

From: [annie trieu](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fw: Please save the SSF Parks and Recreation Department
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 12:22:58 AM

Dear City Council Members,

As you are planning for the fiscal year, I would like to ask for your attention to the importance of the continual operation of our city's park and recreational department from a student's parent's point of view. My family has grown to depend on the teaching and developments offered by the city, ranging from toddler soccer, swimming, arts, ballet, and tap dance. Just as our daughter has reached the appropriate age to enter guitar and piano lessons, then the unprecedented shelter in place order kicked in. For the past several months we were at a lost of where and how to find trusting and accessible instructors to continue with Elise's lessons.

For instance, swimming. It isn't easy to be able to enroll into a swimming lesson since they fill up so quickly. Even after successful enrollment, Brian from the aquatics department has helped us tremendously with the proper placements for Elise as she makes advancements to the next level. Elise is now 7 years old, and she has been taking swimming lessons since she was 3 years old. Over the years she has struggled and overcame her fear of the deep level, and little by little with many different capable instructors, Elise is now able to swim laps with her strength in back stroke that she learned early on. Last fall we were excited when she was beginning to learn breast strokes and frog kicks. As a parent, I am preparing Elise and providing her with survival skills for her future as she sets out on her own journey. I hope for Elise to be a strong swimmer in case when she is out in the open water. I have been looking forward to the day when swimming lessons will be open again, as well as ballet, art, tap dance, guitar, ukulele, and piano.

The programs that have been offered by the Parks and Rec department allow students to explore and develop skills to be healthy and well rounded individuals. Through these programs new meetings and friendships are formed among families as well as trusts with the instructors and administrators, like Brian from aquatics, Maria from ballet, Carol from tap dance, Nita from art, and Susan from the administrative office. Elise has the pleasure of being taught by Ms. Maria in ballet for the past few years. Ms. Maria has a lot of dedications put into her students and class. It is very rare to find an instructor who has so much passion for her profession. I find it very comforting for Elise to be learning not only ballet but also social and interactive skills shared by Ms. Maria. I also appreciate how accessible and responsive Ms. Maria is to questions and concerns via emails and texts. Her class is an enjoyment to have.

In summary, the SSF Parks and Recreational department has played an essential role in the physical, social, and cultural development of our child since she was a toddler, who first started learning physical coordination and balance with the soccer instructor Guillermo for a few months before that class was no longer offered. Even though Elise has not enroll in anymore soccer classes since then, she still cherishes the fun time she had in that short moment. Also, through those courses, both Elise and I have build new friendships over the years. Our family is just one example of our community who benefits from this program. We look forward to returning to those classes and see our instructors again!

Sincerely,

Chau Trieu (parent of ballet student Elise Chan)
June 20, 2020

From: [Carmela Dizon](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:09:10 PM

Hello City Council,

City Council,

I am writing you this letter to address this emerging false rhetoric that our city's police department is not like Oakland's or San Francisco's. I am writing to remind you that the protections that officers in SSF are granted are the same of those in our neighboring cities. The distrust that people have towards SSFPD is high and it is time that you no longer ignore the real and other narrative of what officers do. The truth is that officers are put in a situation in which they are allowed to act with lethal force. They are tasked to issue citations, respond to mental health crises that they are not equipped to handle, and make reports on poverty related crimes like theft that they will never likely solve. To be blunt, they are inefficient and, in many ways, counter to public health and safety. The truth is that the safest neighborhoods rarely have police patrolling or frisking their citizens. The truth is that these neighborhoods have a wealth of resources for mental, physical, communal health. They have opportunities because having money allows people to have those opportunities. This is what all the neighborhoods in SSF deserve. They don't need officers instilling fear with their weapons and citations. They need opportunities and support. Contrary to what some might think, people who are poor are not mostly thugs or gang members, most of them are hardworking people, a good number of which are essential workers. These are the people that are struggling to make money. These are the people that are affected by the pandemic only to have the city council fund a police budget that would enable officers to evict these people out from their homes when the moratorium on evictions is no longer in place. This budget will, in turn, support the continued criminalization of homelessness by upholding laws in which officers can cite homeless people. This solves nothing and only adds to the problem. We need to examine the real role of SSFPD and how we can really better help the most vulnerable people in SSF.

