

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:29:46 PM

Good evening to council members,

My name is Kristen Cantor. I am making a public comment to hopefully bring awareness to the issues and demands our city that need to be addressed. After watching the council meeting yesterday there were concerns I had with the comments council member Karyl Matsumoto said. Our council members need to address that black lives matter and the protection of our Black and Brown community. As I said in my precious email, Derrick Gaines was shot and killed by Joshua Cabillo, there is not "more to the story" Derrick Gaines was 15 Years old. He was also Black. And he was shot to death. Joshua Cabillo was only transferred to SFPD where he continues to be a threat to our Black and Brown community. I am demanding that it be illegal for police departments to hire officers who were fired resigned or have a history of excessive force and or being investigated for serious misconduct and I am demanding justice for Derrick and his family. It has been 8 years, say his name.

Secondly I want to address the budget for SSFPD. Why are our youth short on resources, access to computers, books, and education, while the SSFPD has an increase in their budget? Reallocate those funds to our community that has been asking for years to acknowledge this. We do not need to increase budget for ssfpd, cut their funds redistribute to community programs. I am demanding to redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community based services outside of the police department. After hearing and listening to what the chief of police asking for more funds for three new cars, I most definitely believe they do not need any increase for resources. The people of this community are struggling for affordable housing, healthcare, education and all I can think about is how the SSFPD has the budget for a new CORVETTE cop car. I hope you can think about this and see where the problem is. I have lived in south city my whole life and have seen too many of my friends and family be forced out of this city. At a young age I was forced to understand why my friend was killed by a cop, had to understand why the color of my skin bothers people in this city, instead of learning of discrimination I had to experience it and I am not the only one, there are many BIPOC who have experienced much worse in this city and I am asking that you listen to their voices and their needs. Prioritize the community, invest in us. Not the SSFPD, who degrade our black and brown people of this city.

Thank you,
Kristen Cantor

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[REDACTED]

From: [Breanna Oliveros](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Adjust the Budget
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:38:22 PM

My name is Breanna Oliveros, and I am a 23 year old resident of South San Francisco. I've claimed our diversity and acceptance throughout our community my entire life. But, to live in a city where my community councils can barely say George Floyd's name, a Black man who was murdered in the streets, makes me question our community. Are we looking out for one another? In my opinion, no. The community has joined hands, but I ask you council members, where are yours right now? What will you be ACTIVELY doing to make a change in our community? Will you listen to us, and make a REAL call to action? Or will you continue to fiddle your fingers?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:41:20 PM

I have been a resident of South San Francisco for most of my life.

Throughout my life here, the library in particular has served as an extremely impactful community resource for not only myself- but for many residents of South City. The library has proven to be an outstanding asset for students of this city as well as everyday residents, as they try their best to provide workshops, activities, books, computer/internet access, tutoring, etc. with what little funding they have been allocated by the city.

But as the library has seen continual budget and funding cuts, the city chooses to funnel its funds into the SSFPD- a department that has served no impactful purpose onto the lives of our youth- especially our youth of color- and has instead contributed to fear and an imbalance of community power.

I am asking you all to reconsider defunding the SSF Police Department and instead reallocating a large portion of these funds back into our community, into our libraries, and into our youth. By defunding the police department and instead focusing on community wellness- we will in turn see a healthier community and an increase in positive livelihood from our youth and our residents.

The South San Francisco Police Department has worked mainly to terrorize and enforce power over our community and have preyed on the livelihoods of our youth that would instead exponentially benefit from community resources- such as the library, in order to combat the same issues that the police are supposedly working to do.

The SSFPD does not make me or has it ever made me, as a resident, feel safe or secure. Instead, the library, the schools, the small businesses, the recreational/arts programs, *the community*- has provided this safe sanctuary for me and for many of the residents of South City and I strongly urge you all to consider where you are putting these funds and how it will impact the lives of those who live here as a result.

We must not be a community based in police power, but instead a community based in the wellbeing of one another with the willingness to accept and hear from the diverse community in which we live, have known, and love.

