

From: Somina Lee  
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 11:48 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: WE DEMAND JUSTICE

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Somina and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

### 1. Redirect Police Funding

Phillip McHarris (doctoral candidate focusing on race) and Thenjiwe McHarris (strategist with the Movement for Black Lives) explain the problem with current police reform efforts:

“More training or diversity among police officers won’t end police brutality, nor will firing and charging individual officers. Look at the Minneapolis Police Department, which is held up as a model of progressive police reform. The department offers procedural justice as well as trainings for implicit bias, mindfulness and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, bans ‘warrior style’ policing, uses body cameras, implemented an early intervention system to identify problematic officers, receives training around mental health crisis intervention, and practices ‘reconciliation’ efforts in communities of color.”

Evidently, that was not enough. Instead of heightening the resources that officers have, they advocate redirecting funds to alternative emergency response programs, which can also be fueled by state-level and local-level grants. The McHarris’ argument is that we should work towards a reality in which healthcare workers and emergency response teams should handle substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, or mental health cases, while rapid response social workers provide individuals with the care they need. Community organizers would be responsible for spearheading responses to the pandemic. “The average police recruit spends 58 hours learning how to shoot and only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate.” Police officers are not trained nor necessary in reacting to such crises—specialized responders are.

Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

For-profit policing is a large culprit. Even though Governor Brown’s 2016 bill helped protect Californians from civil asset forfeitures, this is far from sufficient. As of 2020, 66.25% of forfeiture profits go to police—a C+ rating.

The Black Lives Matter Movement demands “acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police... We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive.”

The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

A persistent, genuine, and well-thought-out legislative effort to redirect police funds and end for-profit policing is imperative.

## 2. Abolish Legislative Police Protections

Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. BLM “demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence.”

It is vital to ensure that police officers are met with precisely the same consequences as their badgeless counterparts. Accountability has been denied to Black people for centuries, and it is crucial to impose legislative confirmation that accountability is ensured.

Campaign Zero is an organization dedicated to “limiting police interventions, improving community interactions, and ensuring accountability.”

They propose a solution of independent investigations. Because only 1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime, “independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers” must be mandated to eliminate biases. A broken system should not be evaluating itself.

## 3. Demilitarize the Police

Campaign Zero emphasizes that studies show how “more militarized police departments are significantly more likely to kill civilians.” Unfortunately, “the federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments.”

Campaign Zero continues that to demilitarize, we must “prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment.”

California is not void of this indictment. In total, 41 MRAPs are in the possession of law enforcement agencies in California. All in all, California’s quantity of purchasing such outlandish and high-level military technology is unmatched: “In terms of cash value, California gets more 1033 gear than other states.”

Even though the LAPD has refused to take on more military equipment, they stated that “the department will replenish and replace” existing equipment. Such measures must be barred in an effort to eventually demilitarize the police force entirely in the long run.

Police departments should be restricted from using federal grant money to purchase military equipment, using the SWAT team, or conducting no-knock raids. Over-weaponized departments must reduce their use of weapon stockpiles, as “agencies should seek to return to the federal government the military equipment that has already been received” as places like San Jose already have.

The warranting is simple: “Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization,” contributing to the war-like mentality implicitly enforced by the police, who have no place fighting wars against the most disenfranchised members of their communities.

I hope that our legislators can take tangible, policy-level initiatives to defend Black lives, something they have failed to do so up until this point. Please listen to the pleas of the Black entities listed above and countless others, and help give rise to a future where Black folks do not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis.

Sincerely but not silently,

Somina



**From:** Mariam Shorab <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** My Plea

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mariam and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Mariam Shorab

**From:** Jessica Cheng  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jessica and I am a resident of San Jose, CA. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Jessica

**From:** Katherine Rejer <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Voice for POC

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Taber,

My name is Katherine and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I realize that you receive a large volume of emails, especially at times like these, but I am writing to suggest the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Katherine Rejer

**From:** Bailey <>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:56 PM

**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Bailey Merryman and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Bailey Merryman

**From:** ekjames13

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:13 PM

**Subject:** Supporting Black Lives Matter in California

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Emily James, and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Emily James

**From:** Kaaya Sharma <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kaaya Sharma and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, [Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing](#) nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

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The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

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Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. [BLM](#) “demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence.”

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Sincerely but not silently,

Kaaya Sharma

**From:** Lizzie Fox  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Elizabeth Fox and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Elizabeth Fox

**From:** Emily James  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:31 PM  
**Subject:** Supporting Black Lives Matter in California

[External Email]

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Sincerely but not silently,

Emily James

**From:** Shalvi Kamble

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:51 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Garcia, Edgardo  
<[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** We Demand Justice Now!