Do your job. Serve the people.

Carmela Dizon

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Carmela Dizon

Occupational Therapy Major, Senior
Dominican University of California


pronouns: she/her/hers

From: [Dean Grubl](#)
To: [Garbarino, Rich](#); [Addiego, Mark](#); [Nagales, Mark](#); [Nicolas, Flor](#); [Matsumoto, Karyl](#)
Cc: [Azzopardi, Jeff](#); [Acosta, Rosa](#); [Futrell, Mike](#); [Arroyo, Leslie](#)
Subject: SSF Hospitality Community Response Letter Not to Defund our Police Department
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:06:38 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[SSF Hospitality Response Letter Not to Defund Police Department.pdf](#)
[image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Dear Mayor Garbarino, Vice Mayor Addiego and Members of the South San Francisco City Council:

I hope this email finds all of you safe during these challenging times we are all facing.

As you are probably aware of a growing fractions that would like to defund the South San Francisco Police Department. We, the Hospitality Community of South San Francisco disagree with this and would like to have a voice.

Please find attached a letter for your review and consideration regarding this matter. We would like to have our voices heard and wish to have the letter read into public comments during the Regular City Council meeting this Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Best Regards,

Dean

Dean Grubl

DEAN GRUBL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
CONFERENCE CENTER**



From: [Diana Garcia](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 3:46:23 PM

Dear South San Francisco City Council Members and Key Stakeholders,

My name is Diana Garcia and I am writing to you as a South San Francisco Resident, a community member. I attended Martin Elementary School, Parkway Height Middle School and South San Francisco High School. When I was in high school I volunteer at an after school program Start Now at the South San Francisco Community Learning Center for 4 years and witnessed first hand how much the lack of insufficient funding affected the activities the teachers planned for the children. It is now several years later and I have not seen anything change within these after school programs. As a mother of a child who attends an after school program I have witnessed yet again the effect of insufficient funding has on the teachers and children. Something as simple as a ball for outside play time is something that the teachers cannot buy because there are not enough funds. The budget cuts in the past years for programs that keep the youth out of trouble and give them a purpose is a crime. These children need to have the opportunities and experiences that help them develop a high self-esteem to succeed. We do not need any more officers triggering fear and stress by the mere presence of their guns and tasers. We need our children to be surrounded by services for counseling, after school programs and activities that are run by unarmed community members that know childhood development and understand how to teach and mentor our youth. INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN. INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO.

Thank you for your time,
Diana Garcia

From: [Gustavo Lopez](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 2:07:25 PM

To The South San Francisco City Council and Mayor,

I was a former teacher at South San Francisco High School and a violence prevention worker for over 8 years. During those years I had to buy my own supplies, create my own programs most of which were from my own resources and networks. At times if I was lucky I received donations for books and other supplies.

I spent my time organizing after schools programs working closely with youth and families to ensure their path to higher education and teaching them how to become active community members.

What made my work difficult was the reality that there are not enough programs for youth in arts, sports, career development, violence prevention, or mentorship.

Space is an issue and we have little to no resources for transitional youth 18-24, especially on the East Side of South City, where we see an over policing strategy that has not resulted in addressing the needs of those young adults. Ironically where some of my students received resources was in custody, which I always felt is an injustice that youth must commit crimes to get their needs met, instead of having them before as preventative methods.

