

**From:** Luke Gockowski

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:23 AM

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

<[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** 2020-21 Capital Operating Budgets

Esteemed Mayor and City Council,

I am writing with regard to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City must work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount of *at least 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity*. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,

Luke F. Gockowski

**From:** Matias Eusterbrock

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:11 AM

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

**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1

<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4

<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7

<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10

<[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Comments Regarding San José 2020-21 Capital/Operating Budgets

[External Email]

Esteemed Mayor and City Council

I am writing in regards to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City should work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount equal to 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,

Matias Eusterbrock

**From:** Rachal Marquez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 9:05 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number (3.1) - San Jose City Council Budget

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Rachal Jones, and I am a South Bay resident who work in San Jose. Below are my comments for the San Jose City Council budget meeting, regarding agenda item number (3.1).

Divestment from the following areas:

- Immediately remove police officers from the force who were responsible for officer-involved shootings in which they were not actively fired upon first.
- Immediately cease allocating City funding for the defense of police officers who physically harm or are involved in the death of loved ones due to police violence.
- Eliminate paid administrative leave for officers facing misconduct charges.
- Dismantle the following: VCET, MERGE, Covert Response, Street Crimes Unit, and the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force.
- Put an immediate hold on hiring new officers.
- Significantly cut non-personal/equipment budget for the SJPd.

Investment in the following areas:

- Fund the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls for help. These responders should replace police as respondents in calls related but not limited to mental health, sexual assault/gender-based violence and abuse, and substance abuse. These responders should be trained in deescalation practices, transformative/restorative justice, and other ways of intentionally addressing the calls without causing further harm.
- Provide funds and long-term support for those immediately impacted by police violence.
- Allocate grant funds geared toward Black-led community organizations.
- Allocate grant fund to brown and low-income communities, prioritizing areas that are over-policed and under-resourced.
- Fun long-term mental health resources.
- Provide long-term funding for San Jose's housing needs.
- Reallocate and restore funding for community parks and recreations spaces and programming.
- Restore funding for San Jose Public Library staffing and programming.

Please feel free to contact me.

Thanks for your time,  
Rachal Jones

**From:** Rena Lazaga <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 9:41 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Rena Lazaga and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

We stand 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.

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.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:48 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: San José Budget: agenda item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Romina Perez and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

We stand 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.

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.

**From:** Kaylan Lamb <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:04 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding San Jose 2020-21 Capital/Operating Budgets

[External Email]

Esteemed Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in regards to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message as a resident of Santa Barbara with family, friends, and colleagues in the City of San Jose.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City should work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount equal to 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources. This action is necessary to demonstrate the City's commitment to equity for its residents.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,  
Kaylan Lamb

From: Bianka Janežič Pregitzer <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:12 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda Item number 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

The last weeks were showing what is really going on in this country. Racism is still as big as it was so many years ago.

How does that come? Did we not learn from the past? Why do BIPOC experience more violence from police and are more often killed?

When I saw the amount of money that is spent for the police department in comparison to other important areas, I was totally shocked. The budget needs to be better distributed. Programs to help homeless people to get back on their feet, support for people with addiction and mental problems, support schools in poorer neighborhoods, stop funding schools with property tax from the neighborhoods and make that more fair, libraries, free education and we need better public transportation.

We don't need brutal people at the SJPd. We need a longer training to become a police officer and it needs to focus on de-escalation talking and anti racism training.

All police officers should at all times wear body cams and have them turned on. If they are off they should be called and asked why the cam is off.

Police officers that shoot/kill people should be fired and need to go to jail if something happens like with George Floyd oder Breonna Taylor. Stop protecting the wrong people.

There is also a big need of a more diverse police department.

Let's start with giving the money to organization last and programs that help the communities.

Cheers,

Bianka

From: Amreen <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:12 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda Item Number (3.1)

[External Email]

Hi,

With regards to the SJ Budget Meeting taking place today at 3:30pm, I have the following comments to add regarding agenda item number (3.1):

1. Remove police officers from the force involved in and responsible for officer involved shootings.
2. Dismantle units like the VCET, MERGE, Covert Response and Street Crimes Unit
3. Eliminate paid administrative leave for police officers facing misconduct charges.
4. Dismantle the mayor's youth gang task force
5. Fund the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls.
6. Allocate grant funds only accessible to black-led community organizations.
7. Provide funds to families impacted by police violence.
8. Allocate funds to Brown and other low income communities, prioritizing areas that are over policed.

Thank you, please let me know if you need any other information.



**From:** Rosemary Cole <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:16 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Budget hearing agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern for our community. I have lived in the San Jose area for almost 5 years and I demand that the city stops funding police efforts and instead invests in community projects. Black and POC communities are disproportionately targeted by police and it is time to uplift those communities that have been abused for so long. I urge the city to stop funding the police and instead invest in programs that help underfunded and over-policed communities.

Thank you,  
Rosemary Cole

**From:** Krystyna Lett <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM NUMBER WHICH IS 3.1

[External Email]

Dear Council Member,

It is imperative that we fund Silicon Valleys CTE program.

There are many students who inquire about these programs from the Silicon Valley ESL program. It is not only high schoolers but also adults who would find it difficult to go into a community college environment. We have many adults whose first language is not English - a growing population - who need to work. These students are highly motivated, but just cannot understand English that quickly, even though they were highly qualified in their countries. You would be doing this huge population a great disservice if you didn't fund this program. Our consortium is also counting on you to continue to help this population succeed.

--

Krystyna Lett

**From:** Amanda C <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Amanda Conlan 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.

The following is a list demands that are to be taken to divest the police department:

1. Remove police officers from the force who were responsible for officer-involved shootings.
2. Dismantle units such as VCET, MERGE, Covert Response, and Street Crime Units that have displayed high test propensity for violence against Black and Brown communities and criminalized property.
3. Dismantle the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force.
4. Eliminate paid administrative leave for facing misconduct charges.
5. Do not allocate City funding for the defense of officers who shoot, maim, or injure our loved ones due to police violence.
6. Discontinue all future hires and training, and remove any current openings, during the fiscal year 2020-2021.
7. Restrict further use of the \$178 million CARES Act funding to: hire, recruit, or expand SJPd force; prepay pensions for SJPd officers; purchase additional tools, materials, or supplies; contribute to construction or repairs of any Police-related buildings, offices, or facilities; fund restricting efforts; or fund the perpetuity or expansion of police-related activities.
8. Disarm the policy by cutting their non-personal/equipment budget.
9. Restrict the San Jose Police Department from receiving funding for equipment from our State and Federal government.

Now, the following is a list of demands to use our budget and invest in:

1. Allocate grant funds only accessible to Black-led community organizations.
2. Provide funds for immediate and long term support for individuals and families impacted by police violence.
3. Allocate grant funds to low-income communities, prioritizing area that are over-policed and under-resourced.
4. Fund the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls for help. These responders should replace police officers as respondents in calls relating, but not limited to, mental health, sexual assault/gender-based violence and abuse, and substance abuse. These responders should be trained in de-escalation practices, transformative/restorative justice, and other ways of intentionally addressing the calls.
5. Fund long-term mental health resources.
6. Use CARES Act funding to immediately relieve the rent of all those unable to pay their rent during the shelter-in-place orders.
7. Provide long-term funding to support San Jose's housing needs and investment in San Jose's community-led land trust.
8. Reallocate and restore funding for community parks and recreation space and programming.
9. Restore funding for San Jose Public Library staffing and programming.

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. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Conlan

**From:** Jessica Pham <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number (3.1)

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Jessica Pham and I was born and raised in East Side San Jose, built my career in the Bay Area, and recently purchased a house in District 2. San Jose is my home and I care about the community here. I care about the community that will exist here for my future children.

**I am writing to demand that significant funding be divested from SJPd and invested into social and public programming that takes place in our communities.** I believe San Jose has a wonderful opportunity to lead change by example. I understand that Mayor Liccardo and others may feel that defunding the SJPd would undermine the work the department has done thus far to train its police officers, but there is again, an undeniable and unique moment at this time in history to set an example for the millions of Americans who are watching.

Working in the tech industry my whole career, I've learned a thing or two about the patterns of improvement and change. The top of the first S curve below shows where we are in time. Conventional methods and current systems of the police have reached maturity. To truly build a better future, we must take a leap of faith into the second S curve—the defunding of the police. There may be a time of lowered performance during transition, but it will ultimately allow us to get further as a community in the long-run. Beyond that, we need to accept that change will happen again. We need to embrace continual transformative change and not cling on to small, safe steps.

The possibility of undermining current police programs should not be of concern—the concern should be with undermining progress itself. Preventative measures in the investment of our community is necessary for real and meaningful change, not reactive measures. The City of San Jose has a responsibility to listen to its community and keep the bigger picture in mind. I ask this city to take advantage of this opportunity to lead and not follow. I ask this city to defund the police.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Pham

**From:** Luz Daugherty <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:00 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

My name is Luz Daugherty and like many people that came to the United States, I depended on Education to learn skills to find a job. I started as an ESL student and took other classes at the Adult Program that MetroEd offers. When the opportunity arrived I applied to be a Substitute and finally got a permanent job working at several positions at MetroEd.

My daughter was a Special Education Program student and attended one of the CTE programs, earning a Certificate that helped her to get the job she has now.

Our Program is facing a financial hardship and as you may see if we don't have the budget many people like us will be without opportunities to better serve our community.

Please, support MetroED with a financial investment that will allow it to keep its door open for years to come.

With Respect,

**Luz Daugherty**

**From:** Peyton, Emma <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Today's meeting

[External Email]

We implore you: defund the SJPD and redistribute funds to more effective and safe sectors and services to protect and provide for our people.

**From:** Anna L <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Concerning Agenda Item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Anna Ledesma and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 and things like housing only receive a fraction of that. The SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

I stand with the calls of those in my community and 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. You can add as much "support" (SJPd) to the branches of a tree (San Jose), but it means nothing if you do not take care of the roots (our community).

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.