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Sincerely but not silently,

Shalvi Kamble

**From:** Harika Kalluri

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:56 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Cortese, Dave <[REDACTED]>  
[REDACTED] District8 <[REDACTED]> Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]>  
The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] City  
Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

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Sincerely but not silently,

Harika

**From:** Elina Meng

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 1:55 PM

**To:** District8 <[REDACTED]> Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] City Clerk

<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Cortese, Dave <[REDACTED]>  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

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Sincerely but not silently,

**Elina Meng**

**From:** Sophia Dodson <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fixing the Police

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sophia Dodson and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Sophia Dodson

**From:** Chuck D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 3:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Charlie Dorai-Raj and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,

Charlie Dorai-Raj

**From:** Akshay Thakur  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** Akshay Thakur <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

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Sincerely but not silently,

Akshay Thakur

**From:** Kavya Balaji  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** POLICE REFORM

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kavya Balaji and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Kavya Balaji

**From:** Christine Gu

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:11 PM

**Subject:** Call to Action: Black Lives Matter and necessity for police reformation

[External Email]

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Sincerely but not silently,

Christine Gu

From: Karthik Balaji <>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:19 PM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Police Reform

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“More training or diversity among police officers won’t end police brutality, nor will firing and charging individual officers. Look at the Minneapolis Police Department, which is held up as a model of progressive police reform. The department offers procedural justice as well as trainings for implicit bias, mindfulness and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, bans ‘warrior style’ policing, uses body cameras, implemented an early intervention system to identify problematic officers, receives training around mental health crisis intervention, and practices ‘reconciliation’ efforts in communities of color.”

Evidently, that was not enough. Instead of heightening the resources that officers have, they advocate redirecting funds to alternative emergency response programs, which can also be fueled by state-level and local-level grants. The McHarris’ argument is that we should work towards a reality in which healthcare workers and emergency response teams should handle substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, or mental health cases, while rapid response social workers provide individuals with the care they need. Community organizers would be responsible for spearheading responses to the pandemic. “The average police recruit spends 58 hours learning how to shoot and only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate.” Police officers are not trained nor necessary in reacting to such crises—specialized responders are.

Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

For-profit policing is a large culprit. Even though Governor Brown’s 2016 bill helped protect Californians from civil asset forfeitures, this is far from sufficient. As of 2020, 66.25% of forfeiture profits go to police—a C+ rating.

The Black Lives Matter Movement demands “acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police... We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive.”

The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

A persistent, genuine, and well-thought-out legislative effort to redirect police funds and end for-profit policing is imperative.

## 2. Abolish Legislative Police Protections

Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. BLM “demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence.”

It is vital to ensure that police officers are met with precisely the same consequences as their badgeless counterparts. Accountability has been denied to Black people for centuries, and it is crucial to impose legislative confirmation that accountability is ensured.

Campaign Zero is an organization dedicated to “limiting police interventions, improving community interactions, and ensuring accountability.”

They propose a solution of independent investigations. Because only 1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime, “independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers” must be mandated to eliminate biases. A broken system should not be evaluating itself.

## 3. Demilitarize the Police

Campaign Zero emphasizes that studies show how “more militarized police departments are significantly more likely to kill civilians.” Unfortunately, “the federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments.”

Campaign Zero continues that to demilitarize, we must “prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment.”

California is not void of this indictment. In total, 41 MRAPs are in the possession of law enforcement agencies in California. All in all, California’s quantity of purchasing such outlandish and high-level military technology is unmatched: “In terms of cash value, California gets more 1033 gear than other states.”

Even though the LAPD has refused to take on more military equipment, they stated that “the department will replenish and replace” existing equipment. Such measures must be barred in an effort to eventually demilitarize the police force entirely in the long run.

Police departments should be restricted from using federal grant money to purchase military equipment, using the SWAT team, or conducting no-knock raids. Over-weaponized departments must reduce their use of weapon stockpiles, as “agencies should seek to return to the federal government the military equipment that has already been received” as places like San Jose already have.

The warranting is simple: “Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization,” contributing to the war-like mentality implicitly enforced by the police, who have no place fighting wars against the most disenfranchised members of their communities.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Karthik Balaji

**From:** Lena Phan

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:58 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] District3 <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cortese, Dave <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Black Lives Matter

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lena and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,

Lena Phan

**From:** Brianna Hong

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:00 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] District3 <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cortese, Dave <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Black Lives Matter

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Brianna Hong and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Brianna Hong

**From:** Fatima Gonzalez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Justice for George Floyd

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Fatima Gonzalez and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers. The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,

Fatima Gonzalez

**From:** katherine shaw  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Black Lives Matter

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Katherine and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Katherine

**From:** Giselle Chiprez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Giselle Chiprez and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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The [warranting](#) is simple: “Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization,” contributing to the war-like mentality implicitly enforced by the police, who have no place fighting wars against the most disenfranchised members of their communities.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Giselle

