justify the oppression we face. Start funding our schools, all of our schools in the district. How can we ensure that our kids get the proper education when "we don't have the money"? They should not only to excel in literature classes or stem classes, but in classes that teach them to be a good person that some how "we can't afford." You CAN afford them, You DO have the money so long as you stop putting our money where it doesn't need to be, in a system that does not care about us

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:53:12 PM

Dear South San Francisco City Councilmembers,

My name is Alondra Galindo, and I am a resident of South San Francisco. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful change with regard to police behavior, an end to racism and anti-Blackness, and immediate reform in how Black people are treated in America. Accordingly, it has come to my attention that the budget for 2021 is being decided as these protests continue.

I call on you to slash the SSFPD budget and instead use those resources towards Parks and Recreation, the library and our public schools.

The Parks and Recreation budget is proposed to be cut by 15%, this is unacceptable and is denying residents the opportunity to participate in events and activities that ensure their well being. Events organized by the Parks and Recreation department are an integral part of our city which are solely made to serve residents and especially the youth.

The library budget is proposed to be cut by 11%, that is \$716,977 taken away which could be used in supporting the learning and literacy of the community. Our city's library is dedicated to nourishing and growing young minds with developmental learning programs.

Cutting funds to these essential departments would be doing a disservice to our city and the residents.

In addition, here are a list of demands in order to defund the SSFPD and invest in our community:

- Make it illegal for police departments to hire officers who were previously fired or who resigned while being investigated for serious misconduct and/or excessive force
- Redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department
- Ban use of tear gas and rubber bullets
- California already requires every police department report every stop, search, arrest and use of force to a state database. Includes officer ID, location, perceived race, age, gender, gender identity, disability status. Raw data and analysis published yearly. We want an independent review board to have terminating power and be able to recommend disciplinary actions.
- Establish a city-wide, participatory committee for all residents (regardless of


citizenship status) that will dictate how to reallocate another percent of the police budget to non-police, community-based services for FY2021.

- A concrete plan form city council members on how they will carry out these demands with reassessment of the budget and specific itemized changes

Sincerely,

Alondra Galindo

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Alondra Galindo.

From: 
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:40:22 PM

To whom it may concern, this is my public comment:

My name is Fern Echevarria and I am a proud millennial resident of South San Francisco. I am writing today with a simple plea to the City Councilmembers present today: Listen to and act upon the clear and concise demands being shared from the young, elderly, disabled, Black, Latinx, and LGBTIQA+ members of this community. It is your civic and moral duty to ensure that you are listening to the most marginalized voices of this community who are systemically also the most vulnerable recipients of your powerful actions. My demand today is clear: Defund the South San Francisco Police Department and reallocate those funds directly back into the community by fully resourcing our K-12 Schools, Social & Community Services, Parks & Rec, and Library departments. If you do not, and instead choose to be complicit in upholding white supremacy through our police state, just remember that November is only 20 weeks away and two of you can and will be replaced accordingly. Gen-Z is coming for you, and they will have no mercy. Thank you.

From:

Subject:

Date:

Public Comment: Not on Agenda - June 10, 2020

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:30:06 PM

South San Francisco City Council Members,

As a SSF teacher, I have been awed recently by the way this community, especially young members of the community have been speaking out against the injustices they see happening. More than that, they are not simply condemning things like systemic racism, they are actively working towards solutions in order to make changes for the better. "Defunding the Police" may sound extreme, but I would argue that expecting the police to be the first line of defense against every single thing in a community is even more extreme. As an educator, I see students going to work instead of doing their homework or else moving away in the middle of the school year because there is not enough affordable housing in the area and their families struggle to make rent. I see students suffering from severe stress, depression, and other mental health issues with limited access to counseling. I see students who want to stay after school for academic help but can't because they need to get home to watch younger siblings while parents are at work. The police cannot help with these situations, but re-investing in schools and community services could. I understand there is a fear of what might happen if police funds are decreased, but crime doesn't happen in a vacuum. Crime happens when basic human needs are not being met. So let's work towards meeting those needs. Let's work together to address the causes of crime rather than simply reacting to crime. Those causes cannot be met with handcuffs, rubber bullets, tear gas, or any other show of force. They must be met with compassion, trust, and community support. This community has shown that it is ready and eager to support each other, and we are trusting in you to help. So I urge you to listen to the community's calls for you to take immediate, active, and transparent steps to end police misconduct and re-invest in the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Alex Johnson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [All Council](#)
Subject: Public Comments for 6/10 meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:22:59 PM

Hello Council members:

My name is Dr. Monique Gonzalez. I am a licensed clinical psychologist, born / raised in SSF. I specialize in youth mental health, complex trauma, and cultural humility.

I invite each person in the room to pause.

Take a moment for a deep breath.

One deep inhale, and one long exhale. Place your hand on your heart. The work starts here. The work must always start here. Council members -- I gently remind you that our community is watching and listening intently. A humble, heart centered, and open minded approach is critical right now. Let those be your guiding principles.