Sincerely,  
Anna Ledesma

**From:** Nikita Jain <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:40 AM

**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1

<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4

<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7

<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10

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

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

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chaparro, Isela <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Subject:** San Jose Constituent Demands Better

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Nikita Jain and I am a San Jose resident. I am writing to demand from my representatives that funding be reallocated from SJPd to social and public programming for and in our communities. It is an outrage that 44% of city funding goes towards the Police Department. The SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, Black folks, Indigenous folks, and people of color (BIPOC).

We demand that the City Council defund the SJPd. We join the calls of those across the country to defund the police. 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. It is unacceptable that the police, which is supposed to keep its residents safe, does the opposite, particularly for its BIPOC constituents. Reforming the police is not acceptable. We need to reallocate the budget that goes to the police, to go elsewhere - teachers, schooling, social care services, mental health services, health care services, to name a few.

It is your duty to represent and serve your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the San Jose city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year. Public opinion is with me. #BlackLivesMatter

Thank you for your time.

Thank you,  
Nikita Jain



**From:** Danielle Evangelista <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment for Agenda Item 3.1 & 3.6 - June 15 City Council Meeting

[External Email]

Hello,

I am a resident of District 4 in San Jose. As a member of this community, I demand that funding and resources be divested from the SJPd to community-oriented organizations. I have made no mistake in suggesting that the SJPd is antithetical to community. Mayor Sam Liccardo may have the perception that his constituents want more policing not less, but please place into context from what San Jose communities these come from. They certainly greatly contrast the sentiments from under-resourced communities of color who have loudly expressed feeling uncomfortable and unsafe around San Jose police. The experiences of those killed (Rudy Cardenas, Richard Harpo, Jacob Domiguez, Antonio Guzman Lopez - to name a few) and harassed by the San Jose police as well as peaceful protesters met with violence recently serve as testament to that. The city of San Jose cannot continue to lean on the SJPd to resolve issues which other resources and community organizations are better equipped and willing to resolve. Let's be thorough in reassessing the SJPd funding which should be divested, but also the funding which goes to other resources which extend the reach of ineffective policing like the Street Crimes Units and the Youth Gang Task Forces to name a few. Let's also be forward-thinking and fearless about assessing where funding can be invested in community organizations which are black-led and/or focus on brown and low-income communities to alleviate the overdependence on policing.

I will not stand for the cutting of funding for community resources such as Viva Calle and Viva Parks, the San Jose Public Library, traffic safety and street improvements, Community Service Officers, Parks Maintenance, and the Equity Strategy for Allocating Funding. Cutting funding for these invaluable resources directly hurts populations that need more support, and will detrimentally impact the greater community of San Jose. Per a 2010 audit by the City Auditor designed to save millions of dollars in taxpayer funding, it was recommended that the SJPd civilianize a number of Sworn officer positions. Instead, they are not following these recommendations, as well as cutting Community Service Officers — unarmed officials designed to protect the community without the threat of force. You are choosing to significantly reduce funding for community-oriented programs, while barely reducing the SJPd budget (<1%), at a time when police brutality is hurting our communities. This should be unacceptable to you as elected officials expected to act in our best interests. I urge you not to pass this city budget as it is currently allocated, and to defund the SJPd in favor of increasing funding for community-led programs that provide access and public resources for those who need it most.

Danielle Evangelista

**From:** Tiffany Luu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1 - City Council - Final Public Hearing: 2020/2021 Proposed Capital/Operating Budgets and 2020/2021 Proposed Fees & Charges Report

[External Email]

Good Afternoon members of the City Council of San Jose,

Regarding the 2020/2021 Proposed City Budget, I urge you to reconsider the amount of funding going toward the SJPd. More funding to the SJPd will be addressing only the symptom of crime and violence rather than alleviating the root issue: poverty and wealth disparity. People resort to crime because they lack the support from their communities and lack of opportunities to get out of their current situations. Instead of investing more into the SJPd, funds need to be re-routed to support our underserved communities in the form of improving public education, providing more accessible health services, and housing & shelter support. If our people are given the tools and opportunities to do better, they can see a path aside from crime.

Additionally, I suggest that the SJPd follow in suit of the SFPD of implementing unarmed professionals to respond to non-criminal calls. Many calls that are made for police do not require guns or riot gear. Our community needs a better relationship with the people we should be trusting to enforce the laws we are expected to follow.

Thank you,  
Tiffany Luu

Resident of San Jose, District 8

**From:** William Burkhead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Greetings,

I'm writing to strongly encourage your support of the Silicon Valley Career and Technical Education program via MetroEd in the City's budget allocations for this coming year. SCVTE is one of the most essential educational programs in the Bay Area. It is one of the few programs that provides a truly equitable platform for students to learn and master essential skills and knowledge that are critical to the growth of our community.

As a teacher for over 25 years, I've seen many students come through our systems for whom college was not necessarily the ultimate goal. Since the decline of "trades" education in favor of "college bound" programs, those students are often left behind, or worse yet feeling like there's no place for them in our society. Clearly nothing is further from the truth. SCVTE provides exactly the kinds of training that those students are craving. Further, for every dollar invested in programs like SCVTE, the community sees a return many times over in revenues coming back to the city through fees and taxes paid by these students once they are employed. While many who go through SCVTE do indeed go on to college, this program provides a viable alternative for those for whom college may not be the right path.

Over the past couple of years, I've had a number of students who attended SCVTE classes. One of the young women in my top band, Marissa Rentschler, took classes in video production there. Upon graduation she was accepted into the Film Studies Program at CSU, Northridge. During her final semester with us, we performed a work based on the tragic events at Columbine. She curated and produced an accompanying video depicting the many school-shooting victims from Columbine, and beyond, that was shown while the band performed live. This was an artistic, and technological challenge that was beyond the capabilities of most high school programs. It was through her training at SCVTE that she was able to create this work, which helped lead her to her chosen pathway in college. I have no doubt that her experiences and the training she received through SCVTE was essential to her success.

Another former student of mine, Kale Duprey, went through the diesel technologies pathway. Upon graduation he immediately got a job with Orlandi Trailers, and within a year was working for the Santa Clara Vanguard. He has been employed through both agencies for several years now, and for the two years prior to Covid-19, he was the Operations Manager, in charge of transportation of the Corps members, the equipment, food trucks, etc. This became a full time career, with good pay. He is making a good living, in Silicon Valley no less, and has the kind of life that allows him to give back to the community, not only in revenue but also in time, as he has volunteered with several school band programs in the area. His training and skills learned through SCVTE have been invaluable to him.

There are thousands of other young men and women from all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds who benefit from this program. With the onslaught of Covid-19, many programs are facing catastrophic budget cuts. This is one program that is absolutely essential to the future well-being and rebuilding of our community. Please make every effort to include them in your budget for this upcoming year.

With hope,

William D. Burkhead, Chair

**From:** Kaz Suko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda item # 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Kaz Suko and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing to demand that you defund SJPd and reallocated the funds to alternative, non-violent, community based safety programs that tackle the root of the problem itself by uplifting the most vulnerable populations. It is unethical to cut the budget towards education, libraries, parks, housing, and transportation while funneling \$5M into improving the San Jose golf courses and giving over 30% to the Police Department who not only doesn't effectively solve the problems, but actively threatens the safety and lives of Black and Brown people.

The system in place is broken - at the expense of your citizens 'safety and well-being. Reform does not work when the system itself is the problem. The fact that innocent Black people are still getting murdered by police after years of reform proves that fact. The only solution is to defund the police and reallocate the much needed funds back into the low income communities of Black and Brown neighborhoods to help them thrive and eliminate the need for crime. And to also invest in alternative solutions such as housing for the homeless and people of low income, mental health programs and crisis intervention, de-escalation teams of citizens for domestic abuse calls, medical teams for drug abuse intervention services, and unarmed non-violent city employees to deal with traffic stops. Violent crime should be handled by people who live in that community in a way they see fit and who are accountable only to them. The money in the police budget could more than cover all these services and then some.

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.

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.

Kaz Suko

**From:** Allyson Yuen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** SJ City Budget

[External Email]

Hi City Clerk,

As you are undoubtedly aware of the turbulent environment we find ourselves in, I too would like to bring attention to the importance of defunding the police. I've read Mayor Liccardo's arguments against it and how he feels the department is already thinly staffed and how it'll create more harm than good. I strongly disagree. You can't reform a system that was NEVER meant to protect and serve ALL citizens. I was ignorant of the history of the policing system in America until recently but upon doing my research, I realize just why our countless attempts to reform police departments were never going to be successful.

In my work with children, I've always found that positive reinforcement and providing youth with tools to be successful as a much more successful and way to create a lasting impact on their lives than punishment. Punishment is exactly what all citizens, both adults and juveniles, face when police are called and they get locked away in our prison system (if they're lucky enough to not be killed by the barrel of a badge). What needs to be done to create lasting change in San Jose and across the country is to invest more in services and resources that equip EVERYONE to be healthy, homed, stimulated, and supported. Defunding a significant chunk of the billions of dollars in the SJPD budget will allow for San Jose to invest in providing services centering around health, counseling, homelessness, education and recreation. Studies have shown that crime rates are lowered when Maslow's hierarchy of needs is met and that's what we should be focusing on. There is NO reason for the police to be paid so much to correct bad behavior when we should be working harder to build better coping strategies and assisting those suffering from systemic oppression with resources to be successful.

I demand that we defund the police and invest in the people and communities of San Jose. San Jose should be leading the way in this movement.

Yours truly,  
Allyson Yuen

**From:** Vanessa Sanchez de Tagle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:26 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Letters from the Public: Agenda Item Number (3.1)

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Vanessa and I am a San Jose native. I am writing to you to ensure that more funding is allocated to our educational and community services; by taking away funding from these services you are hurting our city's future.

I am in disbelief that your team plans to cut the budget towards San Jose's education, libraries, parks, transportation services, and housing while millions of dollars are going towards improving golf courses. How unethical can your team be? It is an outrage that the San Jose Police Department is receiving 30% of the city's funding when it could go towards truly improving San Jose's residents well being such as providing mental health professionals and social workers on the task force.