Much of this can be immediately addressed by divesting from police and investing into much needed after school programs, specifically that address violence prevention, career development, and higher education. I urge you to be the change makers we have elected you to be and make the right decision that this historical time is asking for. Black Lives Matter, let us not wait until our city has a George Floyd, Alex Nieto, Sandra Bland, or Breonna Taylor murder.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Lopez
Interim Director of Student Services
Metro College Success Program, SFSU

From: [Isabella Perez](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:58:37 PM

Hello City Council Members and Mayor Garbarino,

My name is Isabella Perez and I am writing in concern of the SSFPD budget. I wish for you all to reconsider how much money is being allocated to the SSFPD and reallocate them to fund our Park and Rec program and our other social services such as mental health. With these funds being reallocated to community focused programs this will benefit our community and address issues that the police are not equip to handle and in turn make them worse. Our community needs services that aids them in mental health, not criminalize it, and our children in the community need to have support, not be funneled into our prison systems. I am asking for the defunding of the police because since these other programs will be able to address the needs of our community adequately, the police will no longer need the same amount of funding. The police will no longer need to address these issues because other programs will be set in place to do their job. I implore you all to listen to your community members and defund the police and reallocate the funds to benefit the people you serve: all of South San Francisco residents.

From: [Jennifer Garstang](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for 6/24 City Council Meeting on Discussions of Defunding the Police
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:22:58 PM

Like many of my neighbors, when I first heard the term "defund the police," I was very concerned that it was a push to dismantle the force. However, I've since learned that the term "defund" instead advocates that we reallocate a portion of police budgets toward more comprehensive community safety measures to benefit both the community AND the brave men and women who protect us.

In the US, we put too many responsibilities onto our officers. Not only do we ask them to put their lives on the line when facing dangerous criminals, but we also ask them to fill the role of multiple other full-time professionals. They have already taken on a difficult and often dangerous job. It is not fair to also put them on the front line against social issues like addiction, mental health, child safety, homelessness, and so much more.

This is why it is so important to invest some of our police resources toward building a community safety system that addresses the key issues facing our city. Not only will this reduce the pressure on our police force by lowering crime rates up front, but it will also expand our police's team to include professionals who can address the full breadth of our residents' needs. These professionals can even take on the role of first-responders to many calls, such as welfare checks.

I urge the city council, the police force, and all my South City neighbors to come together in a good-faith discussion as one community on how we can improve our system to benefit everyone.

--Jennifer

From: [Lisa Niehuser](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council June 24th
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:54:33 PM

Hello City Council,

I'm a resident of South San Francisco, and I'm appalled. Our city can and should do better to create a community that keeps our Black people, Brown people, and all people of color safe, protected, and uplifted. We need freedom for all not for some. Derrick Gaines was murdered by Joshua Cabillo an officer once serving for South San Francisco now San Francisco. Enough is enough. What will it take for our Council to step up and start taking action to keep the police out of our community? Defund the police, defund and abolish institutions that hinder freedom for all. Actions speak louder than words.

Thank you.

From: [Marcela Rivera](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:17:34 PM

To whom it may concern:

I recently watched the round table between change ssf and city council members and I am extremely disturbed by the comments made by city council members, the police chief and the city manager.

As a lifelong resident of South San Francisco, I grew up under the impression that the city council was here to help the city's citizens and foster a community where everyone feels safe and heard. After hearing that the city councils main concern was future residents, or residents who were not present at the round table I felt very uncomfortable and sick to think that the city council is not willing to listen to an organized group of residents who are trying to suggest productive programming through defunding certain parts of the city budget.

You should be ashamed of yourselves. If you agree with the concerns brought up, why can't you commit to any change? Why was the only argument you had to not changing the budget, was that "it had always been this way"? We have the resources to make this happen. So why hasn't it happened?

I really hope you consider these questions in the next few days.

Best,
Marcela

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Liliana Rivera](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Meeting 6/22
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:27:28 PM

To whom it may concern:

First I want to thank you all for taking the time to listen to our demands last night.

However, I want to express that I am frustrated that the overall analysis of the city is one-sided. We all agree that we need more social programs. However, we cannot reckon with the fact that part of our community is under-served without also fully coming to terms with the harm that has been done by over-policing. These are two sides of the same coin; you cannot address one without addressing the other.