I watched yesterday's council meeting and was incredibly proud of the young people who shared their stories. I am asking the council to mindfully pause and deeply listen to their vision. I was highly disappointed with the adults in positions of power in the room who interrupted these voices, diminished their concerns, and engaged in gas-lighting. As a woman of color, resident, psychologist, and a human, I will not tolerate this. Do you know where this tendency to cling onto our agendas comes from? Fear. It grows out of White Supremacist, colonized mentality. That is what created the police force as we know it. Have you come to terms with this? Have you done your historical research? Please take time to unlearn and relearn. You are centuries late. Get to work. If the information makes you feel uncomfortable, know that is to be expected in this un-learning racism process. This is a deeply painful conditioned mentality. It is NOT one that nourishes, builds, transforms. It is one that divides, amplifies fear, prioritizes order, criminalizes Black and Brown humanity. It gets internalized and seeps into decisions that end up making lasting, destructive impact on our kids, families, communities. The psychological research is clear: Black and Brown communities do not feel safe, seen, or heard by police or governing bodies. They feel traumatized. Don't be a part of that statistic. Be the change.

I stand with the youth who are demanding justice and accountability, who envision a South City that prioritizes **healing and empowerment**. This is about **Transformative Justice**. This is about using our **communal imagination to co-**

create what is possible, in order to uplift those who are marginalized. South City has the opportunity right now to lead the way in innovation, developing a model that **phases out the dependency on police force and redistributes at least 30% of SSFPD budget to community-based services outside of the PD.** Mental health and substance use, affordable housing, jobs, affordable child care, safe spaces/activities for youth, immigration services, nutritional food, and sense of community. These are all needs specifically identified by SSF families, per the *San Mateo County Community Collaboration for Children's Success* 2019 report. These are the roots we must finally tend to. **Defend families. De-fund the police.** That is what we are unapologetically asking for.

In solidarity with my community,
Monique

--

Monique Gonzalez, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist, PSY 28669

From:

Subject:

Date:

[REDACTED]s Office

Public Comment

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:25:38 PM

Hello,

My name is Xitlaly Santos. I am a fellow South City community member.

I wanted to bring awareness about the push for defunding the SSFPD to invest in our community. I strongly believe to redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department. The redirecting funds can be used for health care facilities, affordable housing, parks and recs, and schools. As a community, I encourage we should establish a city-wide participatory committee for all residents (regardless of citizenship status) that will dictate how to reallocate another percent of the police budget to non-police, community-based services for FY2021.

There are so many ways that these funds can be distributed. As a South San Francisco High School alumni, I encourage you to move the funds to SSFUSD. I also encourage to cut ties with the SSFPD and SSFUSD. I encourage the city council to encourage the SSFUSD to follow the lead of many other school districts. I encourage the council members to be in solidarity with us, as a community, to see the importance of cutting ties with the SSFPD and SSFUSD.

I also wanted to address that it has come to my attention about the website "Everything South City" has recently posted an extremely divisive and hateful image of a "Blue Lives Matter" flag. I understand these are difficult times for everyone, but I encourage you to reconsider your engagement with their platform. She chose to silence so many of Black and Brown members in our community by blocking them from her page and deleting comments. I encourage the council members to work toward improving their own websites and making resources for city information more accessible to all residents.

I hope you can stand with us to fight hate in our community.

Best,
Xitlaly Santos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:20:15 PM

Attention: Public Comment South San Francisco City Council.

As a taxpaying resident of South San Francisco I would like to request that you reconsider eliminating the 6% increase in funding to the SSF Police Department. I would also request that the council look at reducing the percentage of the general fund allocated to the police department. Right now the police department is the largest chunk of the general fund.

City funds should be reallocated in light of problems associated with having armed police response for issues that don't require police response. For example I would like to see that a thorough review of what calls the police are responding to is made, then allocate funding or create city agencies more appropriate for the situation. Specifically mental health and homeless issues could be dealt with more directly by allocating city money to mental health support teams and systems to support unhoused individuals on a path to safe housing. Changing how we respond to "quality of life" issues would reduce the amount of calls that police would be asked to intervene in and respond to. The council should set the goal of reallocating 30% of the current police budget to non police community centered services outside of the police budget to address these issues outside of the criminal justice system.

I would also request that it be made illegal for police departments to hire officers who were previously fired or resigned from other departments for using excessive force. Additionally make sure that SSF is not spending budget money on military style weaponry, tear gas, rubber bullets or combat vehicles that could be used to escalate or used in a way to apply excessive force.

Finally, I would like the establishment of an independent review board that has terminating power and is able to recommend disciplinary actions for police misconduct. Also establish a citywide participatory committee that dictates how to reallocate budget resources to non-police community based services to assist in shifting the burden of non police work off of the police department and to more appropriate agencies to deal with those issues.