As a city, we demand that funding meets the needs of at-risk San Jose residents especially during this uncertain time. The wellbeing of San Jose residents should be a priority. Instead of allocating more funds to SJPd for tear gas and rubber bullets to control a crowd; contribute to San Jose's future for new books in the library, housing for the homeless, and maintaining our public parks and transportation services. It is important for you to know that by cutting funds from our educational and community services to put more towards tear gas and rubber bullets is robbing San Jose residents from a positive and healthy lifestyle. Our city's public programs should not be left with the short end of the stick under any circumstances. We demand a budget that supports our community wellbeing rather than empowers police.

What does community mean to you? Think about it.  
What do you truly value? Think about it.

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 fiscal year 2020-2021.

Public opinion is with me.

**From:** Maha Khan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:25 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM 3.1; Reprioritizing San Jose's Budget

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Maha Khan and I am a San Jose resident. I am writing to demand that San Jose Mayor Liccardo and City Council redirect money away from the San Jose Police Department and invest into improving community resources. This year San Jose plans to spend a third of its general funds on police, and only 0.05% on housing. This is absolutely unacceptable. I urge to to dismantle the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force, VCET, and MERGE, fire officers who are responsible for officer-involved shootings, and divest money overall from policing our communities. Rather, I encourage and request that you put money into our communities, such as into the public libraries, parks, public school districts, creating new units of non-police first responders, mental health resources, rent relief, and the San Jose community's housing needs.

At this moment, Black people and their allies across the globe are demanding systemic change to policing, and we need to protect our crucial community resources from proposed budget cuts as a result of COVID19. I demand that you prioritize the health and safety of our communities by funneling funds away from the police force, which as we all know by now is NOT working to benefit our health and safety. Please consider the needs and wants of your citizens, who are begging for change. Growing up in San Jose, I always thought we were a progressive beacon of light in the political chaos of this country. However, as I've watched public libraries, public school programs, and so many other areas be stripped of direly needed funding, and seen so many hard working and deserving people struggle with no outreach or help from the government while the police has continued to flourish, my opinion has changed. We have the potential to be that beacon, but it takes bravery from those in leadership such as yourselves. I hope you make the right choice today.

Sincerely,  
Maha Khan

**From:** Kerry Martin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

City Council,

I urge you to include SVCTE in your budget allocations. It is imperative that students be able to learn valuable career tech skills to help our entire community. This is a unique school and the only one of its kind in this valley. This school has trained our trades workers and high tech workers for many years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kerry Martin



From: Lee Kucera <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:53 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

As a former teacher I know how critically important it is to provide an alternative path (from traditional four-year universities) to students who are not headed down that path - many of them bright, talented, and motivated to do well. Depriving them of that path is short-sighted and wrong. I use you to support technical and career educational training.

**From:** Kathy Cappello <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Metro Edd

[External Email]

I truly hope you see the value in this program for our hurting community. Please support this incredible program...it is needed!!!  
Sincerely,

From: Kristin Steenberg <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:55 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda item 3.1 MetroEd/SVCTE

[External Email]

Dear City Council,

As a retired teacher, I know the vital importance of providing students a pathway to a career. Our MetroEd/SVCTE does just that for our most vulnerable students. In turn, that training makes a needed and valuable contribution to our community. I urge you to support SVCTE!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Steenberg

**From:** Matilde Fredrickson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Sykes, Dave  
<[REDACTED]> Shannon, Jim <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.6

June 15, 2020

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council,

My name is Matilde Fredrickson, and I am a family physician resident working and caring for underserved patients in San Jose. I am writing to request the following changes related to the San Jose Police Department from my perspective as a family physician.

Racism is a scourge in our society, a public health crisis resulting in more sickness, and shorter life expectancies, for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in the United States. Police officers have a very difficult, dangerous, and challenging job, even risking their lives for the community. Yet in policing, as in medicine, we hold the lives of others in our hands. With that enormous power comes enormous responsibility. Just as medical societies must address the unjust disparities in health care (such as higher maternal mortality rates for Black pregnant women, higher infant mortality rates for Black babies, and higher rates of COVID infection and death among Black and Brown populations), police departments must address unjust disparities in policing. We must address racism in all its forms, including health care disparities and discriminatory policing, to end this scourge.

I ask the San Jose City Council to take immediate action against racism and discriminatory policing via the following steps:

- Immediately adopt all eight of the "8Can'tWait" concrete and evidence-based initiatives that can reduce killings by police and save lives. Twenty-nine people were killed or seriously injured by SJPd from 2016-18, and over half of those were unarmed. We must do better.
- Adopt CampaignZero's other evidence-based initiatives to increase transparency and public oversight over SJPd, demilitarize the police, and assure via fair union contracts that if an officer is fired for a brutality incident, the officer cannot be reinstated. SJPd ranked 73rd out of 100 police departments in California rated by Campaign Zero's California Police Scorecard, and earned a grade of F. From 2016-18, arrests were disproportionately higher for Black and Latinx people in San Jose, and Latinx people were much more likely than others to be killed or seriously injured by SJPd. We must do better.
- Redirect urgent responses that are best handled by social services professionals, away from the police. For instance, mental health workers can best assist people in mental crisis. Housing services workers can respond to calls about the homeless. Substance abuse counselors can assist a person who is high or overdosed. Police can and should continue to respond to emergent or violent criminal activity. Redistribute funding to the service organizations that are providing the service, to support those services.
- Immediately discontinue SJPd's use of tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets against peaceful protesters. Tear gas and pepper spray cause victims to cough, increasing the risk of COVID spread in this pandemic. Rubber bullets can cause serious harm such as loss of eyes, or ruptured testicles in the case of Derrick Sanderlin. Use of these dangerous methods against peaceful protesters is unnecessary and unacceptable.
- Investigate and remove officers who have had inappropriate responses to protesters, such as Jared Yuen and the officer who shot Derrick Sanderlin with rubber bullets.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matilde Fredrickson, DO



**From:** Dora Wang <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Dora Wang and I am a resident of San Jose. Our communities should be free of police violence and it is clear that you have NOT done nearly enough.

You must work to remove police officers from the force who have been responsible for officer involved shootings, dismantle units (such as VCET, MERGE, Covert Response, and Street Crimes Unit) that have displayed the highest propensity for violence against Black and Brown communities and criminalize poverty, and dismantle the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force, which is a law enforcement surveillance and targeting mechanism disguised as youth services. You must work to stop allocating City funding for the defense of officers who shoot, maim, or injure our loved ones due to police violence.

You must work to DEFUND SJPD. Funding should be reallocated from SJPD to social and public programming that takes place in our communities. Why are we funneling \$5 MILLION into our golf courses and cutting funds for education, libraries, and parks? Eliminate paid administrative leave for police facing misconduct charges and increase funding for the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls for help. These responders should replace police as respondents in calls relating, but not limited to, mental health, violence, sexual assault/gender based violence and abuse, and substance abuse. These responders should be trained in de-escalation practices, transformative/restorative justice, and other ways of intentionally addressing the calls.

We stand with the rest of the country and demand that the City Council defund and disband the SJPD similarly to Minneapolis, with concurrent investment in the black and brown communities. We demand a budget that supports the community's wellbeing, rather than empower the police.

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. Public opinion is with me.

Sincerely,  
Ning Wang

From: MaryAnn Saunders <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:57 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

Dear sirs

MetroEd / SVCTE is a valuable community asset and deserves your support at this critical time. As a former teacher, I know how critical it is to provide students a choice of career pathway. Many of my students successfully took courses at this center and it gave them the preparation they needed to get a job.

If this Center were to be lost, our most vulnerable students and families would suffer. SVCTE trains essential workers who make a valuable contribution to the community. How is supporting SVCTE not a win for everyone?

Please help maintain this program. It matters a lot to hundreds of families.

Sincerely  
MaryAnn Saunders

**From:** Ruby Morales <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** item 3.1

[External Email]

I, Ruby Morales, demand the firing of police who are violent and mentally unstable to work in the community.

I DEMAND FOR MORE INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY POLICE VIOLENCE,

REPLACE POLICE WITH REAL EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE AN ACTUAL PASSION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY WHICH MEANS THEY ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, SEXUAL/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCE/ DRUG USE/REHABILITATION, AND EDUCATION.

Transform our communities.

STOP KILLING US.

STOP SHOOTING AND HURTING US.

Shame on SJPd for excessive force.

SAN JOSE, BE BRAVE!

ABOLISH THE POLICE!. REALLOCATED FUNDING IN OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL SERVICES.



**From:** Nina Alessandra Randazzo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1, June 15, 2020

[External Email]

I am a District 3 voter, and I am writing about my concerns regarding the allocation of more than \$440 million to the police (nearly 900 times the proposed housing budget). Every day I see my neighbors suffering for lack of housing, mental healthcare, and other necessities, and rather than addressing these needs, the city simply patrols and criminalizes the disenfranchised, thereby subjecting them to brutality and further disenfranchisement.

Black grassroots activists and other activists of color are calling for a dismantling of units that directly inflict mass incarceration and violence on Black and Latino neighborhoods. This includes the Street Crimes Unit, which patrols Black and Latino neighborhoods to arrest residents largely for innocuous behaviors termed "quality of life crimes," thus directly contributing to the disproportionate mass incarceration in these communities.

This injustice is being directly funded by this proposed budget. As per the demands of local Black and Latino activists, funding for this type of police activity should be allocated instead to services such as grants for community organizations led by Black organizers and other organizers of color in neighborhoods that have long been underfunded and over-policed.

Mayor Liccardo's only response to the outcry against the unjust policing in this city has been to promise reforms that have already been implemented and have not worked, are not supported by any evidence, and simply allocate more resources to the SJPd.

I urge the City Council to listen to their communities and reject the proposed budget. Please construct a budget with buy-in from the community.