Divesting from the police department isn't an action of spite or ill will to any individual police officer. We realize that many of our officers have good intentions. But they themselves readily admit that they are not cut out to provide services for some of our most vulnerable. As we heard last night, many times they even make the situation worse. Again, this is not the fault of any individual officer. It is an expected outcome when you ask an armed law enforcement officer to try and solve societal failures.

The statement from the mayor regarding racial injustice included the following sentence: "We all must commit to addressing systemic racial bias whenever and wherever we encounter it."

I'm just wondering, when you say "systemic", what do you think that system is? The prison industrial complex and the over-policing that feeds that machine is THE defining system that oppresses brown and black people today. Knowing that, if you are committed to addressing this, how is this possible without scaling it back in size??

You say you want change, you say we are at a defining point in our nation's history, but yet, your main arguments against defunding and divesting boiled down to "this is the way it's always been done". I think you all really need to come to terms with how those two positions are in direct opposition with one another.

I sincerely hope that you all take the time to dig into this nation's history of policing and incarceration and really think about what side of history you want to be on when this is all said and done. You have a responsibility and a moral obligation to listen to what your residents are saying.

Regards,
Liliana Rivera

From: [Marcela Rivera](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monday Night Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:24:42 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely disappointed in the city council's response to Monday night's roundtable with CHANGE SSF. As a lifelong resident of SSF and someone who has worked for the city for many years, I am appalled by the disregard the city's leadership has for its residents.

The leadership of CHANGE SSF clearly laid out for your action items based on their concerns about the current state of the city and your responses were disappointing. One of the more disturbing statements/claims you guys said was that future residents would want services like the police.

This was disheartening because, you have a group of organized residents right in front of you telling you what kind of services they want (more youth programming, RISE, more library hours) and you are ignoring them. Why are you so concerned about future residents and not current ones? Are we not the kind of residents you care about? Who are you serving in your positions?

We will continue to spread the word about your inaction.

Marcela Rivera
Sunshine Garden c/o 2010, Westborough Middle School c/o 2013, El Camino c/o 2017

From: [Maria Tomasa Bulux](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comments
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:57:16 PM

Hi, I am sending my comments for the meeting this evening. Thank you

- Reduce police budget and restore the budget for parks and recreation in order to have a city that green, is family-friendly and keep the green areas that already exist.
- The district has reported the problem of children and families without a home. Those children can be the future of ssf. How do we want student academic success, and family involved in the school if they do not have access to the basic needs?

A resident of Westborough neighborhood

From: [Maude Iggstrom](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Westborough Greens
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:40:23 AM

Hi,

**When will Westborough Greens resume the watering ?
The grass is brown and full of holes from the moles.
It looks bad.....
Thanks**

***May you always have love to share,
health to spare,
and friends that care.***

Maude

From: [Melissa Academia](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: please read and please save our programs
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:26:49 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melissa Academia** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 4:25 PM
Subject: please read and please save our programs
To: <council@ssf.net>

Dear Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. Once my two daughters came of age and became eligible to participate in the many programs SSF has to offer, they both wanted to learn ballet. My oldest daughter (9) has been a part of the ballet program under Ms. Spremich for 4 years now and my youngest daughter (6) has been participating for 1 year. These programs are an integral part of their learning and growth both mentally and physically. We have not only participated in Dance, but they have been part of the aquatics and music classes. I have been a resident of SSF since 1979 and it saddens me to see this gem of a town change so drastically! I attended Hillside Elementary School (which is no longer around) and graduated from SSF high school . My family has stayed in SSF because of its close knit community, convenience and excellent resources for kids and adults alike. Please keep these precious programs around . Again as a long time resident, we have seen so many resources disappear and we would hate to see another resource of our wonderful city be removed. These programs are what make SSF great; all walks of life come through these programs because we trust the city of SSF to provide the necessary education and recreation for our kids, young adults and adults.

What can we do to keep these programs thriving?? Can we fundraise? We are willing to do what we can to help with saving these programs.