Thank You,
Wayne Brock
South San Francisco Resident

From:



[All at City Clerk's Office](#)

Subject:

Public Comment

Date:

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:23:48 PM

Good Evening,

My name is Oliver Elias Tinoco and as a member of the South San Francisco community since the age of 5, the issues brought to light by recent national news surrounding the demands of the American public in regards to the proud mobilization of the Black Lives Matter movement can no longer be ignored. It's evidently clear to many that the amount of money poured into the police department of South San Francisco inaccurately reflects the needs, wants, and demands of the community. Having graduated from South San Francisco High School in 2019, I've known for a long time now that my biggest motivator in pursuing higher education has been to do so in order to give back and better the community I have known for so much of my life. The city of South San Francisco, however, is already in the position to do something and show that SSF is a city built by the people, for the people. I urge you to look at the current police budget and recognize that the refurbishing of corvettes and investing into programs of minimal efficacy should not take precedence over pouring money back into departments designed specifically to help the community. Rather than initiatives towards reformed policing or training, it's important to look towards the development of community led groups and services that will work for the betterment and rehabilitation of South San Francisco and its residents. Defunding the SSFPD is not meant to be a punishment onto the Police department, but rather a strategic move towards showing that the city is truly there for its citizens and wants to uplift them rather than over-police them. With instances of police brutality having the national spotlight for some time now, we have to not only acknowledge South San Francisco's own issues in regards to biased policing that targets specific community demographics, but devise a way to keep those who have acted on account of racially charged motivations in check by both the community and city officials. Please do not make it so that South San Francisco becomes complicit in the silencing of the public's demands and wishes. We know what silence can do to damage the relationship between a community and it's political leaders, and I can only hope that it is not allowed to happen here. Prove that beyond the Industrial City and birthplace of Biotech that South San Francisco is a breeding ground of forward-thinking ideas and community building that encourages both current and emerging leaders to spearhead positive and socially conscious change.

Thank you for your time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:01:10 PM

To the Mayor and City Counsel Members,

Hello, my name is Gabriella Jimenez born and raised on Ohlone land also known as South San Francisco, I am writing in regards to defunding south city police, when I say defund the police I mean immediate reduction of their budget, to immediately disarm the police of all weapons. and immediately reallocate resources towards public education, healthcare which includes mental health services and affordable public housing as well as ending any contract the police have to patrol schools. The police are not here to protect our Black and Brown relatives, they do not make us feel safe, nor do they protect us. For many Black, Indigenous, Disabled, Mentally ill person, cop intervention is risky than whatever situation they are in, or no help at all. I was at the council meeting On June 9th and saw how insensitive city council members are; when the youth spoke up about the murder of a Black 15 year old Derrick Gaines council member Karyl Matsumoto told the community that there is "more to the story", which I found disgusting and disrespectful, as Karyl more than likely has never been affected or scared the police would terrorize her. There was no acknowledgment of the Black Lives Matter Movement on June 9th We must start investing time, money, resources, and care in community, start looking out for one another, and divest from the belief police are here to keep our Black, Brown and Indigenous relatives safe. In conclusion abolish the police. abolish the state, and land back.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:09:53 PM

Hello,

As a school counselor who worked at El Camino High School this year, I would like to use this space to advocate for an increase in investing in schools instead of the police. We have no school counselors at the elementary school level at SSFUSD and we have no district team to support school counselors. Each middle and high school team are on their own and they are too overloaded with paperwork to do the real work of healing the community. Having more school counselors is linked to better academic success for students, higher graduation rates, and decrease in anxiety levels for students. Please review the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) national model on school counseling and you'll find that the recommended ratio is 250 students per school counselor. At El Camino the ratio is 360:1, which is less than ideal.

Redirecting the funds from the police directly to schools with the requirement that they be used to hire more school counselors means that you will directly be contributing to the healing of this community. And the community will continue to reap the benefits for years to come. Continuing to increase spending on the police will keep our community feeling afraid, and you are not doing your job if you are complicit in that. There is a very real history of police based trauma, and redirecting funds towards repairing that damage is an important step.

Please do the right thing and listen to what the community wants.

Warmly,

Rebecca Zavala
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:50:09 PM

Please don't close library weekend hours.

Getting a book at the library after a week of hard work is a simple pleasure for the people that can not afford to buy it.

Also, it may be extra work hours for librarians that probably don't make as much money as those who make the financial decisions in our city.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment | June 10th City Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:04:30 PM

Dear Council Members,

I have lifelong ties to South San Francisco, where I currently live. Like most of you, I want the best for the people of South City, and want to see the City of South San Francisco do what is moral.

We're in global pandemic, an economic depression, and either witnessing or participating in historically unprecedented mobilizations across the world that were born out of the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.

Now, more than ever, we need all level of governments to avoid austerity cuts, and to take our public tax dollars and investment them, downwards, into people.

Our city should not engage in austerity cuts, especially not to programs and services that support and develop life. Moreover, our city should be a leader by expanding programs and services, especially for our residents, specifically those people who are most and directly impacted by COVID-19, economic precarity, and state violence.

Our city should generate the funds for this by first defunding SSFPD and redirecting the savings to departments like Parks & Rec, as well as the Library, especially to preserve existing jobs and services in/from those two departments. Secondly, our city should tap into our reserves to sustain funding for Parks & Rec, the Magnolia Center, our Fire Department, as well as the Library, all while defunding SSFPD. Finally, in the mid and long term, our city needs to expand progressive taxation on large industries operating within our city limits, particularly biotech and especially developers, in order to expand existing programs while creating new ones.

Our city taxes developers in order to further fund policing, which already consumes more than one out of every four dollars of our discretionary spending. We need new leadership, who will find ways to expand our public coffers, and invest them in HUMAN, not economic, development.