Sincerely,

Nina Randazzo

**From:** Hillary Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Hillary Smith and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

We stand 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.

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.  
Hillary

**From:** Shubhra Dubey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment for Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Hi City of San Jose,

My name is Shubhra Dubey and I am a resident of San Jose. I am writing to provide a comment on Agenda item 3.1:

I am in favor of removing police officers from the force who were involved in officer-involved shootings and dismantling units such as VCET, MERGE, Covert Response, and Street Crimes Unit.

I am also in favor of removing city funding for the defense of officers who contribute to violence against our loved ones due to the police force. I would for San Jose to discontinue all future hires and training and remove any current openings beginning in the fiscal year of 2020-2021.

I would like for all the restriction of the CAREs act and any other funds that contribute to the perpetual expansion of our police force, and instead invest funds in a new sector of first responders that should replace the police in matters of mental health, violence, sexual assault/gender-based violence and abuse, and substance abuse. These first responders should be trained in de-escalation practices and transformative/restorative justice.

I hope you listen to the cries of our community and implement these necessary changes to protect black and brown lives.

Regards,  
Shubhra Dubey

**From:** MATALPHA <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:02 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number (3.1): Letter from the Public

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Maya, and I was born and raised in San Jose. 2020 has been a rough year, but it has opened my eyes to a lot of societal issues that I used to turn a blind eye on. As I got older, I started to accept the inequalities and injustice I saw in our society, but that was a fixed mindset and I believe that **we can be better** - for us, for our next generation. The coronavirus outbreak shed light on how broken our healthcare system, how unprepared we were for this pandemic compared to other countries, how weak some leadership is throughout the world, and much much more. In recent weeks, George Floyd's murder exposed even more broken aspects of our society: our police.

It is our personal **responsibility to acknowledge that the police system in our country is no longer working**, and perhaps doing more harm than good. If we cannot immediately change at the nation-level, we can start at the city-level and be a role model for future cities across our country. **Change starts now.**

I, along with many other San Jose residents, are demanding that **funding is reallocated from SJPd to social and public programmings that take place in our communities**. It is **unethical** to cut the budget towards education, libraries, parks, housing, and transportation while funneling \$5M into improving San Jose golf courses. We need a society and city that equitably supports other sectors so that we, the citizens of San Jose, can flourish into productive members of society. It is also an outrage that over 30% of the 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 workers. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empower police.**

In the meantime, during these times of protesting, 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.

**We must progress towards a society that is more ethical than the society we grew up in.** 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 fiscal year 2020-2021.

Best,  
Maya T.

**From:** Godiva Reisenbichler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda Item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Godiva and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

We stand 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.

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.

Respectfully,

--

**Godiva Veliganilao Reisenbichler**

**From:** Vicki Alexander <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:07 AM

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

<[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District1

<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4

<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7

<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** San Jose Budget

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I'm writing about San Jose's upcoming budget decisions. I'm a San Jose resident, and I've lived for a number of years in the Cambrian neighborhood. I understand that our city is going to have to make cuts, which is always difficult. Over the last several weeks, I've watched in dismay as a heavily armed police department engaged negatively with our community. I don't see how funding this type of police presence will lead to the kind of community most of us would like to live in. With limited dollars, it seems like a better investment would be to focus on programs that create community and that improve the day-to-day lives of our citizens. I'm very concerned about the proposed budget, and I don't support cutting funding for the library, community service officers, parks maintenance, traffic safety and street improvements, Viva Calle and Viva Parks, Equity Strategy for Allocating Funding, and other such programs. I believe that if we invest in parks, libraries, mental health services, homeless prevention and community service officers we can meet the needs of citizens in ways that a police department can't, and we can actually reduce our need to escalate situations and involve the police.

Best regards,  
Vicki Alexander

**From:** Nick Laskowski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment for Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

Good afternoon mayor and council members -

I write briefly to express support for additional funding for MetroEd's Career Technical Education program which has lost state CTEIG funding due to the pandemic. Career technical education prepares precisely the sort of students who need our help most to do precisely the skilled jobs our community needs most to recover from the pandemic and its economic impacts. MetroEd CTE is requesting \$500K each from the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara. This is a small ask for an immediate need, meant to respect the needs of municipal budgets as well as the priorities and will of taxpayers.

Please demonstrate Silicon Valley's continued commitment to robust economic growth by supporting career technical education to train our youth for the important work ahead that will keep our valley vibrant and strong.

Thank you,

Nick Laskowski

**From:** Jacelyn Wallis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number 3.1

[External Email]

Dear City Council,

I am demanding that the funds that would normally go to the San Jose Police Department be redirected to other important community programs and facilities such as schools, community centers such as the library, social workers, and mental health organizations that would be able to assist better with non-violent crime issues within San Jose.

I am tired of seeing large amounts of funding go to the SJPd when they have lacked in protecting the community and instead have engaged in hurting non-violent protesters with tear gas and rubber bullets. I am disappointed that our Mayor, Sam Liccardo has continued to allow this to happen in San Jose where the people who live here take pride in our diverse and unique community.

Sincerely,  
Jacelyn Wallis



**From:** Amara Greco <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** agenda item number 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

As a proud citizen of the city of San Jose, I'd like to formally request to divest city funding from the SJPd, specifically from the \$178 million allocated by the CARES Act. I believe it is better for my community that these funds to be reallocated to mental health resources, community parks and programs, and most importantly to the San Jose Public Library, which has been such a formative cornerstone in my youth.

Thank you,  
Amara Davene Greco

**From:** Cristal Olivas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Defund SJPD Now

[External Email]

Mayor Liccardo has said repeatedly that he will not defund SJPD, and the people of San Jose will continue to repeatedly demand that SJPD be defunded. The police department has had steady increases in funding over the last few years and we have seen cuts to public education, housing, public libraries.

I work as a housing advocate for a non-profit that serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Santa Clara county. Most of our DV clients come to us after finally making the leap to leave their abusive relationship after trying to make it work in this valley. Many state that financial struggle is a key factor that has made them stay in the relationship longer than they wanted. Mothers in abusive relationships have to choose between their physical and emotional safety or the overall well-being of their families, knowing that they wouldn't be able to afford housing if they were to leave. We have been in a housing crisis for too long. It is so disappointing to see that SJPD receives 40% of the city budget's funding when our communities are hurting, our communities are struggling to make ends meet and our communities have consistently seen families lose loved ones to the hands of violent police. THIS NEEDS TO STOP.

The non-profit sector cannot continue to try to aid larger issues that clearly need to be dealt with at the city and county levels.

Listen to your people. If you say you are invested in San Jose, show us. All we have seen is city council bend and kneel to the potential profits of the tech industry, the potential profits of private education (ROCKET SHIP SCHOOLS) and the militarization of the police department. Show us something different, show us that city council is a part of this community.

Disappointed and in anger,  
Cristal Olivas

**From:** Sarah Lopez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:23 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding San José 2020-21 Capital/Operating Budgets

[External Email]

I am writing in regards to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City should work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount equal to 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Lopez

**From:** Andrea Faiss <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3.1

[External Email]

Dear Members of the City Council.

I am writing to ask you to support SVCTE. Eliminated educational opportunities for our students is not the right direction. Please place our students' future at the top of the priority list.

Thank you,  
Andrea  
Resident in the Cambrian Area



**From:** Eve Walton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:19 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern;

*Please support funding for SVCTE!* The technical education programs offered are critical to supporting all students and to provide a pathway to employment for students who are not interested and/or who do not have the financial means to pursue a college degree.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Eve Walton

**From:** James Falcone <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:16 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Agenda #3.1

[External Email]

---

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

**From:** **James Falcone** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 15, 2020, 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** Funds for SVCTE  
**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mayor, I am writing in a plea to please put our campus SVCTE the Metropolitan School district. We are in dire need and will close without funding. We are asking for the City to put up 500k and the county to also put up 500k to keep our doors open. As you have spoken at our 100 year celebration. You know what our campus does for the community and our students. This would be tragic. To close our school.

Thanks for your time.

James Falcone

**From:** Sarah Martin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3.1

[External Email]

Hello, my name is Sarah Martin. I'm an employee of Metro Ed as well as a former student. I can honestly say that I would not be in the place that I'm at in life without the tremendous skills that I learned from MetroEd.

This program is so valuable to our students and helps train our students in many essential jobs. If we close our doors, our community would lose great opportunities and a great center to learn life long job skills.

Please include Metropolitan Education District in your budget funding.



**From:** Malissa Magallanez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Item 3.5 Approval of 2020-2021 Operating and Capital Budgets

[External Email]

Proposed reductions in the Library budget are counterproductive. In a post Covid world, we feel that the Library's role in promoting equity through education, digital inclusion, and workforce development is more vital than ever. Covid has only widened the gap of inequity that the Library helps to narrow. The lack of connectivity is especially difficult for thousands of people needing to work, learn, get health care, and receive employment help online during this unprecedented time of sheltering in place when they can no longer use free Wi-Fi at public libraries, community centers, or the workplace. In addition the "Summer slide" is starting now and will have a deeper impact for students.

If the City is indeed serious about equal opportunity, allow the San Jose Public Library to help restore equity, justice and continue to provide solutions as a key resource by investing and innovating in our diverse communities.

-Malissa Magallanez, Friends of Joyce Ellington Library

**From:** Gina Fleming <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:29 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda 3.1

[External Email]

Good morning, my name is Gina Fleming and I am a teacher at Silicon Valley Career Technical Education center/MetroEd. I have taught dental assisting here for 18years. Over those years I have had many of my students go on to become dental hygienist and dentist. MetroEd was the foundation to make those higher professions happen. I am not only a teacher for MetroEd but a former student, class of 1986. Since my time at MetroEd I have gone on to serve the community as a dental assistant, receive 2 additional dental licenses, teach dental assisting courses on weekends and proud to say I took over my former teachers position when she retired from MetroEd. If our school was no longer available to our high school students they would be losing out on huge opportunities. As you can see I know this from experience. So many of our 11th grade students have a career before they even finish high school, how awesome is that! When they graduate high school they have a choice to start working in their profession, go off to college or both. Not only do our high school students have an opportunity at our school but several of our students parents see the excitement their child has coming to our campus that many of the parents utilize our adult education programs to better their lives or change careers. It is for these reasons that I humbly ask that you support MetroEd with a financial investment that can keep it open to continue to provide life changing opportunities to our students.