Sincerely,
Academia Family

From: [Nicholas Donofrio](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Police reallocation
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:39:16 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention the the new city budget keeps police funding at the same level as 2019, when most other city departments are taking a budget cut.

With our populace quarantined inside, why would we need the same level of law enforcement attention? Furthermore aggressive policing would only spread the disease or put more people in jail where they could catch COVID19.

I think we should be cutting the police budget to some extent because Healthcare, especially mental health, is about to see a huge surge of people. They'll need more money and we can't rely on the federal government to provide it.

If there's a reason the police department needs more money they should be able to clearly point to why. 'Just because' is not a good enough reason to spare their budget when every other part of it has taken a hit.

With everyone at home this is a perfect time for the city council to think about how we can make policing more effective and keep our officers safe by investing in the community itself.

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Poverty in South San Francisco
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:53:38 PM

City Council of South San Francisco,

In lieu of the recent protests happening in America and in the Bay Area, we, as a nation, have been forced to think deeply about the role of police in our society. It has forced many of us to educate ourselves and to ask what public safety means to us. In reading and learning about what policing and public safety is in America in contrast to other countries like Germany and Norway, I've come to realize that we have been overfunding the police. I have learned that the swiftness in which police draw their guns and kill civilians is not present in countries like Germany or Norway. I am not calling for additional training. I am calling for accountability, demilitarization, and defunding police overtime while investing in social programs and resources to support the most vulnerable populations. People commit crimes because of poverty and being paid low wages, not because they hate officers. Social programs that address poverty are provided in places like Norway and Sweden where the ability to rise from poverty is far easier than in America. When we address issues related to poverty in the same way that these Scandanavian countries have begun to do, we are ensuring the safety of people that does not involve the use of a gun. I hope this council commits to the process of defunding the police department and funding programs that address poverty.

Thank you,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: SSF Mental Health First Responders
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:54:33 PM

Hello City Council of South San Francisco,

I am writing this message because we are at a critical juncture in history. Many city officials around America (San Francisco, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Seattle, etc) are committing to defunding their police departments. Having officers that are poorly trained in deescalation respond to mental health calls has had considerably tragic outcomes. The data collected has shown that one in every four police killings is of a person with a mental illness. This means that people with mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than other people (The Treatment Advocacy Center). While there may be instances in which police may have to intervene, having a mental health responder to treat the person with mental issues is most effective. It eliminates the potential for unjust and unnecessary killings. I am demanding that this city council ensure the safety of its people by committing to defunding the police and using such funds to create a team of first responders to mental illness. This is something that cannot be fixed with an armed officer. The uniform, presence, and the easy accessibility to a gun along with all the other weapons within an officer's reach only instills more fear, stress, and anger when met with someone with a mental illness.

Thank you,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Invest in Children's Activities in SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:55:08 PM

Hi South San Francisco City Council Members and key stakeholders,

I have been watching the way America has been responding to the call to address institutional racism and the troubling manner in which police officers conduct themselves. What is equally concerning is that I have seen very little commitment from the city council to address this problem. This city council has been quiet about Black Lives Matter and how we can go beyond just empty words. It truly disappoints me as someone who cares and trusts in our system. I ask that you make the necessary changes in addressing the problems associated with police brutality and harassment in our community. The budget cuts in the past years for programs that keep youth out of trouble and give them purpose is a crime. These children need to have opportunities and experiences that help them develop a high self-esteem to succeed. We don't need anymore officers triggering fear and stress by the mere presence of their guns and tasers. We need our children to be surrounded by services for counseling, afterschool programs, and activities that are run by unarmed community members that know childhood development and understand how to teach and mentor our young people. This will help build these young people up to reach their full potential. They will not be put in the prison system that leads to nowhere. America has woken up and it is time SSF does too. Defund the police. Invest in our children.