Our tax dollars need to be invested into our existing early childhood education centers, our K-12 schools, parks, and senior centers. Moreover, we need more to expand new programs and services in the areas of worker-cooperatives, community land trusts for housing, public health, and beyond.

We deserve better, and insist that you develop the courage and vision to do what is best and moral for the people of South City.

Thank you for your time and attention.

César Rodríguez

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:16:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I grew up in SSF. I went to school in SSFUSD. I now work as a Counselor in this district and not much has changed. More money needs to be put into our schools and into our community. We need more youth programs, such as after-school activities at various sites. Programs to empower our youth to use their voices, to work on schoolwork, learn new skills, get support, build friendships, and to create a safe space.

We need to develop our sense of community through art and culture. To encourage what we want to envision for our community. We need to support our families, who may need childcare, safe housing, or access to food. We need to create a trained crisis team as first responders. We need trained individuals in de-escalation rather than sending in SSFPD when a student is in crisis. With the racial injustices, we should not have SSFPD on-site to cause further trauma to our students and staff. We need to support our Black and Brown community, and families that may not speak or understand English. We need access to translated material (Spanish, Tagalog, Mandarin, etc.), easy access to translators, and various ways we could communicate to all our families to ensure everyone is informed. We should not have to worry that we cannot get a translator because it is going to cost us money. How is this equality/equity?

Also, a lot of educators have been leaving this district and it is because of how expensive the Bay Area is. We cannot afford living here, and we are losing many good educators who are for our people. Our pay needs to be increased, as well as more mental health/social supports are needed, such as Social Workers, School Therapists, Nurses, MFTs, etc. For instance, there are no Counselors in Elementary schools. Students will not know what a Counselor is until middle school, and that is not right. We are living in a double pandemic, covid-19 and racial injustice. More than ever, students are going to need plenty of mental health support to address their trauma and to educate them. Students are going to need consistent support on-site.

We do not need to increase our funds for SSFPD. If this happens then you are truly not listening to what the community needs and contributing to systemic racism. We need to invest in our people, our schools, and our community. What is more important than that?

Thank you and be well,

--

Kate Espiritu (*She, Her, Hers*)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund SSFPD
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:12:04 PM

Hello,

With the recent movement going on, I would like to bring in to light all the flaws within our system based on institutionalized racism and the abuse of power. There are multiple cases of evidence all across social media to videotape the abuse of the police force, those including SSFPD. As a community member, I believe strongly that we should be taking steps towards better changes, such as defunding SSFPD and allocating the funds elsewhere to further benefit our health and wellness in our community. Why is it that only ONE riot gear costs equate to 55 frontline care workers full PPE? If our community really cared about our health, safety, and wellness, we should be allocating the funds elsewhere.

Thank you,
Christy Chai, fellow community member

Sent from myMail for iOS

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:01:32 PM
Attachments: [April 2007 commentary Terrazas.pdf](#)

Hello,

As a brown man raising brown children, I know that one day, they will be likely racially profiled by police. As I was when I was 19.

On April 18, 2007, I was unjustly racially profiled by South San Francisco police officer Robby Chon. I was waiting for the bus to take me to the College of San Mateo, where I was completing my GE, studying journalism and serving as the Editor of the college newspaper, The San Matean. The encounter with Chon left me so incensed, that I wrote about it. I was a student getting my education, yet Chon made me feel like a criminal when I had done absolutely nothing wrong. A copy of what I wrote is attached here in this email.

I'm now raising my kids in South San Francisco. I was already living here when I heard the news that Chon—the same officer who confronted me—was struck in the head with a skateboard by a brown man who was in the midst of a manic episode. Having history with Chon, I can only imagine how little he did to deescalate the situation. The criminal justice system cared nothing of the man's mental health, and still attempted to charge Luis Alberto Ramos-Coreas with attempted murder (the jury didn't however, yet from what I last [read](#), he was still facing 20 years in prison).

I bring this up to point out how this system in addition to targeting black, indigenous and people of color, also criminalizes mental health. Just imagine if we funded mental health services the way we fund police departments? Just imagine if instead of calling police on Ramos-Coreas, trained medical professionals intervened instead?

Everyday, I see South San Francisco change. As gentrification speeds up, so too will wealth inequality. Which likely means that people who truly need access to mental health resources will get treatments in the form of jails and prisons instead.

That is something that our communities—specifically black, indigenous and communities of color—don't need.

--Alexis Terrazas

SPIN CYCLE

Just going to school, officer

Police officers have a tough job of maintaining order and keeping the peace. But when does this merit that officers use the tactics of racial profiling?

On Wednesday, April 18, I fell victim to being racially profiled in South San Francisco.

"What are you doing here...where are you going...where do you go to school...where do you live," is what the officer asked me before ever giving me a reason for stopping me in the first place.

Answering incriminating questions quickly left me feeling extremely bitter, for I knew I had done nothing wrong. I was just another Mexican-American in South San Francisco at 10:40 a.m. waiting at a bus stop on my way to school.

As the officer continued to ask his questions, my patience wore thin. It wasn't until then that he gave me his alleged reason for stopping me, which was jay walking. As my bitterness began to mount, he began to use his badge power to implement scare tactics. "We could do this the easy way, or the hard way. It's up to you," said the officer.