Thank you

**From:** Kavitha kavuri <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Neighbourhood Services: Reduction in Library budget

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and Honorable Councilmembers,

My name is Kavitha Kavuri and I am a resident of San Jose, California. I am writing to express my opinion on the reduction in Library's budget. I strongly believe that the Library is the heart of the community and safety net for everyone and reduction in the Library's budget will have an inequitable impact for some residents in our city particularly those who use our public libraries. As we know there's already a widening equity gap due to Covid 19's devastating impact on the economy and health of our residents and these cuts will only compound the issue.

The San Jose Public Libraries provide many resources for all age groups and during all times whether schools are open/closed some of which are:

- Storytimes for babies and toddlers
- a safe place for teens to go to after school, home work help, volunteering opportunities
- Classes to learn a new skill such as coding, sewing, new language
- bringing communities together through community celebrations
- Summer Learning when school is closed
- Summer Food Program offering meals and fun activities to children (ages 2–18) when school is closed
- Partnering with several organizations to help fuel San José's children and teens' futures
- Computer help for seniors, newspapers, magazines, place to relax and feel comfortable, meet people
- Workforce development

I am certainly empathetic and know the city and its councilmembers are dealing with a lot, but I respectfully request that you consider the impact and critical role the libraries play in the rebounding of the city in terms of its economic recovery, workforce assistance in finding new jobs and education, and equity. With adequate funding, the libraries can continue to act as a critical second responder to Covid 19 supporting a faster City and community recovery.

I just want to end by saying now is the time to restore or increase Library funding - not decrease it - to allow the San Jose Public Library to help restore equity, justice and continue to provide solutions as a key Covid 19 second responder investing and innovating in our communities.

Thank you for serving our City!

Sincerely,  
Kavitha Kavuri

From: Jenn Petri <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:18 AM

To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: SVCTE

[External Email]

SCVTE is an incredibly important part of our educational system and community. It cannot be left unfounded. It provides critical opportunities for students who do not fit in at traditional high schools and allows them to explore other opportunities. It also provides much needed training for students who do not have financial support for college. Extra training during high school allows those students to earn much better wages than someone with just a diploma.

Often in the Silicon Valley, trades are looked down upon as a less than job, but nothing could be further from the truth. Without skilled tradespeople, our infrastructure will crumble with no one to build or repair it

Jenn Petri

**From:** Shreya Ramesh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:29 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Shreya Ramesh and I'm a resident of San Jose. I have repeatedly contacted my representatives and Mayor Liccardo about the subject of defunding the police in San Jose, and have not seen any adequate response or action. Please remember that as elected officials, your duty is to represent the views of your community.

It is unethical that 30% of our city's budget goes toward the police while resources like housing, mental health, public libraries, community parks, and education continuously get defunded.

Please consider divesting from the police and investing in our community, specifically the Black and Brown communities. Public opinion is with me.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Thank you,  
Shreya Ramesh

**From:** Kylee Gonzalez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:29 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1 | Public Comment

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Kylee Gonzalez and I am a resident of District 7 in San Jose. I believe that the city budget should serve the needs and interests of the people of our city; therefore, I demand that the City council officials work tirelessly to divest from the SJPd and invest in our communities. It may seem impossible to defund the police; yes, what about our city's safety? Please read and research how investing in our community, in education, in public services (libraries, parks), in housing and transportation will make our community safer! It is unethical to cut cutting to education, libraries, parks, housing and transportation while about 40% of the city budget goes to SJPd! I'm a teacher, why am I forced to buy my own supplies while teaching the young people of our city? Why is the base salary for teachers in SJ about \$60,000 while SJPd starts at about \$98,000?? This does not make sense, city council, make it make sense!

Thousands of people in San Jose are calling for you to defund the police department and invest in communities. Do the work, devise a plan to divest with all communities in mind.

I 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 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.

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.

These are our demands:

## **DIVEST**

- **Remove police officers from the force who were responsible for officer involved shootings.**
- **Dismantle units such as VCET, MERGE, Covert Response and Street Crimes Unit that have displayed the highest propensity for violence against Black and Brown communities and criminalize poverty.**
- **Dismantle the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force which is a law enforcement surveillance and targeting mechanism disguised as youth services.**
- **Eliminate paid administrative leave for police facing misconduct charges.**
- **Do not allocate City funding for the defense of officers who shoot, maim, or injure our loved ones due to police violence.**
- **Discontinue all future hires and training, and remove any current openings, beginning in the fiscal year 2020-2021.**

- **Restrict further use of the \$178 million CARES Act funding to: hire, recruit, or expand SJPD force; prepay pensions for SJPD officers; purchase additional tools, materials, or supplies; contribute to construction or repairs of any Police-related buildings, offices, or facilities; fund redistricting efforts; or fund the perpetuity or expansion of police-related activities.**
- **Disarm the police by cutting their non-personal/equipment budget.**
- **Demilitarize the SJPD by restricting the department from receiving funding for equipment from our State and Federal government.**

## **INVEST**

- **Allocate grant funds only accessible to black led community organizations.**
- **Provide funds for immediate and long term support for individuals and families impacted by police violence.**
- **Allocate grant funds to Brown and other low-income communities, prioritizing areas that are over policed and under resourced.**
- **Fund the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls for help.**
- **Fund long term mental health resources.**
- **Use the CARES Act funding to immediately relieve the rent of all those unable to pay their rent during shelter in place orders.  
Provide long term funding to support San Jose's housing needs and investment in San Jose's community-led land trust.**
- **Reallocate and restore funding for community parks and recreation spaces and programming.**
- **Restore funding for San José Public Library staffing and programming.**

Sincerely,  
Kylee Gonzalez

**From:** Erika <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Letter from the Public: Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Dear City Council Members,

The law of diminishing returns states: "adding one more production unit while keeping the others constant will cause the overall output to decrease." It would not make sense to continue funding the SJPd. If city council truly has the best interest of the general public at heart, please divest from the police department.

It's hypocritical to criminalize the underserved people of San Jose and expect them to rise to a higher standard. Rather than bloating the SJPd with more funds, these funds would have more impact if reallocated towards mental-health based first responders, rent relief, and education in low-income neighborhoods. There are the things that will help people improve their lives.

Police are over-utilized and undertrained for all the conflicts that we rely on them to resolve. They rely on violence to fix any problem and it's not practical. As the recent protests have proven, police have crossed a line where the general public realizes that it's become easy for police to abuse their power.

As the saying goes, "one ounce of prevention is worth one pound of cure." I urge the city council of San Jose to divest in the police department. Brute force and violence can only do so much--it's a means of intimidation. It's only good for a short term fix. The San Jose city budget should invest in helping stabilize its residents instead.

Thank You,  
Resident of South San Jose



**From:** Andrea Ciplickas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** SCVTE Funding Imperative

[External Email]

I am writing on the topic of SCVTE, item 3.1 on today's agenda.

MetroEd's support of SCVTE is vital to our high school communities. SCVTE does valuable training in so many areas that are important for the long term economic recovery of San Jose. During the pandemic, we have called workers 'heroes' that work in the many sectors SCVTE trains students for - they are vital to strengthening our workforce!

Please support funding for MetroEd SVCTE! Our community needs this program and our high school student's should have a pathway to employment!

Please join me in support of MetroEd SVCTE.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Andrea Ciplickas

**From:** Betsy Carr <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:32 AM

**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] District 6 <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Police Budget 20/21

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council members,

I am a lifelong resident of District Six, and -- along with many of my family members -- have been active in local politics my entire life. Unlike some of my family, I have never run for office, instead relying on folks like you to make the difficult decisions required to keep San Jose the best city for working, playing, raising a family, and aging. I count on each of you to use your own moral compasses to make the decisions required to keep San Jose the safe, equitable, fair, and vibrant city I love.

You are now faced with some really lofty decisions at a very difficult time in our city, nation, and world. I trust you to consider the heart of San Jose when adopting the coming year's budget.

Please consider reallocating funds from the police to pay for alternate City services that will appropriately serve and protect our citizens -- unarmed, knowledgeable, and passionate mental health workers, substance abuse counselors, domestic violence interventionists, youth service providers that could serve and protect in almost all situations currently handled by the SJPd.

Changes and reforms sound great until we remember that the SJPd just shot and maimed their trainer. It's time for systemic change, and it's the perfect opportunity to build a better city.

With all due respect,

Betsy Hammer Carr  
District 6 resident

**From:** Cristina Vargas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Cristina and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

We stand 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.

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,

Cristina Vargas

**From:** Eula Lino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Regarding Agenda item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Eula Idemoto and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

My work supports early childhood educators. They are struggling to survive in this city. The return on investment in early childhood education is approximately \$7 for every \$1 spent. What is the return on punitive police practices? Instead, invest in preventive and intervention strategies like the San Jose Public libraries, FIRST 5 Family Resource Centers, and universal childcare. Our families, especially hourly-wage earners, need to get back to work and they need comprehensive, whole child support. Stop wasting vital dollars on policing that can be fully mitigated if we had stronger, earlier intervention strategies.

We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of immigrant, Black, Latinx, and at-risk families during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowers police. 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 revise the San Jose city budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Respectfully,

Eula Idemoto

**From:** Alexa Erickson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

San Jose City Council members:

Change is urgently needed in the way that taxpayer money is distributed in funding our city. The people of San Jose have spoken - at city council meetings, in protests, in letters and emails - and have expressed frustration at the lack of public funding that gets at the roots of social problems while prioritizing the funding of a militarized police force. If this is a democracy, it is your duty to represent the interests of your constituency.