With Great Concern,
Vanessa Cassandras

From: [Valeria Olguin](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:48:22 PM

Hello, my name is Valeria Olguin, I am a lifetime resident of South San Francisco. I'm asking you today to defund the SSFPD. Often, when a request such as this is made I hear arguments such as, "but the cops serve and protect our community!" But it has long been clear that our local government no longer understands what a community is. Our community has been serving and protecting ourselves for decades from city leaders and the SSFPD as we have watched you sell our city off to foreign investors, self involved transplants, and billionaire tech companies while harassing and mass policing our people. We are tired of watching you flaunt new housing complexes and a new police station as we watch our teachers boycott for an affordable salary, our neighbors lose their homes, our parks fall apart and our children fall behind in school. Throughout this pandemic have you even for a second been concerned about how much our students will fall behind due to lack of resources or do you just not care? Who cares right! If the kids fall behind and slip up you can just send them to juvy and have the cops perpetually harass them! Anything to keep the outsiders happy!

What part of the community are the cops protecting? The long time residents that moved to the east bay for affordable housing? The youth that cops mass policed into prison? The library staff you will furlough? The parks and rec staff that onced worked hard to organize little leagues and day in the park? You have chipped away at our city and reallocated funds into an army of cops you keep building to further protect your private investments and interests.

You may think that this is a one time, maybe two time event that will die down once the national movements stop being broadcasted, but you are incorrect. The movements occurring nationwide have only but become a catalyst for the community in this city. We are ready to reclaim our city. That is why today we begin by asking you to defund SSFPD.

Before I finish I want to publicly make note that this was a comment I had sent in to be read at the budget hearing last night. As a concerned but immunocompromised resident, I was disappointed by the evident ableism in the manner in which the city council managed their budget hearing in the middle of a pandemic. I sat by my computer for three plus hours waiting for comments to be read, but all I heard was continuous accusatory and defensive language spilling from councilwoman Matsumoto. Prioritizing your safety over a national concern regarding the manner in which cops police and murder people of color? Looking directly into the faces of Derrick Gaines' classmates and telling them they don't know the

entire story? Admitting what we all know and telling us cops are here to control us? Cutting off residents in the middle of sentences and reacting in a defensive manner? A complete disappointment.

From: [Carmela Dizon](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:57:40 PM

To the City Council Members,

The city is continuously putting barriers for BIPOC low income families in SSF. By calling them, “drug addicts” and “thugs” that the SSFPD must “control”, you are criminalizing and generalizing the residents of this city. I am asking the city council to reconsider the FY2020-2021 budget and redistribute funds from the SSFPD into community services and departments such as parks and rec, library and resources for survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and people with mental illnesses.

Also, I am asking you all to educate yourselves in the matters that affect this city. It is one thing to lead and watch from the sidelines of what the residents of this city are experiencing but have you stepped in and tried to understand your constituents’ lives? I implore you to educate yourselves in knowing why crimes are happening in this city and how substance use disorder is a disease that millions of Americans suffer from. Instead of saying we’re “drug addicts” and “thugs” what you can do to help the residents of this city in combating?

Divest from the SSFPD and invest in looking for ways in helping your constituents beyond criminalizing and not understanding the root causes of these problems. By continuously funding the SSFPD, you are implementing a band aid solution and not trying to better South San Francisco in the long run.

With Concern,
Carmela Dizon
CHANGE SSF

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Carmela Dizon
Occupational Therapy Major, Senior
Dominican University of California
e: [REDACTED]
pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [Kanani Cortez](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:57:54 PM

Hello council members and mayor,

I am extremely disappointed with your behavior at last night's meeting. You applauded young people showing up to engage with the city, yet you continually tried to silence those speaking and Matsumoto even insisted that she did not wish to "debate" with us. Please do better.