At this point, it became clear that this officer could arrest me for no apparent reason, and the best way out of the situation would be to swallow my pride and answer his hollow questions.

Towards the end of the conversation, I decided to air that I felt that I was being stopped solely because of my ethnicity. "I'm just doing my job," said the officer. "It's my job to stop anyone who looks suspicious."

He then confided that there had been a series of burglaries in the neighborhood, and that I matched the suspect's profile – the only difference being that the suspect was a white male.

The officer proceeded to ask his questions and ended the session saying "thank you for your cooperation," without ever making eye contact.

Certainly, there will be people who think I am overreacting. Since it was my first time being racially profiled however, I'd argue otherwise. Anyone who has ever been racially profiled and has been forced to answer questions without ever committing a crime knows that the process is very uncomfortable and degrading. When treated like a criminal, you begin to feel like a criminal – and my situation was no exception.

Some people would say that racial profiling is just part of police work, because if a person fits a certain profile, then that would justify pulling that person over. In this case however, that wasn't the case. I may have dressed like the person the police were looking for, but I didn't fit the ethnicity of the person they were looking for. The officer's reason for stopping me was false and his motivation was as well.

My intent isn't to demonize law enforcement, for I have an uncle who is a veteran police officer in San Francisco. My intent is to point out that racial profiling is wrong, in any case.

—Alexis Terrazas

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:52:16 PM

Greetings City Council of SSF

I, along with the rest of the world, are demanding that we critically look at what we deem as public safety. I ask that we look at the countless data on what has been effective in addressing crime and, more importantly, addressing public safety. The current funds dedicated to the police department at about 30% of the budget is an ineffective way of addressing the needs to the people. The people do not need mass incarceration with a recidivism rate of 76%. They do not need more harassment and unjust killings of black and brown people. We need an investment in healthcare, mental health, housing, education, jobs, and substance abuse. Doing the so would alleviate the top three crimes in the city which are theft, burglary, and auto-theft. The success rate for solving such crimes are very low and we need to be proactive about being preventative and actively addressing poverty and the problems associated with poverty. Begin divesting from the police department and invest in the hard working and vulnerable people of South San Francisco

Aristel de la Cruz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment- SSF Budget
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:38:15 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Ollie and I believe the South San Francisco Police Department funds should be reduced. I will keep it short for other people to share their opinion.

The top crime in South San Francisco is burglary. The reason for this may be because of how many families are close, on, or under the poverty line in South City. Those who do not have money can resort stealing. You, as the city officials, can overfund the police for them to try and investigate all of the burglaries of the city, or you can prevent further burglaries by helping those in financial need. The absolute best and effective way to prevent thieving is to address poverty in a positive way. Instead of sponsoring guns, try to provide more job skill trainings. Instead of overpaying undertrained cops, try to have better hiring wages for ordinary families. Instead of supporting a system that allows officers like Joshua Cabillo to walk free after shooting and killing 15 year old, Derrick Gaines, in South City, try listening to the demands of the people to Defund SSFPD.

Thank you for your time,
Ollie
SSF Student

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:42:15 PM

Dear SSF City Council,

I am writing to you today to express my thoughts and concerns with the current funding of the SSFPD. Honestly speaking upon hearing about people wanting to defund the police I had my concerns. As someone who works in the community and was educated in SSF schools I want what is best for the community. We cannot live in a world where violence or force is our answer for everything. We live in times where we need to address things like Mental Health, Afterschool Programs, The Education System. We need to be preventative instead of responsive. Some of the funding that goes to Police could be used for that. Especially since I also understand that Police are not mental health experts and sometimes are put into situations they are not trained for. My experience growing up in SSF was great but I cannot deny that I have felt that it is far from perfect and with looking into some of these changes I feel like the community can address a lot of it's problems especially now with the social injustices going on in America.

--

Victor Eco

[REDACTED]
Pilipino Youth Coalition San Mateo County Advisor

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:49:30 PM

My name is Cecilia Barrientos and I have been a resident in South San Francisco my whole life. I love a lot about this city, however I believe it is time to make some changes. We need to begin the process of defunding the SSFPD by relocating general funds out of the police budget and into programs that will directly benefit our community members, such as affordable housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health and wellness facilities, schools, etc. I look forward to seeing how the city will carry out these demands, not only for myself but for my friends, family, and everyone else who is also part of the community

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:24:16 PM

To the City Council of South San Francisco:

I am writing to express my concerns over our city's budget and argue that money spent on the SSF Police Department should be reallocated to develop and fund programs geared towards benefitting our community members by promoting education, employment, mental health services, and affordable housing.

