

**From:** Ellen Dong  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.6



[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Ellen Dong and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing to demand that funding is reallocated from SJPd to social and public programming that takes place in our communities. It is unethical to cut budget towards education, libraries, parks, housing, and transportation while funneling \$5M into improving the San Jose golf courses. It is also an outrage that over 30% of city funding goes towards the Police Department. The system in place is broken – at the expense of your citizens' safety and well-being. We need a new criminal justice structure, inclusive of a robust task force of mental health professionals and social works.

We stand with the calls of those across the country and demand that the City Council defund and disband the SJPd similarly to Minneapolis. We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk San Jose residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowers police.

In the meantime, it is important to BAN the use of rubber bullets, tear gas, and other means of excessive force as a method of crowd control. The city must recognize that protestors are exercising their first amendment right and should not be met with police violence.

I see that the city council hopes to create a process that includes the community and it starts here, by listening to your community. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Jose city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal. Public opinion is with me.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Dong

**From:** Celeste Afanador  
**Date:** June 9, 2020 at 11:37:20 AM PDT  
**To:** [councilmeeting@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:councilmeeting@sanjoseca.gov)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.6

Hello,

My name is Celeste Afanador and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing to demand that funding is reallocated from SJPd to social and public program programming that takes place in our communities. It is unethical to cut budget towards education, libraries, parks, housing, and transportation while funneling \$5 Million into improving the San Jose golf courses. It is also an outrage that over 30% of city funding goes towards the Police Department. The system in place is broken- at the expense of your citizen's safety and well-being. We need a new criminal justice structure, inclusive of a robust task force of mental health professionals and social workers.

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In the meantime, it is important to ban the use of rubber bullets, tear gas and other means of excessive force as a method of crowd control. The city must recognize that protestors are exercising their first amendment right and should not be met with police violence.

I see that the city council hopes to create a process that includes the community and it starts here, by listening to your community. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Jose city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me.

Please also read the following posts/screenshots attached below and specifically, the posts in which one police officer shares his experience and perspective while being in law enforcement (which are shown in the screenshots with the black background, here is the link to his whole article: <https://medium.com/@OfcrACab/confessions-of-a-former-bastard-cop-bb14d17bc759> )

Regards, Celeste Afanador



Your Story 14h



Defunding the police  
does not mean stripping  
a department entirely  
of its budget,  
or abolishing it altogether.  
It's just about  
scaling police budgets  
back and reallocating  
those resources  
to other agencies.

@henahiddles



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Your Story 14h



People are wanting  
investment in  
community services  
— education,  
medical access... You  
can call it 'defunding,'  
' but it's just about directing  
or balancing the budget  
in a different way.

@henahiddles



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Your Story 13h



eroyFranklin

SOME FOLKS ARE  
SLEEPING ON  
BENCHES IN THE  
PARK.

IMAGINE...

...A CITY EMPLOYEE COMES BY  
& CHECKS IN TO SEE IF THEY  
NEED A PLACE TO SLEEP,  
FOOD, WATER, OR HEALTH  
CARE.

AN HOUR LATER, THOSE WHO  
WANT A DIFFERENT PLACE TO  
SLEEP HAVE ONE.

---

*isn't that public safety?*

eroyFranklin #defundthepolice #defundspd There are  
better ways to care for the safety of our community....



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Your Story 13h



eroy Franklin

SOMEONE IS  
BEHAVING  
ERRATICALLY & IN  
HARM'S WAY.

IMAGINE...

...TEXTING A NUMBER & AN  
UNARMED URGENT RESPONDER  
TRAINED IN BEHAVIORAL AND  
MENTAL HEALTH COMES  
WITHIN 5 MINUTES.

AN HOUR LATER THAT PERSON  
IS SAFE & GETTING THE  
SUPPORT THEY NEED.

---

*isn't that public safety?*

eroy Franklin #defundthepolice #defundspd There are  
better ways to care for the safety of our community....