It is not an extreme or unreasonable measure to decrease funding for the police force. For example, it could simply mean redistributing duties and funding from the police force to mental health support and services for unhoused people. Currently, police are often the first responders in situations relating to homelessness or mental illness, and this does not have to be the case.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez framed the issue of defunding the police well, stating "many affluent suburbs have essentially already begun pursuing a defunding of the police in that they fund schools, they fund housing, and they fund healthcare more as their number 1 priorities." I hope it is not too difficult to imagine a future in which San Jose residents can benefit from similar quality of life and sense of security through increased funding for education, housing, and healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alexa Erickson, San Jose resident

**From:** Nicole Shaddox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1: SCVTE Funding Imperative

[External Email]

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing on the topic of SCVTE, **item 3.1 on today's agenda.**

Please support funding for MetroEd SVCTE! Our community needs this program and our high school student's should have a pathway to employment! MetroEd's support of SCVTE is vital to our high school communities. The technical education programs offered are critical to supporting all students and to provide a pathway to employment for students who are not interested and/or who do not have the financial means to pursue a college degree.

SCVTE does valuable training in so many areas that are important for the long term economic recovery of San Jose. During the pandemic, we have called workers 'heroes' that work in the many sectors SCVTE trains students for - they are vital to strengthening our workforce!

Please join me in support of MetroEd SVCTE.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Nicole Shaddox

From: Miriam Wesson <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:38 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: SVCTE

[External Email]

Hello: Please let us keep these classes. SO necessary. I always see comments on Facebook about how high schools no longer have important classes like learning to cook a meal or work on cars etc... Well yes we do and they are called SVCTE. Please these classes have helped so many to graduate. We need these classes. Please! I beg you!

Miriam Wesson

**From:** Sikha, Anagha <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1 Budget CONCERNS

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Anagha and I am a resident of San Jose. I demand that funding is reallocated from SJPd to social and public programming that takes place in our communities. It is unethical to cut the budget towards education, libraries, parks, housing and transportation while funneling \$5M into improving San Jose golf courses. Are golf courses more important than education???? 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 workers.

I 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. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowers police.

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 fiscal year 2020-2021. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you,  
Anagha Sikha



**From:** Julia White <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment for Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Julia, and I am a member of the greater San José community. I am devoted to ensuring this community thrives, and therefore am writing on the topic of Agenda Item 3.1 for today's hearing on the city budget.

First and foremost, I urge the city council to prioritize its constituents—their health, their safety, and their overall wellbeing. A sure-fire way to do so is to take into account the people's demands for a city budget which divests from the police and invests in the people.

Here is what I hope you focus on today:

## **DIVEST**

- Remove police officers from the force who were responsible for officer involved shootings.
- Dismantle units such as VCET, MERGE, Covert Response and Street Crimes Unit that have displayed the highest propensity for violence against Black and Brown communities and criminalize poverty.
- Dismantle the Mayor's Youth Gang Task Force which is a law enforcement surveillance and targeting mechanism disguised as youth services.
- Eliminate paid administrative leave for police facing misconduct charges.
- Do not allocate City funding for the defense of officers who shoot, maim, or injure our loved ones due to police violence.
- Discontinue all future hires and training, and remove any current openings, beginning in the fiscal year 2020-2021.
- Restrict further use of the \$178 million CARES Act funding to: hire, recruit, or expand SJPd force; prepay pensions for SJPd officers; purchase additional tools, materials, or supplies; contribute to construction or repairs of any Police-related buildings, offices, or facilities; fund redistricting efforts; or fund the perpetuity or expansion of police-related activities.
- Disarm the police by cutting their non-personal/equipment budget.
- Demilitarize the SJPd by restricting the department from receiving funding for equipment from our State and Federal government.

## **INVEST**

- Allocate grant funds only accessible to Black-led community organizations.
- Provide funds for immediate and long term support for individuals and families impacted by police violence.

- Allocate grant funds to Brown and other low-income communities, prioritizing areas that are over policed and under resourced.
- Fund the development of a new sector of first responders to directly respond to 911 calls for help.
- Fund long term mental health resources.
- Use the CARES Act funding to immediately relieve the rent of all those unable to pay their rent during shelter in place orders.  
Provide long term funding to support San Jose's housing needs and investment in San Jose's community-led land trust.
- Reallocate and restore funding for community parks and recreation spaces and programming.
- Restore funding for San José Public Library staffing and programming.

Sincerely,  
Julia

**From:** Norma Martinez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 3.1- PLEASE SUPPORT SVCTE

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo,

As a contributing resident of the city and a school employee, I send this email in support of Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE). I want to request that you **please include SVCTE in the budget allocations**. This school provides essential training for high school students. As you know, not everyone has the financial means to attend college or interest in a four-year education. This school helps to address both groups. Another GREAT benefit is that the training they complete CAN lead to college or a job almost as soon as they successfully complete the training. So who benefits from all of this? Everyone does! **It is a win-win situation.**

- *Students* obtain excellent career training
- *Community* benefits from contributing members of society
- *Employers* gain well-trained employees

Please consider including SVCTE in the budget allocations.

Respectfully,

**From:** Birtu Belete <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Budget vote

[External Email]

Dear Sam,

I hope you're doing well during all this craziness. We are all still so grateful for your beautiful words at my Aunt's memorial.

As you know, the safety and well-being of our city means so much to me and my family. I am writing to you to express my concerns over the current SJPD budget. I hope that you will consider my plea as a Black San Jose resident to redirect money away from the San Jose Police Department and invest into community resources. Spending 40% of general funds on Police and only 0.05% on housing is unacceptable and sends the wrong message, now more than ever. I appreciate your call for reform however I hope you will consider doing more. I don't feel San Jose will be a "guinea pig" but rather a leader during this period of social change. I would love to see my city's funds redirected away from SJPD and invested in programs that support Black lives and the needs of our community.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you post quarantine.

Sincerely,  
Birtu Belete

**From:** Bobby Joe Stewart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM NUMBER WHICH IS 3.1

[External Email]

"Letters from the Public."

Good morning

I am writing this letter on behalf of my students and myself. I wanted to tell you that SVTCE has been a vital role in helping students succeed in the workforce. I have been teaching my district (CUHSD) for almost 20 years. I am a special education teacher. I have a lot of students go through SVTCE and to this day are thriving in their careers because they were able to use a program like SVTCE.

I often worry about my none college-bound students and if they will be able to go on support themselves after leaving high school. The teachers and programs at SVTCE go above and beyond to help our students. These are the kids that learning hands-on was better than reading a book and taking a test. These are the kids that if we did not have SVTCE they would most likely not be working or not have skills to make a good wage in this valley.

Today I am on Facebook with most of my students and continue to be in amazement of what they have accomplished and still do. We have vet techs, auto mechanics, auto body, welders and so much more that have used SVTCE to help them be successful in careers that did not need college.

Please think about a generation of kids that will be lost if we don't support job skills that SVTCE can give. Support the program.

Thank you,  
*Bobby Joe Stewart*

From: chad goytia <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: MetroED / SVCTE

[External Email]

Good morning,

MetroEd / SVCTE trains firefighters and other essential workers. It is an incredible program and resource for the City and the City needs to offer its full support by providing the requesting funding.

-Chad Goytia

**From:** Myka Martin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** June 15 council meeting public comment Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Myka Martin. I grew up in San Jose and have lived here for most of my life and am currently a resident of District 10. As you are approving the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, it is crucial that you take steps to defund the police. Decrease the SJPd budget NOW for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Cut their budget by a significant percentage. Reallocate this to libraries and parks and recreation programming. There is no reason the library budget should be reduced in light of COVID deficits when the police department is grossly overfunded. The police have proven to cause more harm than help. They do not keep our communities safe, but rather antagonize Black and Brown people in our city.

I work in education because I want to see better futures for us and our youth. Defunding the police is a necessary and life-saving component of realizing this vision for a better, safer, more just future.

Myka Martin

**From:** Birtu Belete <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: SJPDP Funding

[External Email]

---

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

**From:** Birtu Belete <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sun, Jun 14, 2020 at 2:59 PM  
**Subject:** SJPDP Funding  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Dev,

I hope you're doing well during all this craziness. My mother and I (Gea Hammer Carr) so appreciated your card after my Aunt Susan's passing. So kind of you to reach out to her.

As you know, the safety and well-being of our city means so much to me and my family.

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the current SJPDP budget. I hope that you will consider my plea as a Black San Jose resident to redirect money away from the San Jose Police Department and invest into community resources. Spending 40% of general funds on Police and only 0.05% on housing is unacceptable and sends the wrong message, now more than ever. Reform is simply not enough, especially considering that SJPDP's own bias trainer was injured by police force. I don't feel San Jose will be a "guinea pig" but rather a leader during this period of social change. I would love to see my city's funds redirected away from SJPDP and invested in programs that support Black lives and the needs of our community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Birtu Belete



From: Caroline McKusick <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:44 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Letter from the public on City Council Agenda Item 3.6

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Caroline McKusick and I am a resident of Sunnyvale. I am writing to demand that funding is reallocated from SJPd to social and public programming that takes place in our communities.

This is an urgent matter for the wellbeing of communities across the Bay Area. Please let San Jose be a leader that inspires other cities in our region to take part in the nationwide effort to disband police departments, institutions that are historically descended from slave-catching patrols and have long been vehicles for racist violence and harassment in California. We need a new and bold solution to public safety, which police departments (including the SJPd) do not currently serve.

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 SJPd has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

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.

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.

Thank you,

Caroline McKusick

From: Melissa Morazan <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:45 AM  
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Agenda item 3.1

[External Email]

Stop defunding our libraries and parks! These are badly needed community resources that need more investment now than ever. Defund sjpd. Take the budget from the year gas and rubber bullets they use on peaceful protesters.