Research suggests that police reforms including hiring a diverse workforce and mandating body cameras have not changed the treatment and policing of black, brown, and poor communities like South San Francisco. I join my fellow community members in urging the city to divest from the police and invest in the community's wellbeing and safety in the following ways:

- Ban the hiring of police who have resigned or been fired during investigations for misconduct
- Set up a public advisory board that can amend police department union agreements
- Freeze SSFPD hiring
- Ban paid leave for officers investigated for misconduct
- Redistribute at least 30% of the police budget to community-based services not connected to the police department
- Demilitarize the police
- Support SSFUSD in cutting ties with SSFPD

As a high school teacher working and living in South San Francisco, I especially urge the City Council to support the cutting of ties between SSFUSD and SSFPD in order to provide more equitable, safer campuses for our students. My students have shared multiple incidents where they have felt profiled or targeted based on their racial and gender identities by the police roaming our campus. They deserve to attend schools where they do not feel threatened by police presence. Instead they deserve access to mental health services, youth community centers and activities, and affordable housing that accommodates their families.

South San Francisco needs its money to benefit our community instead of supporting an institution that criminalizes race, mental health, and poverty, which is why I urge the City Council to meet these requests in reviewing the 2020-21 budget.

Regards,
Erin Ritchie
94080

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for tonight's Council meeting about Shared streets
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:36:47 PM

Re: Public Comment about shared streets for Council meeting dated June 10, 2020

Dear Council Members of the city of South San Francisco,

My name is Sandhya Laddha, San Mateo County Advocate at Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC). Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

I am excited that South city is considering slow/shared streets and that the city staff has been working on this and also taking learnings and lessons from what other cities have been doing.

It will be great to see a "streetery" in downtown South City - a street closed for vehicles and open for people walking and biking and also for businesses and restaurants along with a slow streets network which runs through the city and connects different parts of the city to the downtown. It would be great to overlap these efforts with the city's bike/ped plan. Learnings from current slow/shared streets efforts will help feed into our final designs and permanent build outs.

Lastly, I would like to add that please consider SVBC as an ally in your efforts, and that we are open to working with you and supporting you in your efforts.

Thank you once again!

--

Cheers,
Sandhya Laddha
San Mateo County Advocate
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:21:23 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Ana Giulia Serra and I have been a resident in South San Francisco for the past 6 years. This has been my first home in the United States and I hope it will be my last as well, and as much as I love this city there are many flaws within it as well. On June 5, 2012, police officer Joshua Cabillo murdered 15 years old Derrick Gaines. The San Mateo District Attorney declined to file charges. He was hired by the San Francisco Police Department in 2013 and just last year he shot a man fleeing from the police. As a resident of SSF, I am asking the city council to start divesting from the police department and start investing where it matters, investing in a healthy community and a better future for SSF, absent of unjust killing of black and brown people. We need to remind our community and those in charge that Black Lives Matter and always will matter. We need to bring the process of defunding the SSFPD by reallocating general funds out of the police budget and into programs that will directly benefit our community members such as affordable housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health and wellness facilities, schools, etc. I am looking forward to hearing how the city council members will carry out these demands with reassessment of the budget and specific itemized changes. Thank you for your time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:12:59 PM

To the City Counsel of South San Francisco,

I would like to first take the time to thank you for reading this message. For 19 years I was a proud South City resident until four years ago when I moved to Hawai'i for graduate school. Living in South City as a colored youth was difficult. In the earlier years of my life my mother was unfortunately under the influence of drugs and my father was not in the picture. Countless times I've had the police come into my house and take me away from my mother or my family. As an adult who has had time to reflect I can honestly say these were the most traumatizing times I've had to experience in my life. It was not necessarily the purpose of the actions because I believe the intentions were right, but it was the manner of force that I was taken, which no child should have to remember. After I was taken and sent to live in foster care, little to no support from the city or government programs were provided to myself or my family. For many years I struggled with depression with thoughts of suicide. The overall success that drove my support came in college from underfunded community organizers and educators. It was not from the government or the police of South City, but its communities and residents that changed a young man's life for the better.

I think only of future youth when I support the propositions of CHANGE South San Francisco. Youth should not have to experience moments such as the ones I have had. As preventative measures I am in support of defunding police and proactively sending funds where it is necessary for the overall development of the community. Funding and developing programs that address issues related to employment, housing, education, substance abuse, and mental health are all small steps this city can take to helping residents of South San Francisco before policing is necessary. Sending money to schools that support community based educators will have a major impact in the community and the overall youth. Creating openings for jobs will also lower the stress levels and hopelessness of many adults, opening pathways for success and staying away from substance abuse. Below are just a few of the many demands in which I support the change for the community. Please take the time to listen to the remaining demands from the community and work together with CHANGE South San Francisco, and I hope we can all work together to bring a peaceful solution in which we can all thrive and create a better for our youth in South City. -Redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department -Every % cut to Parks/Rec, Community Development, Mental Health Services, Social Services, etc, MUST be matched with the same % cut to the police dept. -Increase low market rate and low income housing -Establish a city-wide, participatory committee for all residents (regardless of citizenship status) that will dictate how to reallocate another percent of the police budget to non-police, community-based services for FY2021
Thank you for your time, Lorenzo Pule Finau-Cruz

--

Lorenzo Finau-Cruz

Educator and coordinator,
James Denman Middle School, San Francisco
Pin@y Educational Partnerships

B.A. Asian American Studies
San Francisco State University

Academic Mentor
Mayors Youth Employment and Educational Program

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Public Comment: Not on Agenda
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:15:46 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to express my concern over the superfluous budget allotted to the South San Francisco Police Department. The vast majority of our crimes are theft which is fundamentally connected to poverty. Instead of investing in an institution that perpetuates a cyclical system of crime committed by those in most need, we should instead invest in remedial programs. While it is true that some already exist, our city would be better off providing these programs with better funding to increase its span of effect. If we were to instead develop and fund programs meant to address unemployment, quality education, housing, mental health, and substance abuse, we would see less theft.

