

Blair Beekman. San Jose city council. Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Item 3.5.

BB

b. beekman [REDACTED]

Reply all

Mon 8/3/2020 2:50 PM

To:

Agendadesk

[External Email]

Dear community of San Jose and city govt,

With item 3.5, as you are trying to figure, different combinations & ideas, that can fit together, as part of fair elections initiatives, for the fall ballot.

A reminder, it has been years, and a lot of public back & forth, to get this IPA measure, on the fall ballot of 2020.

I hope all sides can agree, there can be a certain dignity, of letting the IPA measure, stand alone, in this year's fall ballot.

It is some of the ideas, of better openness, trust, and cooperation, with the future, of police accountability, and a community.

I hope these good efforts, and democratic practices, can continue, with the thoughts & ideas, of how a community led, police review board, can work in conjunction, with the IPA, SJPD, and sj city govt.

A community led oversight board, that could possibly address oversight questions, of technology, surveillance, data collection, and other, like-minded subjects

Sincerely,
Blair Beekman



P.O. Box 5374
San Jose, CA 95150
www.lwvsjsc.org
August 3, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers, City of San Jose

**Re: Expand Review Authority for the Independent Police Auditor, August 4, 2020
Council Meeting, Item 3.5**

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara urges you to support the expansion of review authority for the Independent Police Auditor thereby providing a higher level of transparency and accountability. It is critical that the IPA's authority include unredacted review of all complaints and investigations into every police use of force resulting in serious injury and unfettered access to police records.

Although we understand the additional costs, we hope that this issue is not combined with the other issues into one ballot measure. After you finalize the measure(s), we will then evaluate and decide whether to support, oppose, or remain neutral.

Passage of the proposed ballot measure is a much needed beginning; however, it is just a beginning. We urge the City Council to explore additional expansion of IPA authority through the meet and confer process with the San Jose Police Officers Association. We encourage the City Council to expedite consideration of expanded Police Department participation in the GARE process through coordination with the newly created Office of Racial Equity and other referrals assembled in the Police Reforms Work Plan dated July 13.

Recently, the League of Women Voters of the United States joined 220 national organizations in signing a letter asking Congress for meaningful police reform legislation in 2020. We submit a summary of our LWV California Criminal Justice Position for your consideration:

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;
- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities;
- policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
- collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;
- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and

- reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness)

The League of Women Voters is fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. During our virtual National Convention in June, members passed a resolution calling for “*prompt action by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism and the harm it causes.*”

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in San Jose, in California and across the nation to protest and grieve the death of George Floyd and other Black lives. Now is the time to begin a re-imagining of policing. We look forward to a broad community engagement process to help determine the future of policing in San Jose.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Watts

Carol Watts, President
League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara
president@lwvsjsc.org

cc: San Jose City Clerk