**From:** Alisa L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:30 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Alisa and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

### 1. Redirect Police Funding

Phillip McHarris (doctoral candidate focusing on race) and Thenjiwe McHarris (strategist with the Movement for Black Lives) [explain the problem](#) with current police reform efforts:

*“More training or diversity among police officers won’t end police brutality, nor will firing and charging individual officers. Look at the Minneapolis Police Department, which is held up as a model of progressive police reform. The department offers procedural justice as well as trainings for implicit bias, mindfulness and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, bans ‘warrior style’ policing, uses body cameras, implemented an early intervention system to identify problematic officers, receives training around mental health crisis intervention, and practices ‘reconciliation’ efforts in communities of color.”*

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Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, [Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing](#) nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

For-profit policing is a large culprit. Even though [Governor Brown’s 2016 bill](#) helped protect Californians from civil asset forfeitures, this is far from sufficient. As of 2020, [66.25% of forfeiture profits go to police](#)—a C+ rating.

The Black Lives Matter Movement [demands](#) “acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police... We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive.”

The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

A persistent, genuine, and well-thought-out legislative effort to redirect police funds and end for-profit policing is imperative.

## 2. Abolish Legislative Police Protections

Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. [BLM](#) “demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence.”

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[Campaign Zero](#) continues that to demilitarize, we must “prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment.”

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Sincerely but not silently,

Alisa

From: Ankita Reddy  
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:00 PM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ankita Reddy and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers. The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,

Ankita Reddy

**From:** Andrea Dal Canto  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is **ANDREA** and I am a resident of **San Jose**, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

**ANDREA DAL CANTO**

**From:** Sally Chau  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Black Lives Matter in CA

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sally Chau and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Sally Chau

**From:** Christine Lim <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Christine and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Christine Lim

**From:** Samantha Marie Santos

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:28 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District4

<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is **Samantha** and I am a resident of **San Jose**, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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## 3. Demilitarize the Police

Campaign Zero emphasizes that [studies](#) show how “more militarized police departments are significantly more likely to kill civilians.” Unfortunately, “the federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments.”

[Campaign Zero](#) continues that to demilitarize, we must “prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment.”

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I hope that our legislators can take tangible, policy-level initiatives to defend Black lives, something they have failed to do so up until this point. Please listen to the pleas of the Black entities listed above and countless others, and help give rise to a future where Black folks do not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis.

Sincerely but not silently,

**Samantha**

**From:** Roshni Varma  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:51 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Roshni Varma and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

### 1. Redirect Police Funding

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The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

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Sincerely but not silently,

Roshni Varma

**From:** Anay Deshpande

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 11:42 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]> District1  
<[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
[REDACTED] City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW!

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Anay Deshpande and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,  
Anay Deshpande

**From:** Joseph Choi  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:11 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Help save black lives

[External Email]

Hi Toni,

My name is Joseph Choi and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,

[Joseph Choi](#)

**From:** Varsha Chilukuri  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:15 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Varsha and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Varsha

**From:** Yuka Fujii  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW.

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Yuka Fujii and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Yuka Fujii

**From:** Suzu Awano  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 1:47 AM  
**Subject:** JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED NOW!!!

[External Email]

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Sincerely but not silently,

Suzu Awano

**From:** John Yoon

**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:50 AM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>

City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Garcia, Edgardo <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

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The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

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Sincerely but not silently,  
John Yoon

**From:** Shraddha Srinath  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Shraddha and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,  
Shraddha

**From:** Emily Tieu  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

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My name is Emily Tieu and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Emily Tieu

From: Rhea Dhanowa  
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:52 PM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Criminal Justice Reform

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Rhea Dhanowa and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely but not silently,

Rhea Dhanowa

**From:** Em Abatecola  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** civil rights

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Emmett Abatecola and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Emmett Abatecola

**From:** kai tsao <>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 2:09 PM

**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** CA Actions for #BLM

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Kai and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

The following is a compilation of background information and implementation strategies for necessary legislative actions derived from collecting the pleas of Black organizers, activists, and journalists:

## 1. Redirect Police Funding

Phillip McHarris (doctoral candidate focusing on race) and Thenjiwe McHarris (strategist with the Movement for Black Lives) [explain the problem](#) with current police reform efforts:

*“More training or diversity among police officers won’t end police brutality, nor will firing and charging individual officers. Look at the Minneapolis Police Department, which is held up as a model of progressive police reform. The department offers [procedural justice](#) as well as [trainings](#) for implicit bias, [mindfulness](#) and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, [bans](#) ‘warrior style’ policing, uses [body cameras](#), implemented an [early intervention](#) system to identify problematic officers, receives [training](#) around mental health crisis intervention, and practices ‘reconciliation’ efforts in communities of color.”*

Evidently, that was not enough. Instead of heightening the resources that officers have, they advocate redirecting funds to alternative emergency response programs, which can also be fueled by state-level and local-level grants. The McHarris’ argument is that we should work towards a reality in which healthcare workers and emergency response teams should handle substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, or mental health cases, while rapid response social workers provide individuals with the care they need. Community organizers would be responsible for spearheading responses to the pandemic. “The average police recruit spends [58 hours learning how to shoot and only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate](#).” Police officers are not trained nor necessary in reacting to such crises—specialized responders are.

