

From: Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:08 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Protect Tacoma's Cultural Sector - Release Tacoma Creates Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Tacoma City ,

I respectfully request that the Tacoma City Council take action and unanimously approve the voter-approved work of Tacoma Creates and the independent Citizen panel's recommendations on this first major round of Tacoma Creates funding, and to do so on the expedited timeline and process suggested by Tacoma City Staff.

Please put these dollars to work to help stabilize the cultural sector. This dedicated funding will flow to more than 50 organizations and ensure that our cultural community remains strong and serves the entire community at a new level of impact and commitment.

Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow
lyzkurnitz@harboret.com
5559 Beverly Ave NE
Tacoma, Washington 98422

From: Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:57 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: public comment - 9 June 2020

Attachments: Public Comment - 9 June 2020 - Resistencia.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Our comment for tonight's City Council meeting is attached below. There are questions - when can we expect answers?

Thanks,

La Resistencia

PO Box 31202

Seattle, WA 98103

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Public Comment, City of Tacoma
9 June 2020

From: La Resistencia

The City of Tacoma has only recently begun to recognize the violence, racism, and insupportability of a private prison for immigration in a polluted port industrial zone. We continue to call for the City of Tacoma to show support and solidarity for those in detention at NWDC, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A new case of COVID-19 was transferred to the center in late May and was detected at the NWDC this week; many at NWDC were tested with results expected to be released this week. We continue to push for transparency about testing, and for the releases of not only the substantial number of people who are detained and vulnerable to COVID-19, but of all those at the NWDC, living in conditions that do not meet Washington State's standards for preventing outbreaks. People inside continue to protest - this week four pods went on a one day strike over hygiene and social distancing. They protest because ICE is careless with their lives. Last week we sent you testimony from two women who are part of Resistencia, and whose partners are currently detained, and they shared with you how careless ICE is with their partners' lives, and the impact this has on their entire family.

At a Town Hall in May, Mayor Woodards and City Council Members Ushka and Beale all stated that they would support an end to the NWDC. They expressed support for people who are detained at NWDC, and interest in a proposal to pass a resolution calling for release of all people detained at the NWDC.

What will the City do in this crucial moment to support the people detained at NWDC, the vast majority of whom are Black and Brown? If the City intends to pass a Resolution supporting those detained there, when will it do so?

In addition to these concerns that we have brought up repeatedly, we are compelled to connect this struggle with the ongoing movement for Black lives. The carelessness of ICE with human life and death is a mirror image of the carelessness and viciousness of police forces across the United States. The violence is systematic.

We recognize that anti-Black racism intersects with the issue of immigration detention. Black immigrants, both undocumented and with status, are disproportionately targeted for both criminal and immigration enforcement. Black noncitizens make up 20 percent of those facing deportation on criminal grounds despite being just 7% of the noncitizen population: anti-Black bias in the criminal justice system becomes part of the immigration enforcement system.

Even though police and anti-Black violence are enmeshed in this country, the immigrant rights movement has often fallen pretty to the "we are not criminals" sloganeering that throws Black folks struggling to end criminalization under the bus. We as Resistencia have always resisted divisions between "deserving" and "undeserving," "innocent" and "criminal." When we say end detention we don't just mean closing the cages at NWDC. We mean ending the entire system that would arrest, lock up, and banish people, whether it's into detention centers or jails and prisons, and building a system in its place that centers and nurtures human life.

We stand in solidarity with the family of Manuel Ellis, who was killed by Tacoma City Police in March, 2020. With Manuel Ellis' family and the Tacoma City Council, we call on the Governor's office to bring together an independent investigation of this killing. And yet, this wasn't an isolated incident. What will the City do to reckon with the violence of its police force, and to promote safe and thriving communities?

From: David Bluhm <d_bluhm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria
Cc: Nowman (Emery), Nicole; City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina; Hunter, Lillian; Blackwell, Jeanette; pcsheriff@co.pierce.wa.us; Green, Tory
Subject: Re: Tideflats Interim Regulations and Resolution 40610 - Proclamation re Marginalized Communities and Inequities

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Clerk Sorum &/or Deputies, Mayor Woodards, and Council Members;

I realize Tideflats Interim Regulations is not on today's agenda. I submit this as a public comment for the Citizen's Forum and for any future hearings, readings and or votes regarding the topics herein in addition to Tideflats Interim Regs.

Please direct IT to make an easy way to be added to a listserv for people wanting announcements as to when the hearings, preliminary readings, final readings and/or votes and/or additional readings, hearings and/or status updates are added for specific matters before the council .

I urge you all to submit and/or support amendments to the Tideflats Interim Regulations that will restrict all development, construction and/or expansion for the next 6 months except for those exclusions I mention below, if not making those restrictions permanent while undertaking a monumental Puyallup River Estuary Restoration Project and relocating toxic and noxious business, industry and storage facilities off of the Port and tideflats to protect the public health and best interests of the Salish Sea Region for peperuity. THose toxic industries and businesses and storage sites should be no less than 50 miles inland.

