

Sharan

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City Clerk;

- Agendadesk

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[External Email]

Regarding Fiscal Approval 3.6 Police Staffing

I'm Sharan Dhanoa, Director of Strategic Development for the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking. I want to echo the support our service providers have for the San Jose Police Department and their continued partnership with agencies working to combat gender-based violence. Service providers support dedicated funding to law enforcement officers who are specialized and trained in working with sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. It takes substantial training and resources to ensure that officers are victim centered and trauma informed when it comes to working with these victims. Having officers who are dedicated to working with survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking is critical in minimizing additional trauma, providing a community of support, and it is also a promising approach to ensure survivors can engage in the criminal justice process in a healthy, supported way.

The recent City Council study sessions exploring the large number of sexual assaults being reported highlighted numerous gaps in our ability to identify and serve these survivors. A big gap is ensuring we have enough dedicated officers working on these cases. Service providers know cases fall through the cracks when law enforcement are not specialized in speaking with survivors of gender based violence. We also see significant gaps in marginalized communities and know it is vitally important to have specialized officers who reflect the community they are working in. Please ensure there is increased funding to law enforcement, they are a crucial partner for our service providers, survivors and community.

Thank you,

Sharan Dhanoa

Director Strategic Development

[South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking](#)