**From:** Julia White <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

I am writing to comment on Agenda Item 3.1 regarding the budget decisions for the city of San José. I urge this council to harness the energy of the people and prioritize our demands in order to create a truly equitable community. They are as follows:

1. Demand the City budget be allocated to ensure equity throughout our communities. Funds should be focused on communities with the greatest needs. Equity goals need to be incorporated within the budget with clear goals and objectives.
2. Demilitarize our police force by redirecting funding to Mental Health Services and First Responders. Allocating funds to community service officers instead of police officers
3. Investing in San Jose Public Libraries: Increasing the number of days open to the public and the quality of programs offered. Funding programs for the community, like Viva Calle & Viva Parks.
4. Expanding Child and Youth Development: Prioritize youth intervention services for youth who have experienced trauma. Funding for childcare and early childhood education. Subsidize childcare should be available for all who have a financial hardship and need.
5. Job Training and Workforce Development Services: Funding results-oriented workforce programs to prioritize getting our middle class back to work. Job training for youth should focus on positive labor outcomes and not just a simple summer jobs program.
6. Developing Infrastructure around Environment and Climate Health: All populations will be affected by climate change, but some are more vulnerable than others. People living in lower-income communities who lack resources are particularly vulnerable.
7. Public Housing: Every day our city gets more and more unaffordable for its residents. Families who have lived here for generations are being forced to move to the valley in order to find housing. The city of San Jose must do more to support affordable public housing for it's working class.
9. Digital Equity and Inclusion: Closing the digital divide and increasing access to the Internet is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in Santa Clara County. Approximately 30% of students in Santa Clara County have no or limited access to broadband Internet at home and the majority of those students live in low-income households. Ask the city of San Jose to support digital access and inclusion by enabling free or low cost, high-speed, 1 gigabit or faster broadband service in low-income communities, and increasing access to hardware, including tablets and laptops, for low-income residents.

Sincerely,  
Julia

**From:** Betsy Carr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** 20/21 Police Budget

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council members,

I am a lifelong resident of District Six, and -- along with many of my family members -- have been active in local politics my entire life. Unlike some of my family, I have never run for office, instead relying on folks like you to make the difficult decisions required to keep San Jose the best city for working, playing, raising a family, and aging. I count on each of you to use your own moral compasses to make the decisions required to keep San Jose the safe, equitable, fair, and vibrant city I love.

You are now faced with some really lofty decisions at a very difficult time in our city, nation, and world. I trust you to consider the heart of San Jose when adopting the coming year's budget.

Please consider reallocating funds from the police to pay for alternate City services that will appropriately serve and protect our citizens -- unarmed, knowledgeable, and passionate mental health workers, substance abuse counselors, domestic violence interventionists, youth service providers that could serve and protect in almost all situations currently handled by the SJPd.

Changes and reforms sound great until we remember that the SJPd just shot and maimed their trainer. It's time for systemic change, and it's the perfect opportunity to build a better city.

With all due respect,

Betsy Hammer Carr  
District 6 resident

**From:** Isabella J <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item Number 3.1

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Isabella Jaravata and I am a resident of San Jose. I am here 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 SJPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, more often than not, is paid out to officers responsible for harassing the unhoused, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

There is no need for the budget to focus on reform for the San Jose Police Department for "better practices" or simply "defund" it to research and review how to make it better. We don't need to re-invest in a department that is already working the way it has intended to, there will be laws, policies, and protocol to "change" the SJPD but at the end of the day, the laws they will protect are the ones that the most wealthy decide on.

Exploring the "less-than-lethal" options and having the IPA review what the violence of what our communities have already experienced first hand, even before the rise of today's movements, are examples of ways that the "laws" can change, but the people the police have been shooting at for hundreds of years, (dating back to the origins of the police force as "slave patrols" to protect property), will continue to be shot at. The militarization of the police through the National Defense Authorization Act was an intentional decision, and decisions to "reform" that will not protect our communities.

If we find it hard to imagine what defunding the police looks like and what a world without policing looks like, then those folks simply have not had to try to imagine a better world. There are communities that already live without policing, and those are wealthier, often white communities that have plenty of access to resources that ensure their basic needs are met. If we struggle to provide housing, healthcare, or even reallocate the funds from SJPD directly to the communities harmed by the SJPD, then we are not doing enough.

We stand 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.

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,  
Isabella Jaravata

**From:** Eavy Barbieux <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment re: Sn Jose 2020-21 Budgets

[External Email]

Esteemed Mayor and City Council

I am writing in regards to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message. As a former Bay Area resident and someone who still has several friends and family members in San Jose, I feel it necessary to voice my concerns and hope for a tangible investment in our communities of color and overall societal health.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City should work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount equal to 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,

Eavan Barbieux

**From:** Eavy Barbieux <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Comment re: Sn Jose 2020-21 Budgets

[External Email]

Esteemed Mayor and City Council

I am writing in regards to the Mayor's 2020 June Budget Message. As a former Bay Area resident and someone who still has several friends and family members in San Jose, I feel it necessary to voice my concerns and hope for a tangible investment in our communities of color and overall societal health.

As acknowledged in the City's Racial Equity Study Sessions, systemic and institutional racism in San Jose result in deep economic and social divides that the City should work to heal. As an expression of this value, I request that an amount equal to 1 % of the allocated San Jose Police Department budget be allocated to fund your proposed Office of Racial Equity. This would allow the City to fund internal and external initiatives to advance anti-racist objectives, including intersections with housing, public safety, and education. Additionally, this would avoid reliance on the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to fundraise for more resources.

I am glad San José's citizens and leaders are expressing their interest in equity-based solutions to inequality, and I genuinely look forward to what the Office of Racial Equity accomplishes.

Sincerely,

Eavan Barbieux

**From:** Darlene lee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM NUMBER WHICH IS 3.1 MetroEd / SVCTE

[External Email]

It is imperative that you continue to pay for MetroEd / SVCTE. My son is adopted from Foster Care. He was suspended in kindergarten 42 times. He has made significant progress but continues to struggle academically and socially. He is a junior this coming year and planning on attending MetroEd / SVCTE. This is his dream and this will give him an opportunity to have a career in his future. Please do not cut this program. There are hundreds of students in Santa Clara county who are A-G college ready and need programs like MetroEd / SVCTE to make a living here in this area. I visited the program and for the 1st time it allows these students who normally do not fit into the public school setting fit in somewhere and gives them the confidence and ability to jobs later in life. I work at Cupertino High School and there are students who desperately need this program to make a future out of themselves. College should be for everyone but not every student is ready for college. Programs like SVCTE need to be in place so students can enter the workforce prepared with a future. Please continue to pay it.



**From:** Justin Kawakami <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM 3.1

[External Email]

Dear council members,

My name is Justin Kawakami, and I am a high school English teacher at Del Mar High School. I am writing this email to plead that you keep funding SVCTE/MetroEd vigorously. Many of my students have participated in SVCTE over the years, and it has had a tremendously positive impact on them and the whole school environment. SVCTE is an integral part of how we are able to address issues of equity in the community. With SVCTE, we are better able to prepare all students for their future careers and achieve success in whatever field they choose to pursue. I have also seen so many students who usually don't feel engaged with the typical high school curriculum come to school more often and try harder in their regular classes.

Funding SVCTE is funding equity for all students, so please fight for what is right and just. Please help us serve our students and provide them with a high-quality and relevant education. SVCTE/MetroEd is not an expendable program, so please make sure that you act accordingly when considering the budget today. Thank you! Our students thank you as well!

Best,  
Justin Kawakami

**From:** Grace Talice Lee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:49 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3.6

[External Email]

I'm writing to urge City Council towards preserving the community programs such as Viva Calle and Viva Parks, channeling more funds towards the upkeep of parks and streets, (for the love of God, please) keeping the San Jose Public Library operational to the fullest extent possible.

Funds for these aforementioned options should be taken from the SJPB budget. Following the City Auditor's recommendations, please civilianize as many sworn officers as possible (not to mention, please pressure Eddie Garcia to fire the violence-monger Jared Yuen).

You are elected to represent your constituents' interests. We are speaking. Are you listening?

Grace Lee

June 15, 2020

Dear Mayor Lickard and San Jose City Council,

My name is Annie Chern, and I am a family physician working and caring for patients in San Jose. I am writing to request the following changes related to the San Jose Police Department from my perspective as a family physician.

Racism is a scourge in our society, a public health crisis resulting in more sickness, and shorter life expectancies, for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in the United States. Police officers have a very difficult, dangerous, and challenging job, even risking their lives for the community. Yet in policing, as in medicine, we hold the lives of others in our hands. With that enormous power comes enormous responsibility. Just as medical societies must address the unjust disparities in health care (such as higher maternal mortality rates for Black pregnant women, higher infant mortality rates for Black babies, and higher rates of COVID infection and death among Black and Brown populations), police departments must address unjust disparities in policing. We must address racism in all its forms, including health care disparities and discriminatory policing, to end this scourge.

I ask the San Jose City Council to take immediate action against racism and discriminatory policing via the following steps:

- Immediately adopt all eight of the "[8Can'tWait](#)" concrete and evidence-based initiatives that can reduce killings by police and save lives. Twenty-nine people were killed or seriously injured by SJPd from 2016-18, and over half of those were unarmed. We must do better.
- Adopt [CampaignZero](#)'s other evidence-based initiatives to increase transparency and public oversight over SJPd, demilitarize the police, and assure via fair union contracts that if an officer is fired for a brutality incident, the officer cannot be reinstated. SJPd ranked 73rd out of 100 police departments in California rated by [Campaign Zero's California Police Scorecard](#), and earned a grade of F. From 2016-18, arrests were disproportionately higher for Black and Latinx people in San Jose, and Latinx people were much more likely than others to be killed or seriously injured by SJPd. We must do better.
- Redirect urgent responses that are best handled by social services professionals, away from the police. For instance, mental health workers can best assist people in mental crisis. Housing services workers can respond to calls about the homeless. Substance abuse counselors can assist a person who is high or overdosed. Police can and should continue to respond to emergent or violent criminal activity. Redistribute funding to the service organizations that are providing the service, to support those services.