Please lock down all construction and expansion for all business and industry on and around the Tideflats EXCEPT for enhanced current best technology and science regular environmental monitoring and testing of water temperatures, air quality/pollution levels, land quality/pollution levels, water quality/pollution levels, and clean up of Superfund and Brownfield sites. OR clean up of any toxic or noxious potentially public or sea life health degrading site, business and industry that could become a Superfund/Brownfield site in the future for these next 6 months. Better yet, permanently. Despite the threats and general clamor that business and industry and their support organizations that promote economic, business and industry growth at any cost, be it to marginalized peoples or all peoples in the vicinity, down and up current.

That professional, quality checked and triple verified environmental impact monitoring and testing, analysis and results must be performed by unbiased, independent organizations and individuals and published for public viewing and include lands, air and waters directly located at, directly adjacent to, down and up current of the Tideflats as well as other areas that have been known to be affected by the operations of business and industry on the Tideflats and Port.

Please pledge more financial and other resources to reclaiming lands from the Tideflats and Port to restore the Puyallup River Estuary that was destroyed to develop them. Please collaborate with the Puyallup Tribe on these matters.

Please use the absolute most currennt science to determine the global, cradle to grave effects of the expansion of those toxic and noxious industries including blast zones. The current projections used by Puget Sound Energy or the Liquefied/Fracked Gas Facility have been disproven and are far from accurate in a bad way that will kill residents, fish, wildlife flora and fauna of all ecosystems i Tacoma and Pierce County. I believe South King and Kitsap Counties too.

Please realize that Natural Liquefied Gas and petroleum and other fossil fuel derived fuels and admixtures for

manufacturing, business, industry or consumer direct are not bridges to a better way or better day. They simply must stop being used as painful and inconvenient as that may be for a while.

Please trust that the technology and energy sources that quickly arise in place of those will be amazing and inspiring in a great way.

The remainder of this email includes comments I made today during the Study Session:

As a White ally (with Norwegian, Scottish, German, and Irish heritage) of Black, Indigenous and other Americans of other Colors, Countries, Cultures, Religions (non-violent), Spiritualities, Chosen Pronouns, Genders (including post birth realized) etc. etc. I have learned and see that the biggest issue with police, sheriff and highway patrol is that THE MAJORITY of beat officers, deputies, detectives etc and captains, sergeants, chiefs, and sheriffs that aren't assthat racist violent pigs DO NOT HOLD THE MINORITY (that I estimate to be anywhere between 3 and 25% of forces nationwide) that are RACIST and/or VIOLENT ACCOUNTABLE. WHY AREN'T THE 75 - 97% that are decent people that went into law enforcement to truly Serve and Protect ALL of WE THE PEOPLE HOLDING THE 3 - 25% ACCOUNTABLE?!?!?!?

After 244 years they can not be trusted to be accountable the way it is managed now or has been in the past. WHY? Because they haven't done it in 244 years AND the forces at their foundation were created to police, pursue, RE-capture, and then *convince* their captured to never run away again BLACK SLAVES and INDIGENOUS that left the RESERVATION and/or BOARDING SCHOOLS most notoriously.

CONSTITUENT/CITIZEN OVERSIGHT (NOT corporate/industry/business "citizens" as legislated in the weak legislation widely known as "Citizens' United") BY WE THE PEOPLE MUST BE ENACTED IMMEDIATELY EVERYWHERE WITH CONSCIOUS MEMBERS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. ESPECIALLY TACOMA and PIERCE COUNTY.

WE WERE PROMISED when the POLICE and SHERIFF were MILITARIZED after 911 2001 THAT THE surplus MILITARY EQUIPMENT provided WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST AMERICAN CONSTITUENTS AND PROTESTORS AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS AS IS PROTECTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONS OF OUR STATES AND NATIONS.

Racism is ENDEMIC to the disUnited States of America.

RACISM IS ENDEMIC

IN THE DISUSA

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/06/07/defund-police-heres-what-that-really-means/?fbclid=IwAR19LwiE3bvTdCYVM_tfcGgFIZwCNCL9w8gMNJZ5Sc0HguDciV4FKG9zEfk Please read this article.

SHUT DOWN PUGET SOUND ENERGY LNG AND GET "REAL" CURRENT UPDATED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AIR, WATER AND EARTH POLLUTION MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT.

Please.

Respectfully,

David Bluhm
98404

cc

Tacoma Fire Chief Toryono Green
Chief of Police Donald Ramsdell
Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor
File
Emailed 3:59 p.m.