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Your Story 13h



eroyFranklin



SOMEONE IS  
SELLING DRUGS TO  
YOUTH WHO ARE  
OVER DOSING.

IMAGINE...

...BEING CONNECTED TO A  
SUBSTANCE USE SERVICE THAT  
INTERVENES IN HARMFUL  
DRUG TRANSACTIONS.

YOUTH ARE SUPPORTED IN  
HEALTHY OUTCOMES & THE  
SELLER TAKES  
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HARM.

---

*isn't that public safety?*

eroyFranklin #defundthepolice #defundspd There are  
better ways to care for the safety of our community....



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Your Story 13h



eroyFranklin

INCIDENTS OF GUN  
VIOLENCE ARE  
RISING IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD.

IMAGINE...

... A TRAUMA INFORMED CRISIS  
INTERVENTION TEAM WORKS  
WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS  
TO DISARM AND DEESCALATE  
CONFLICTS.

PEOPLE DOING HARM ARE  
CONNECTED TO SERVICES  
THAT ADDRESS THE  
UNDERLYING PROBLEM.

---

*isn't that public safety?*

eroyFranklin #defundthepolice #defundspd There are  
better ways to care for the safety of our community....



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Your Story 13h



The concept is simple: When cities start investing in community services, they reduce the need to call police in instances when police officers' specific skill set isn't required. If someone is dealing with a mental health crisis, or someone has a substance abuse disorder, we are calling other entities that are better equipped to help them.

@henahiddles



Seen by 60



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Your Story 13h



When people get the specific help they need earlier, they're less likely to end up in the kind of dangerous situation police might be called to defuse — situations that often turn deadly for those individuals.

@henahiddles



Seen by 59



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Instead of wasting time with minor tweaks, I recommend exploring the following ideas:

- No more qualified immunity. Police officers should be personally liable for all decisions they make in the line of duty.
- No more civil asset forfeiture. Did you know that every year, citizens like you lose more cash and property to unaccountable civil asset forfeiture than to *all burglaries combined*? The police can steal your stuff without charging you with a crime and it makes some police departments very rich.
- Break the power of police unions. Police unions make it nearly impossible to fire bad cops and incentivize protecting them to protect the power of the union. A police union is not a labor



the union. A police union is not a labor union; police officers are powerful state agents, not exploited workers.

- Require malpractice insurance. Doctors must pay for insurance in case they botch a surgery, police officers should do the same for botching a police raid or other use of force. If human decency won't motivate police to respect human life, perhaps hitting their wallet might.
- Defund, demilitarize, and disarm cops. Thousands of police departments own assault rifles, armored personnel carriers, and stuff you'd see in a warzone. Police officers have grants and huge budgets to spend on guns, ammo, body armor, and combat training. 99% of calls for service require no armed response, yet **when all you have is a gun, every problem feels like target practice.** Cities are



require no armed response, yet **when all you have is a gun, every problem feels like target practice.** Cities are not safer when unaccountable bullies have a monopoly on state violence and the equipment to execute that monopoly.

One final idea: **consider abolishing the police.**

I know what you're thinking, "What? We need the police! They protect us!" As someone who did it for nearly a decade, I need you to understand that by and large, police protection is marginal, incidental. It's an illusion created by decades of copaganda designed to fool you into thinking these brave men and women are holding back the barbarians at the gates.

I alluded to this above: the vast majority of calls for service I handled were theft





I alluded to this above: the vast majority of calls for service I handled were theft reports, burglary reports, domestic arguments that hadn't escalated into violence, loud parties, (houseless) people loitering, traffic collisions, very minor drug possession, and arguments between neighbors. Mostly the mundane ups and downs of life in the community, with little inherent danger. And, like I mentioned, the vast majority of crimes I responded to (even violent ones) had already happened; my unaccountable license to kill was irrelevant.

What I mainly provided was an “objective” third party with the authority to document property damage, ask people to chill out or disperse, or counsel people not to beat each other up. A trained counselor or conflict resolution specialist would be ten times more effective than someone with a