- Immediately discontinue SJPd's use of tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets against peaceful protesters. Tear gas and pepper spray cause victims to cough, increasing the risk of COVID spread in this pandemic. Rubber bullets can cause serious harm such as loss of eyes, or ruptured testicles in the case of Derrick Sanderlin . Use of these dangerous methods against peaceful protesters is unnecessary and unacceptable.
- Investigate and remove officers who have had inappropriate responses to protesters, such as Jared Yuen and the officer who shot Derrick Sanderlin with rubber bullets.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Chern, MD

Cc to:

Mayor	Sam Liccardo -	[REDACTED]
District 1	Chappie Jones -	[REDACTED]
District 2	Sergio Jiménez -	[REDACTED]
District 3	Raul Peralez -	[REDACTED]
District 4	Lan Diep -	[REDACTED]
District 5	Magdalena Carrasco -	[REDACTED]
District 6	Dev Davis -	[REDACTED]
District 7	Maya Esparza -	[REDACTED]
District 8	Sylvia Arenas -	[REDACTED]
District 9	Pam Foley -	[REDACTED]
District 10	Johnny Khamis -	[REDACTED]
City Manager	Dave Sykes -	[REDACTED]
Budget Director	Jim Shannon -	[REDACTED]

June 11, 2020

Mayor Sam Liccardo,  
City Manager Dave Sykes,  
Chief of Police Eddie Garcia  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara St  
San Jose Ca 95112

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Manager Dave Sykes, and Chief of Police Eddie Garcia,

It is with great concern and consternation that I write this letter to you, the past few weeks have been marked by some of San Jose's darkest days and overshadowed by the looming presence of an international epidemic that has fundamentally changed the way we interact with each other. In the midst of all this madness one thing has become painfully clear, we as the City of San Jose have failed our community. County Public Health officials have had to ask businesses and community members for spare PPE and ventilators, yet we were somehow able to magically fortify and militarize our police force in a matter of moments, to combat peaceful protesters, with no regard for social distancing let alone first amendment rights.

On Friday, May 29th, SJPD escalated tensions with non-violent protesters exercising their first amendment rights. One of our officers thrust San Jose into the media spotlight as video of him taunting and harassing peaceful protesters quickly went viral, his name and face now widely recognized and truly an embarrassment to SJPD's reputation. The city then went on to impose a curfew and was met with continued anguish and protests in the days that followed. Including physical violence against a Planning Commissioner who was standing on the sidelines, as well as a professional trainer who has actually spent time training SJPD about implicit bias and tried to deescalate tensions with police officers, only to be assaulted with a rubber bullet. Your political missteps, in creating chaos, in protecting and excusing bad behavior of officers, and in justifying unreasonable and overreaching use of force and weaponry against members of your own community will not soon be forgotten. It's time for change and it needs to start with some deep reflection on our core values as a city, and those values need to be reflected in our budget.

### **Creating a plan for police accountability**

- **Police use of force is a top concern.** Banning the use of chokeholds, banning the use of tear gas (or other chemical agents), and banning rubber bullets are important first steps to take in ending the militarization of our police force, and if we haven't done this already we need to do it now. The issue of use of force is further complicated when police respond to calls for non-emergency situations involving people who are mentally ill or homeless, often police officers are not equipped to deal with these circumstances. More research is necessary to understand the full extent with which police tactics need to be re-evaluated, it should start with outreach to the community to understand the police impact as it exists today and in the past.
- **Justice for San Jose residents who died at the hands of SJPD.** All police related deaths, involving police officers who still serve on the force or who are able to receive a City of San Jose funded pension or any other benefits (including family members of

police officers who may receive those benefits), should be reopened and assessed by an independent council. We cannot forget about our own community members in San Jose who have fallen victim to police brutality, we need to seek out justice for their deaths as well, it's essential to building trust in the community.

- **Expanding oversight and transparency of the Independent Police Auditor.** For too long SJPd has thwarted oversight and that needs to come to an end. The role of the Independent Police Auditor should be expanded to the fullest extent possible and the San Jose City Council needs to ensure that the Independent Police Auditor is able to act autonomously and that their actions and recommendations are not subject to input or approval by SJPd officials or the POA union.
- **Jared Yuen should be fired without pay.** Taking him off the streets is not enough, he is still making money off the hard working residents of San Jose; he needs to be fired without pay so that other officers on the force can understand that there are consequences for their actions. Jared Yuen has brought shame to our city, it's not just a poor reflection on SJPd but on all our city departments and the people who work hard to make this city great. People in our community pay too many taxes to cover the salaries and pensions of police officers that bully and taunt peaceful protestors during times of crisis. Jared Yuen needs to be terminated from SJPd with no pay, effective immediately.
- **City Council needs to ban POA campaign contributions for all City Council candidates.** In order for City Council members to effectively serve their constituents they should not be taking money from the San Jose Police Officer's Association. SJPd together with the POA union have too much power and influence in the City of San Jose. The only way to ensure that decision making is based on sound policy and ethical distribution of resources is to prohibit campaign contributions from the POA union. Based on the information from the POA website their current contract will expire on June 30, 2020 - perhaps making this an ideal opportunity to reevaluate the terms of the agreement.
- **Requiring police data to be released to other public agencies** in order to allow them to conduct independent analyses. As it stands many other public agencies are required to submit formal requests to the police department to release data regarding various police interactions. SJPd is often able to deny or reject these requests with little explanation or recourse. Interdepartmental coordination should be at the heart of reallocating police responsibilities and funding.

### **Reallocating Police Responsibilities and Funding**

- **The City of San Jose needs to identify roles currently assigned to SJPd which should be managed by a different or new department.** Simply reallocating funds to train officers on how to act appropriately hasn't worked in the past and it doesn't address the core issue that the policing system is fundamentally based on racist ideologies which disproportionately target black and brown members of our community. What services should be switched to other departments or managed by other agencies? What new departments are needed to fill these roles? These are the questions that we need to be asking in order to ensure that we as a city are not hindering our ability to address these issues.

- **SJPD is not a one stop shop** and we shouldn't treat it as such, we need to build up our network of resources beyond the police force and strengthen our ability to address systemic social issues in our community. Hiring more social workers and more case managers to properly address the health and safety needs of our most vulnerable community members will actually improve our level of care and service. Wellness checks for individuals experiencing mental health problems are best suited for social workers or case managers who are professionally equipped with the tools to ensure the people they serve are treated ethically and humanely. Again, more research is necessary to determine the appropriate management of services and the funding necessary for properly running those services.
  - After reviewing the SJPD Service Delivery Framework included in their proposed 2020-2021 budget, it is clear that **SJPD has too much on their plate**. Cities across the country are realizing that the police department is actually over-policing their communities at the expense of other important services. A couple of examples that have been suggested in other cities have been to reduce or eliminate police involvement with school truancy, mental health checks, and traffic enforcement. SJPD should still play an important role in conducting Investigative Services, however, various core services included in their Respond to Calls for Service and Patrol Support should be reexamined.
- **Managing and balancing budget priorities** is of the utmost importance and the San Jose City Council needs to think critically about how the SJPD budget can be reduced and/or reallocated. The City of San Jose is facing a \$70 million dollar budget deficit for FY 2020-2021 which will likely involve layoffs or deep cuts to city run programs and services and could possibly end up being an even larger deficit depending on what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. The SJPD budget has become so unnecessarily bloated year after year and it's impacted our city's ability to keep our libraries and recreation facilities open or to support incredibly valuable programs like VivaCalle. Furthermore, this is money that could be better spent on our school, arts, and athletics programs for youth, affordable housing, job training programs, or meals and activities for seniors; it's not fair to look to the police as the answer to all our problems, we need to invest in our community at a more personal level.
  - Year after year SJPD budget has increased and continues to be the city's largest budget item:
    - **FY 2018-2019 = \$428,989,074** (actuals) Meaning the proposed budget was actually higher and it's likely the current FY and next FY budgets are over-inflated budgets as well, possibly by millions of dollars.
    - **FY 2020-2021 = \$466,762,920** (forecast) = **increase of roughly \$2.3 million** from the previous year, FY 2019-2020 = \$464,466,750 (adopted), and an **increase of \$37.8 million** over what was spent in FY 2018-2019.
  - Looking at the budget breakdown of Dollars by Category you can see:
    - \$413,728,918 is the budget for salaries and overtime and **\$27,381,063 is for equipment**. The line item for equipment seems like a good place to start reallocating funds because it represents a significant opportunity for reallocating funds and it is likely to include funding for many of the tools that SJPD used to combat protesters. For FY 2020-2021 SJPD only

proposed a \$150,689 reduction to the line item for equipment, even though it is actually an \$866,913 increase from FY 2018-2019.

- Looking at the Dollars by Core Service you can see:
  - **\$289,711,694** goes to Responding to Calls for Service or Patrol Support, this is the largest chunk of the SJPB budget, and when looking closer Field Patrol is the most costly line item in that category, totaling **\$207,653,157** for 757 officers. There is an opportunity here to reevaluate this line item and determine how reducing SJPBs Field Patrol budget (and some responsibilities) can allow us to reallocate funds to other departments or agencies in a way that allows us to sustain a high level of service for all residents.
  - There is also a line item for **Crime Prevention and Community Education = \$7,053,256**, which was reduced by \$84,762 in the proposed FY 2020-2021. Again, this represents an opportunity to reallocate this funding by putting it back into our schools to help fund programs for mental health, job training, free meals for students, arts, or athletics.
  - These are just a few small examples of how we can address change by reallocating funding to the things that our community needs. Further research and community input is necessary to address change.

This is a defining moment for the City of San Jose, we have the opportunity to show our residents, to show the world, that we care more about people than profits, that we won't stand for abusive use of force, but in fact we are here to protect our most vulnerable populations. I hope that you take this message to heart, these issues weigh heavily on me as I'm sure they do you. I have lived in San Jose almost my whole life, I was born and raised here, went to school and started my career here, and for the first time in my life I have lost my sense of pride in San Jose. We have a responsibility to show our community that we can be proactive in addressing our problems and that we can be a leader in bringing about positive change.

Sincerely,

B. Carvalho