CHANGE SSF's demands are as follows:

- Begin 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 (affordable housing, jobs, youth programs, restorative justice, mental health and wellness facilities, schools, etc.)
- Freeze SSFPD hiring to increase numbers of officers indefinitely including incoming police academy candidates/graduates
 - Specifically, make reductions to salary to allocate for social workers and other community workers
- 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.
- Ban paid-leave for officers being investigated for misconduct
- Set up a public advisory board with the power to amend PD union agreements in interest of ensuring public safety
- Ban city spending on the assessment or building of any police buildings or corp yards
- No unauthorized overtime for SSFPD
- No general fund money to pay legal settlements due to police murder, misconduct, and negligence

- Change mutual aid policy so SSFPD will not send city officers to other city's protests
- Ban use of tear gas and rubber bullets
- End criminalization and targeting of Black and Brown people by the SSFD by hiring a data analyst to assess the data of those involved in all disciplinary police interactions and arrests to identify disproportionate policing for historically over policed communities. Data must be presented to the public and based on the findings identify problematic officers and tactics, which over policing Black and Brown community members.
- Demilitarize police - Remove and ban police from receiving military weapons from the federal government including tanks, armored vehicles, drones, grenade launchers, aircraft.
- No city funds to be used to maintain the Corvette
- Deny request for new guns in the budget
- Redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department ([City of South San Francisco Community Resources 1 | Page](#))
- California already requires every police dept report every stop, search, arrest & use of force to a state database. Includes officer ID, location, perceived race, age, gender, gender identity, disability status. Raw data & analysis published yearly. We want an independent review board to have terminating power and able to recommend disciplinary actions
- Records of police misconduct & discipline to be made public indefinitely
- All civil asset forfeiture must be made transparent to the public.
- 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 below 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.

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

From: [JJ Cortez](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:59:48 PM

I am in support in defunding the South San Francisco Police Department for the obvious reasons that are currently taking place. The police brutality and criminalization towards people of color. I am an educator at South San Francisco High School and it is very disturbing to see cops 4-5 days out of week, 3-4 police cars parked in the school parking lot. Colleagues and I sometimes joked on how South San Francisco High School was the 2nd police station because the cops were always on campus. Although it is not a joke, it is completely irresponsible for South San Francisco High School, South San Francisco Unified School District and the South San Francisco police department for their constant presence at a high school campus! Historically police have NOT had a good rapport with communities of color. SSFHS has 50% or more of Latino students and having cops on campus is not only intimidating to students and families but to staff as well. Cops have no roll in schools what the school and district should focus on is stop funding the police department and focus on redirecting funding to more social emotional and counselor support. Having cops on campus is continuing to perpetuate the school to prison path. Students who are caught with drugs should NOT be persecuted by the police but instead focus on providing social emotional support for the student and family. Students who graffiti should NOT have the cops called on them but instead introduce Restorative Practice. But yet the cops are constantly meeting with students to interrogate them for these types of incidents and that is NOT ok. There is absolutely NO need for police to be on any school grounds because they made it very clear that cops are not here, "to protect and serve" they are here to intimidate, bully and criminalize our youth. WE NEED MORE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, COUNSELORS AND NOT POLICE. Please defund the police deparment and remove ALL police from all schools in south san francisco.

From: [James Coleman](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:00:07 PM

Dear Mayor Garbarino and City Council Members,

I am a lifelong resident of South San Francisco, and a graduate of South San Francisco High School, class of 2017.

First, I would like to suggest that the city allow for individuals to call in live to express their public comment. Cities all around the country are using Zoom or a similar program to not only stream their city council meetings in an accessible manner, but also allow for members of the public to speak directly to the council.

Next, I am urging the City Council of South San Francisco to redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department. The history of policing is a history of violence against the marginalized—American police departments were originally created to dominate and criminalize communities of color and poor white workers, a job that they continue doing to this day. African Americans are 3x more likely to be killed by the police than white people. Despite African Americans representing only 12% of the US population, they represent 26.4% of all those killed by police. Statistics show that rates of police violence DO NOT correlate with levels of violent crime in US cities.

It's time that we end the criminalization of poverty, mental health, and addiction. The people who respond to crises in our community should be the people who are best equipped to deal with those crises. Rather than strangers armed with guns, who are not trained to de-escalate tense situations or deal with mental health crises, we want to create space for more mental health service providers, social workers, survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors and friends.