Thank you for your time,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: COVID Relief in SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:56:44 PM

Dear City Council,

The emergence of the covid19 and the ongoing killing and violence towards Black and Brown people has placed our community in a very difficult time. It puts us in a position in which you, as our elected officials, must deeply reflect on your values and if your actions truly reflect those values of serving the people of SSF. With mass unemployment and no federal aid being given to immigrants during this pandemic, it is not an understatement to say that the people of South San Francisco is hurting. Not only are people experiencing stress with mounting bills and the pending collection for rent, many Black and Brown communities have been dealing with the real danger of being unjustly harassed or killed by an officer. The harassment I am referring to is the way in which officers will aggressively frisk people in ways and in areas that can result in trauma. This is certainly not the time for our council to fund the police. It is time for our city council to end racial profiling and to invest in alleviating the mounting bills and economic hardships that SSF residents have been feeling. We are in desperate times and at a place in history where we people have had enough of the brutality and harassment they have had to endure. It is time to invest in the needs of the people and set a path for a more healthy SSF, one that doesn't involve over policing and racial profiling.

Defund the police,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Substance Abuse in SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:57:39 PM

To The City Council of South San Francisco

I am writing in support of reallocating funds from the SSFPD and putting them into substance abuse programs among other programs of support. Drug addiction has been a crisis that we, as a country, have been dealing with in an irresponsible manner. Arresting and incarcerating addicts without treatment programs to treat their addiction often results in reoffending and being cycled back into the prison system. Officers are sent to deal with these people in a way that is ineffective and takes away from the police's ability to do their jobs correctly. Policies that adopt decriminalizing drug addiction and treat it more of a public health issue rather than a crime will bring forth better results. This has been done in places like Portugal where substance abuse is decriminalized and resources were put into developing programs that treated addiction, which also includes alleviating poverty. What I am asking of city council is to think of crimes related to substance abuse in a more preventative manner than the reactive way since such an approach only leads to mass incarceration and continued addiction and substance abuse.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Prisons, Addiction, Mental Health in SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:58:19 PM

Dear City Council of SSF,

The United States imprisons 698 people per 100,000 people. The United Kingdom comes in at a distant second with 139 people per 100,000 people. It is undeniable that we have a problem. A significant number of inmates are given little to no resources to rehabilitate or fix the behaviors of their inmates. In fact, it is often argued that prisons make a person worse. With a recidivism rate of 76% and the fact that suicide the second leading cause of death in prisons is an indication that when you treat people like animals, they, in turn will behave like animals. This inhumane treatment is not isolated to just the prison environment but also in SSF. The high cost of living, being paid low wages, lack of mental health services, and substance abuse disorder programs all feed into the problems that you claim to be committed to solving. Citing homeless people, incarcerating people with mental health issues and addiction make it difficult to access programs that help solve their problems since many of them are lacking in prison. Many of these people that work tirelessly to address mental health and addiction often express having too much on their caseload. It is time to invest in expanding these resources. We have to stop over policing these people which only lead to imprisonment. These people cannot be helped by police officers they need experts with for more education. Many of these people are parents, veterans, hard working people, that deserve a second chance. It is time for our city to act and to invest in the people and not in the police. Contrary to popular belief, police officers are not suffering at the same level as the people of SSF. Create a budget that is equitable and committed to helping our vulnerable population.

No more mass incarceration,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 8can't wait is not enough, accountability SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:59:10 PM

City Council of South Francisco,

I want to clearly state that what people are asking for is real change. While the 8 Can't Wait recommendations that the police department acknowledged and expresses general agreement with, what is left out of the conversation is accountability. We are asking that the city council take a closer look in addition to acting so that SSFPD can and will be held accountable when they engage in misconduct. Colorado recently signed a statewide bill that eliminated qualified immunity which for many years allowed officers who engaged in misconduct to not be held accountable in the court of law. At minimum, these officers would be put on administrative paid leave, only to return to active duty weeks later. Officers with records of misconduct are sometimes even hired in other cities, only to engage in further brutality. This lack of accountability and transparency has resulted in unjust killings and racial profiling. This is why people distrust the police. It is because many are silent in face of misconduct and that these bad cops are protected by the police union. No amount of sports programs and kneeling or hugging from officers will ever build trust with the community. Displaying that police corvette and handing out stickers will not bring someone's life back. It will not undo the years of loss from incarceration or the trauma of being searched and frisked in areas that people don't want to be touched. Deep down in your hearts, you know that what is happening is wrong. It is time to defund the police. It is time to take the power out of the police unions that protect bad cops and muzzle cops that want to speak out but fear for their own personal and professional safety.