Most police funding is budgeted and taxed at the local level, with city-level and county-level votes periodically increasing budgets. In 2017, [Oakland allocated the highest share of its general fund to policing](#) nationwide, at 41 percent and \$242.5 million. It is crucial to establish state-level and local-level bans on heightening police funds, while simultaneously redirecting budgets to the aforementioned alternatives.

For-profit policing is a large culprit. Even though [Governor Brown’s 2016 bill](#) helped protect Californians from civil asset forfeitures, this is far from sufficient. As of 2020, [66.25% of forfeiture profits go to police](#)—a C+ rating.

The Black Lives Matter Movement [demands](#) “acknowledgment and accountability for the devaluation and dehumanization of Black life at the hands of the police... We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive.”

The McHarris’ conclusion states, “We need to reimagine public safety in ways that shrink and eventually abolish police and prisons while prioritizing education, housing, economic security, mental health and alternatives to conflict and violence.”

A persistent, genuine, and well-thought-out legislative effort to redirect police funds and end for-profit policing is imperative.

## 2. Abolish Legislative Police Protections

Murderers who wear a badge have consistently been given a free pass to decimate Black life. [BLM](#) “demand[s] accountability [for] those who are victims of police violence.”

It is vital to ensure that police officers are met with precisely the same consequences as their badgeless counterparts. Accountability has been denied to Black people for centuries, and it is crucial to impose legislative confirmation that accountability is ensured.

[Campaign Zero](#) is an organization dedicated to “limiting police interventions, improving community interactions, and ensuring accountability.”

They propose a solution of independent investigations. Because only [1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime](#), “independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers” must be mandated to eliminate biases. A broken system should not be evaluating itself.

### 3. Demilitarize the Police

Campaign Zero emphasizes that [studies](#) show how “more militarized police departments are significantly more likely to kill civilians.” Unfortunately, “the federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments.”

[Campaign Zero](#) continues that to demilitarize, we must “prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment.”

California is not void of this indictment. In total, 41 MRAPs [are in the possession of law enforcement agencies in California](#). All in all, California’s quantity of purchasing such outlandish and high-level military technology is unmatched: “In terms of cash value, California gets more 1033 gear than other states.”

Even though the LAPD has refused to take on more military equipment, they stated that [“the department will replenish and replace”](#) existing equipment. Such measures must be barred in an effort to eventually demilitarize the police force entirely in the long run.

Police departments should be [restricted](#) from using federal grant money to purchase military equipment, using the SWAT team, or conducting no-knock raids. Over-weaponized departments must reduce their use of weapon stockpiles, as “agencies should seek to return to the federal government the military equipment that has already been received” as [places like San Jose already have](#).

The [warranting](#) is simple: “Military equipment naturally increases military-style training for said equipment. That training can increase the other dimensions of militarization,” contributing to the war-like mentality implicitly enforced by the police, who have no place fighting wars against the most disenfranchised members of their communities.

I hope that our legislators can take tangible, policy-level initiatives to defend Black lives, something they have failed to do so up until this point. Please listen to the pleas of the Black entities listed above and countless others, and help give rise to a future where Black folks do not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis.

Sincerely but not silently,

Kai

**From:** Emily Phan <>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 8:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** BLM and Reallocating Police Funds

Dear Ms. Taber,

My name is Emily Phan and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to demand the following legislative changes you can make to eradicate the decimation of Black people at the hands of police officers.

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Sincerely,

Emily Phan

**From:** Kyle Wang []  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:20 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** WE DEMAND JUSTICE NOW

[External Email]

Hello, My name is Kyle Wang and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing to demand that the city council defund the San Jose police department and reallocate its funds towards social and public programming. Policing has proven time and time again to be antithetical to public safety, especially for low income communities of color. It is abhorrent that five million dollars in public money is spent on San Jose golf courses, while education, housing and public transportation have all seen reductions in funding. The city of San Jose should be committed to racial justice and should begin the process of moving away from the current antiquated system of policing and seek out more effective community based solutions to criminal justice and public safety that include a robust task force of mental health professionals and social workers. Our city should 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. It is laughable that the United States will criticize and invade other countries over the suppression of dissidents, while simultaneously allowing law enforcement to brutalize and use CHEMICAL WEAPONS banned under international law against peaceful protestors. 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.

Best,  
Kyle W