Thank you.

From: [Jacqueline Kong](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:02:04 PM

To the SSF city council:

I am writing to comment that I support [CHANGE SSF's demands](#) regarding the city budget. I grew up in South San Francisco and believe that the city now has an opportunity to reinvest in its community by defunding the SSFPD, and I hope to see some positive change in this area moving forward.

Best,
Jacqueline Kong

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Jacqueline Kong

[REDACTED]

From: [Liliana Rivera](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:03:51 PM

To whom it may concern:

Reading the public comments from yesterday's meeting only highlights the need for a salary adjustment in the budget. Please take care of our part-time workers who do so much to help our senior and our youth population. We cannot afford to lose our dedicated employees at the Magnolia Center or at Parks and Rec because they are being undervalued by the city. With what they have contributed to our community, it isn't fair to furlough them without pay while simultaneously allocating \$234k of taxpayer dollars on average to each of our police officer's compensation packages.

Thank you,
Liliana Rivera

From: [Eddy Holman](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:04:02 PM

City Councilmembers,

Upon reviewing the South San Francisco FY 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures, I have some questions and serious concerns with how our taxpayer dollars are spent.

I am first and foremost concerned that our budget focuses considerable taxpayer resources on police salary alone. Currently, there are 118 police employees, with a proposed salary of \$27,720,684, that would average out to \$234,921 average salary for police employees. That is an outrageously high salary for a public employee, can you explain why police officers deserve more than 2 times the median income of south san francisco residents?

Yesterday I watched the special city council meeting in dismay. You all spent a considerable amount of time on cuts under 100k to various parks and rec programs, IT, etc. You are ignoring the elephant in the room that is police salaries, the police salaries alone are larger than ALL other city budgets, except for fire, by a small margin. If you refuse to consider police salaries cuts, every single time we have an economic downturn, we will be back to cutting our social services, such as the magnolia centers program for seniors with alzheimers. Understand that when you are protecting bloated police salaries, you are making an active decision to choose police pay over critical, baseline social programs. You cannot see the police budget in a vacuum, its disproportionate focus is preventing the city from empowering our community and creating conditions of opportunity that discourage crime in the first place.

Can we imagine a city with a public safety branch of first responders that would handle addiction or mental illness or situations that do not require armed police? Can we think of the big picture? The death of George Floyd has sparked a great reckoning, I am calling on my elected officials to take the difficult decisions and defund our police department, and instead fund social programs that empower South San Francisco,

Respectfully,

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Edward Holman



From: [EJ Unisa](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:13:33 PM

To the mayor, city council, and members of the community. My name is EJ Unisa. I am a part of CHANGE SSF, a grassroots, multigenerational and multicultural coalition which aims to advocate for community empowerment through education and political action.

Per yesterday's city council meeting, we had the opportunity of addressing some concerns we had over the 2020-2021 General Funds Budget. What we are asking for is in tandem with the national Black Lives Matter movement: for the push of a comprehensive reflection and action of city government officials in the active protection of Black and Brown Lives. When we say "defund the police" the immediate aim isn't to completely dissolve the department, but rather to reallocate police department funds into existing community departments and programs that have taken a massive cut at the expense of the police department budget raise. Funding these programs would go a ways in reducing the need for a militarized and overworked police force. We are demanding that the city of SSF redistribute 30% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services outside of the police department ([City of South San Francisco Community Resources](#)). Among that, we demand the establishment of 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. And we will follow up with the rest of our demands.

I would also like to bring to attention to council member Matsumoto and her tone-deaf comments about calling drug-users "thugs", implying how it's the job of the police to "control" city residents, and how she isn't here to "debate" citizens. I would like to point out that we are not "debating" her, but rather opening the conversation to the genuine concerns the public has about the actions of their city leaders. We are looking to collaborate and engage in such transformative dialogue as we believe in the decentralization of authority to allow for the practice of democracy. To not hear us, is to silence us. To silence us, is to silence the community you are serving. We are attempting to open the doors to change. We are community centered. We are community focused. And We want our community empowered.

EJ Unisa
Community Member