Again, investing in remedial social services are ideal; arresting someone makes it harder for them to find employment and thus the cycle starts again. Focusing on the root of why people are committing theft in the first place is how we tackle our issue, not by merely putting people away and hoping they don't do it again.

Please do not overfund the SSFPD and instead reallocate those funds to other social services.

Thank you,
Daphne Pacia-McCann

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:49:03 PM

Dear Members of City Counsel,

My name is DeVante Jewett, South San Francisco neighbor, El Camino High School Alumni, and Social Worker. I want to express my concern about this years' budget and how a high percentage of funds are going to SSFPD. As we all know, the purpose of SSFPD is to serve and protect the citizens of South San Francisco. In addition, they are responsible for enforcing law, preventing, detecting, investigating, and solving criminal activity.

As a concerned citizen, I feel the budget should fund programs that address issues of criminal activity to make our community safer. Typically, criminal activity occurs because the person(s) are experiencing poverty and have little to no resources to support them. I believe the budget should reconsider funding more youth programs, mental health/substance use resources, restorative justice, more affordable housing, more jobs, events that celebrate multiculturalism & community, and especially education. Funding these programs are more likely I to decrease crime because those resources are accessible.

The goal of SSF CHANGE is to end police violence against Black & Brown communities and dismantle racial injustices. In addition, more dialogue & action is needed to make that a reality. We must start by defunding the SSFPD and investing our funds into programs that place communities in a position where they will succeed and not have to resort to criminal activity.

I am a Black man and I want to live in a city where I do not have to worry about the ongoing police violence against people who look like me. I am open for dialogue around the distrust of law enforcement from the Black community's perspective and what can be done about it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best Regards,

DeVante Jewett, MSW, ASW

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 1 public comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:13:49 PM

Good morning,

I'm responding with thoughts on the city's budget meeting. As a mother of young children, I strongly support our enrichment services such as our city's park and recreation and library services. I have utilized these services every day pre-COVID. I do not think it is fair that the police department get an increase in funds while imperative services for our communities get cut. I urge the city to not defund from our libraries and park and recreation budget as this would be a great disservice to this city and the children who will grow up here. Our libraries deserve additional funding in services for our youth and community members who use it as an educational supplement. The libraries STEM kits were an amazing addition and my kids LOVED it, but they could do so much more with increased funding. Park and Rec services also need additional funding to support our community members and children. Please do not decrease funding to these vital services!!!!

Amanda Vergel de Dios

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:40:34 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Marcela Rivera and I have lived in South San Francisco my whole life. Growing up in South City I was often told that there was not enough funding for sports, dance and other programs I was interested in because of the lack of funding. My parents would have to drive me to different cities to get involved in these activities so that I could have the best opportunities. I am lucky my parents did this for me, but I know that this is not the case for many. After doing my research I am appalled by the breakdown of the SSF budget.

Kids in South San Francisco deserve better community programming. These kids want to read, dance, and play sports. If we want to build a better community for the future generations we have to change our ways now. Why do police get 28% of the city's budget, while libraries get 11% cut?? These children need opportunities to succeed, not more cops.

As someone who has worked closely with the kids of South San Francisco as a summer camp instructor, I know that these kids need more attention and more resources. If you do not vow to cut the funding for police and reallocate it to social programming to help these kids, I can promise you that the youth and parents of South San Francisco will vote you out. We will not be silenced.

Best,
Marcela Rivera

Sunshine Gardens Class of 2010, Westborough Class of 2013, El Camino High School Class of 2017

Dear Mayor Garbarino,

My name is Gustavo Lopez and I am a former teacher from South San Francisco.

I am emailing to demand Mayor Garbarino and the city council divest from the South San Francisco Police Department. The demonstrations across the nation have made it clear that there is a need for change.

As a teacher I see the discrepancies that exist between the police department and our communities. I have worked with many generations of South City youth who had little to no access to resources and programs aimed specifically at them. There are not enough after school programs that deal with the social and emotional support for youth ages 13-24. Access to mental health services is very limited in the community and needs major investment. Now, more than ever during this economic downturn, we need to invest into programs that will directly help the entire community that are facing a daunting task of survival.

Addressing violence through wrap-around services like case management, peer support groups, and non-police centered activities need to be invested in immediately. The data is extensive on these issues, but using the police to solve societies major issues like mental health, economic disparity, and even violence is very expensive and many times ineffective. Now is the time to be courageous and invest in a new vision of dealing with the city's largest problems.

I am calling on our city council to commit to reducing the police budget and reinvesting in other essential programs such as COVID relief, affordable housing, educational enrichment, transportation, and community programs.

Specifically, I would rather see funds go towards mental health programs, crisis de-escalators, and the Community Development Block Grant fund which serves to assist low income persons by: providing decent and affordable housing, providing a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities.

