

Fw: Public Comment for City Council Budget Study Session (Item #2)

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

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From: Sandra Asher [REDACTED] >**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:52 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** snasher2000 [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>**Subject:** Public Comment for City Council Budget Study Session (Item #2)

[External Email]

Hello, and thank you to the city council for hearing my public comment. I'm a member of the RECS Committee and a resident of District 10. The opportunity for police roles to be civilianized presents a huge opportunity to increase the safety of our communities and the equity of power in San Jose. Think about the various roles within the police department that would be better filled by specialists outside SJPd. These include:

- * Mental health crisis and addition related response
- * Youth and schools outreach
- * Homelessness "enforcement" and outreach

In the words of Mental health worker Yvonne Maxwell of Ujima Family Services, responded with this: "When someone comes into the ER severely bleeding and in need of medical attention, you expect a doctor to step into a crisis situation and help, and the same happens with specialized Mental Health professionals. Their job is to step in, deescalate, hold space with them, and get them to a better place.

Let's ensure we have the right people in the right jobs. Let's take the additional work off SJPd's plate and allow them to focus on violent crime. The community demands these changes. The time to implement these changes is right now. We hope you listen and consider these changes.

Thank you
Sandra Asher

Sandra Asher
Director, Governing Board

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Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. (author unknown)

Secretary,

Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

County of Santa Clara SELPA IV

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