

FW: Agenda Items 4.1-4.3 (9/29/2020) #DefundThePolice

City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Tue 9/29/2020 9:11 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: kathryn hedges <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 11:09 PM

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

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Cc: Ray Montgomery <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Agenda Items 4.1-4.3 (9/29/2020) #DefundThePolice

[External Email]

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, and Independent Police Auditor:

I am a resident of District 3 and a member of PACT, although I am not writing with any authorized status. This weekend, we and our allies have been mourning the grand jury verdict in the Breonna Taylor case and the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

I live near San Jose City Hall, and I attended many of the protests on Memorial Day and the following week(s). I had a front row seat to the militarized escalation of tensions leading to rioting and police brutality that weekend until the "troops" were ordered to stand down. I am disgusted by this treatment of San Jose residents as the enemy. I'm also disgusted by the continuing acts of violence against San Jose residents, especially those with mental illness.

I am glad to see the City Council is revisiting SJPd issues, as the last meeting was the day before *San Jose Inside* reported the BlueLeaks documents describing how SJPd fell for a campaign to incite violence against protestors. It's almost as though they were looking for an excuse to beat people down. I do not trust our police force after watching this display of fascist violence and am extremely disappointed that the Council has let Chief Eddie Garcia retire with full pension.

<https://www.sanjoseinside.com/news/blueleaks-hack-suggests-bad-intel-fueled-sjpd-violent-response-to-recent-protests/>

The information discussed in the news report makes it clear that NRCIC was exaggerating and spreading rumors. I am appalled that the Federal government would disseminate this kind of misinformation to increase tensions between police and protestors, but I'm also concerned by their lack of discernment while reading these reports. In San Jose, Chief Eddie Garcia and Captain Jason Dwyer clearly based their approach to the protests based on the disinformation about "anarchist extremists" and "violent opportunists" with the result of escalating the situation to fulfill the violent descriptions of protests elsewhere.

We have already discussed (and seen the video) of how SJPd was responsible for nearly all the injuries at the protests, thanks to their use of rubber baton weapons, tear gas, flash bangs, etc. against protesters who were not wearing riot gear. They didn't give protesters a chance to disperse before attacking bystanders and press indiscriminately. The curfews exacerbated the problems and led to mass arrests that exposed arrestees to COVID-19; the charges from these arrests have been dismissed, making it clear they were unnecessary and served only to escalate public tensions. Several people I know required surgery for their injuries; how many riot cops had to be hospitalized for having water bottles and wood thrown at them in full riot gear with helmets and shields?

It is clear that attempting to reform SJPd with implicit bias training and mental health de-escalation training have failed. We need to dismantle SJPd and start fresh, with a different structure and roles for social workers and other unarmed personnel. Sending armed police to do welfare checks on suicidal people such as Anthony Nuñez keeps ending badly. Police killing Black, Brown, and Disabled people doesn't just happen in other cities better known for bigotry. The police don't need to be involved in welfare checks unless the person threatens the social worker or EMT. The City had to pay out millions of dollars in a wrongful death settlement, yet his murderers have climbed the promotion ladder at SJPd. What message does this send the rest of the police force? "Killed a civilian? No big deal."

I am surprised that I didn't even know this would be on the agenda until I saw a Facebook post on Monday afternoon by Councilmember Arenas. I guess we won't be seeing a concerted campaign from PACT, SV DeBug, and the NAACP. Great timing to agendize this while we are preoccupied with the grand jury verdict on Breonna Taylor's killers and the passing of RBG. May their memories become a revolution.

I just want SJPd to stop killing, maiming, and traumatizing the residents of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hedges

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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