The current funds dedicated to the SSFPD have been harmful to our community and I ask that our leadership take a look at alternatives to policing and in the meantime allocate money to programs and services that will benefit our community.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. We hope to see action from our leadership soon.

Gustavo Lopez,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fw: SSF letter
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 6:37:03 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dave-Janet Theisen <[REDACTED]>
To: Mike Mulkerrins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 04:47:51 PM PDT
Subject: Fw: SSF letter

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Forwarded Message

From: Dave Janet Theisen <[REDACTED]>
To: Austin Navarro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tue Jun 9 2020 at 4:43 PM
Subject: SSF letter

June 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is David Theisen, I have been a part time employee for the Park and Rec Dept. for over 20 years.

It has been brought to my attention that the City Council is planning to curtail some, if not all of the Park and Rec events and activities.

This issue should be seriously reconsidered. With shops and restaurants starting to reopen, I feel the city should reopen as well, the revenue these activities will generate will greatly benefit our current budget.

Families are looking forward to celebrating their children's birthdays and graduation parties. Also, educational and physical activity classes, and rentals that the city offers. It goes without saying, that new guidelines and limitations will need to be agreed upon and drafted by all parties concerned. These new rules can be amended as we move forward through this pandemic.

I have been approached many times by people in our community, asking how they can get involved to spread the word regarding the educational and recreational activities that SSF offers for their families in our community. I always advise them to call the Park and Rec Dept. and voice their opinion regarding their thoughts, write a letter, and attend our City Council meetings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:10:30 PM

Dear South San Francisco City Councilmembers,

It is my understanding that you are currently proposing a budget for our community that aims to increase funding for the SSFPD, while simultaneously cutting millions of dollars from other vital services, such as Parks & Recreation, Econ & Community Development, and Libraries. I do not feel that this is a wise use of resources. This time that we are collectively experiencing as Americans is showing, without a doubt, the drastic disparity and skewed priorities of communities all over the country that put the police above the people. As a result of this, communities suffer. People suffer. Many are treated unfairly. many people even die. The police are equal parts overequipped with the resources to potentially abuse, harass, and perhaps even terrorize the members of the community they are allegedly here to "serve and protect".

I am a mental health professional serving the students of Westborough Middle School as their School Safety Advocate, in addition to working with folks at our clinic down the street from Tanforan. On the small handful of occasions that I have had to interact with SSFPD officers because a client presented as a danger to themselves, I see that these officers were undertrained and unqualified to successfully deescalate the situation, at least in a manner that did not further bring distress to my clients. While I had no personal problem with those officers directly, I can say for certain that that is not a part of their job that they are ecstatic about performing. I implore you to recognize the needs of your community and divert money and resources away from the police department, and into the parts of the city that need it the most. This will make your citizens feel more connected, and therefore the need for police intervention will lessen, and the city will be strengthened as a result. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Asuncion, [REDACTED]
School Safety Advocate, Mental Health Clinician

Youth Service Bureaus of the YMCA
1486 Huntington Ave. Suite 100
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Phone: (650) 877-8642 x16/Fax: (650) 877-8643
[REDACTED]

<http://youthservicebureaus.org>



PRIVILEGE AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: Please note that the information contained in this message may be protected and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:12:53 PM

Please consider the following:

I support redistributing a third of the police department budget currently allocated to them to go towards non-police community based services outside of the police department. I also support establishing a city wide participatory committee for all residents, regardless of citizenship status, that will dictate how to reallocate another percent of the police budget to non-police community based services for fiscal year 2020-2021.

I support protecting our citizens and banning the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. As we can see through current events, these are weapons that cause more harm than is necessary.

I support making it illegal for police departments to hire officers who were previously fired or resigned while being investigated for serious misconduct and/or use of excessive force.

I support the need for an independent review board to oversee the state database used by police to record every stop, search, arrest, and use of force. Allow such a review board to recommend disciplinary actions or terminations. This is long overdue.

I look forward to hearing how any or all of these ideas can/or will be implemented, along with a reassessment of the budget.

Renuka Sibia

From:



[All at City Clerk's Office](#)

Subject:


For Public Comment: Not on Agenda

Date:

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:23:45 PM

I am a long time South City resident, alumna of SSFUSD, Parent of 2 graduates of SSFUSD, and a former HS Security staff at SSFHS. I demand that we defund the police and reallocate those funds to better fund and develop programs that address issues related to employment, mental health, education, housing, and substance abuse. Doing so will reduce the need for militarized policing in our community.

Jaime Marcic

From: 
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Reallocate the funds
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:25:57 PM

To whom this may concern,

Hello, name is Brianna Sangco-lee and I'm a resident of South San Francisco. I graduated from El Camino High School and most of my friends and family live in South City as well. I urge you to reconsider increasing the funds going into the SSFPD, instead as a community member, I suggest reallocating 30% of the funds back into non-police community-based programs that would better serve the people of South San Francisco. As a resident of SSF, I am concerned for the future of our city. Increasing funds on schools would be greatly appreciated and would certainly help better the climate of our community. Education should be our city's priority— not the police department. Increasing the SSFPD's funds will only do more harm than good.

Sincerely,
Brianna Sangco-lee