Promises are empty without accountability,
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Police Budget is too high in SSF
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:59:36 PM

South San Francisco City Council,

It disappoints me to learn that close to 30% of the budget goes to SSFPD. It makes me wonder if you have walked with the people of the city. It makes me wonder if you have actually visited our schools, spoken to our children, family, the immigrants, many of which are essential workers. I wonder if you have spoken to people who have been harassed and brutalized by SSFPD and if you have ever sat down with children whose parent(s) are locked in prisons. I wonder if you have seen the frustrations parents' faces who've had to camp out in tents and sleeping bags in hopes of getting a spot for their child to participate in youth programs. I am not interested in disingenuous gestures of concern or useless "thank you's" to essential workers during this pandemic. I am interested in action. I demand that you muster the courage and empathy to begin reallocating funds from the police department to the people that have been suffering in this city.

End police brutality!

Sabrina Avenido

From: [sabrina avenida](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: How we police is problem
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 5:00:07 PM

City Council,

I am writing you this letter to address this emerging false rhetoric that our city's police department is not like Oakland's or San Francisco's. I am writing to remind you that the protections that officers in SSF are granted are the same of those in our neighboring cities. The distrust that people have towards SSFPD is high and it is time that you no longer ignore the real and other narrative of what officers do. The truth is that officers are put in a situation in which they are allowed to act with lethal force. They are tasked to issue citations, respond to mental health crises that they are not equipped to handle, and make reports on poverty related crimes like theft that they will never likely solve. To be blunt, they are inefficient and, in many ways, counter to public health and safety. The truth is that the safest neighborhoods rarely have police patrolling or frisking their citizens. The truth is that these neighborhoods have a wealth of resources for mental, physical, communal health. They have opportunities because having money allows people to have those opportunities. This is what all the neighborhoods in SSF deserve. They don't need officers instilling fear with their weapons and citations. They need opportunities and support. Contrary to what some might think, people who are poor are not mostly thugs or gang members, most of them are hardworking people, a good number of which are essential workers. These are the people that are struggling to make money. These are the people that are affected by the pandemic only to have the city council fund a police budget that would enable officers to evict these people out from their homes when the moratorium on evictions is no longer in place. This budget will, in turn, support the continued criminalization of homelessness by upholding laws in which officers can cite homeless people. This solves nothing and only adds to the problem. We need to examine the real role of SSFPD and how we can really better help the most vulnerable people in SSF.

Do your job. Serve the people.
Sabrina Avenido

From: [sidney brooks](#)
To: [All at City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Police budget
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:48:35 AM

South San Francisco City Council,

My name is Sidney Brooks. Although I do not live in South San Francisco, I have been apart of SSFUSD for 13 years. So I can confidently say that there needs to be change in South San Francisco. It disappoints me to learn that close to 30% of the budget goes to SSFPD. It makes me wonder if you have walked with the people of the city. It makes me wonder if you have actually visited our schools, spoken to our children, family, the immigrants, many of which are essential workers. I wonder if you have spoken to people who have been harassed and brutalized by SSFPD and if you have ever sat down with children whose parent(s) are locked in prisons. I wonder if you have seen the frustrations parents' faces who've had to camp out in tents and sleeping bags in hopes of getting a spot for their child to participate in youth programs. I am not interested in disingenuous gestures of concern or useless "thank you's" to essential workers during this pandemic. I am interested in action. I demand that you muster the courage and empathy to begin reallocating funds from the police department to the people that have been suffering in this city.

End police brutality!
-Sidney Brooks