David D. Bluhm
253-566-2498 text ok
98404

From: David Bluhm <d_bluhm@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 3:50 PM

To: Woodards, Victoria <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>

Cc: Kaauamo, Samantha <SKAAUAMO@ci.tacoma.wa.us>; nnowman@cityoftacoma.org <nnowman@cityoftacoma.org>; cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org <cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org>; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org <john.hines@cityoftacoma.org>; robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org <robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org>; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org <keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org>; catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org <catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org>; chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org <chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org>; conor.mccarthy@cityoftacoma.org <conor.mccarthy@cityoftacoma.org>; kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org <kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org>; lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org <lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org>; jblackwe@cityoftacoma.org <jblackwe@cityoftacoma.org>; pcsheriff@co.pierce.wa.us <pcsheriff@co.pierce.wa.us>; tgreen@ci.tacoma.wa.us <tgreen@ci.tacoma.wa.us>

Subject: Re: Tideflats Interim Regulations and Resolution 40610 - Proclamation re Marginalized Communities and Inequities

Dear City Clerk Sorum &/or Deputies, Mayor Woodards, and Council Members;

I realize Tideflats Interim Regulations is not on today's agenda. I submit this in the event that it is added as well as for submission on whatever date the final reading is/was/will be rescheduled.

Please send me a quick email with notification of when the Final Reading and/or Vote and/or Additional Readings and Hearings added.

Please skip to my last multi sentence paragraph in this email if Tideflats Interim Regulations will not be addressed nor voted upon today.

I urge you to submit amendments to those Interim Regulations that will restrict all development, construction and/or expansion for the next 6 months except for those exclusions I mention below, if not making those restrictions permanent while undertaking a monumental Puyallup River Estuary Restoration Project and relocating toxic and noxious business, industry and storage facilities off of the Port and tideflats to protect the public health. No less than 50 miles inland.

Please lock down all construction and expansion for all business and industry on and around the Tideflats EXCEPT for regular environmental monitoring and testing of water temperatures, air quality, land pollution, and clean up of Superfund and Brownfield sites. OR clean up of any toxic or noxious potentially public or sea life health degrading site, business and industry that could become a Superfund/Brownfield site in the future for these next 6 months. Better yet, permanently. Despite the threats and general clamor that business and industry and their support organizations that promote economic, business and industry growth at any cost, be it to marginalized peoples or all peoples in the vicinity, down and up current.

That professional, quality checked and triple verified environmental impact monitoring and testing, analysis and results must be performed by unbiased, independent organizations and individuals and published for public viewing and include lands, air and waters directly located at, directly adjacent to, down and up current of the Tideflats as well as other areas that have been known to be affected by the operations of business and industry on the Tideflats and Port.

Please pledge more financial and other resources to reclaiming lands from the Tideflats and Port to restore the Puyallup River Estuary that was destroyed to develop them. Please collaborate with the Puyallup Tribe on these matters.

Please use the absolute most current science to determine the global, cradle to grave effects of the expansion of those toxic and noxious industries including blast zones. The current projections used by Puget

Sound Energy or the Liquefied/Fracked Gas Facility have been disproven and are far from accurate in a bad way that will kill residents of Tacoma and Pierce County. I believe South King and Kitsap Counties too.

Please realize that Natural Liquefied Gas and petroleum and other fossil fuel derived fuels and admixtures for manufacturing, business, industry or consumer direct are not bridges to a better way or better day. They simply must stop being used as painful and inconvenient as that may be for a while.

Please trust that the technology and energy sources that quickly arise in place of those will be amazing and inspiring in a great way.

Please excuse me for my late submission today if tideflats will be on the agenda or added during the meeting under emergency declarations. I have been deeply distracted by the happenings of the past few days as related to George Floyd's death and am committed to supporting the elevation and amplify Black voices and their experiences.

Please.

Respectfully,

David Bluhm
98404

cc

Tacoma Fire Chief Toryono Green
Chief of Police Donald Ramsdell
Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor
File

David D. Bluhm
253-566-2498 text ok

From: Rich Wood <mr.rgwood@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:00 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: The murder of Manuel Ellis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodward and Tacoma City Council,

As a longtime Tacoma resident, I agree with the Mayor that the Tacoma police officers who killed fellow Tacoman Manuel Ellis cannot continue to be employed by the City of Tacoma. While they have a right to due process, these officers must be punished for their actions.

Beyond that, I demand that you take immediate action to implement much-needed reforms, including body cameras on all Tacoma police officers, a ban on chokeholds and a review of all use of force policies. That's just a start.

Our police department must be rebuilt and reimagined, with an emphasis on community relationships, clear anti-racist policies and more support for Tacoma residents who have mental health and addiction issues. The current model of policing in Tacoma is not sustainable. It is inequitable and does not serve our community well.

I have been marching in the streets with other Tacoma residents. We demand and expect the entire city council's leadership and action. We will not wait. Our community deserves and needs a police department that truly protects and serves ALL of our citizens. That is not the case now.

I look forward to your action.

Sincerely,

Rich Wood

1430 N. Oakes

Tacoma, WA 98406

From: Katy Nicoud Evans <katy.nicoud@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: The Council and mayor should prioritize defunding the police and reallocating those funds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Council, Mayor, and city administration:

Now is the time for change and to prioritize equity, justice, and anti-racism in our city's actions and operations.

Please share plans for immediately shifting the focus from upholding systems of white supremacy, to that of compassionate public safety through defunding the police and relocating that funding elsewhere, where it can immediately make a difference in the equity, justice, and inclusivity of our city.

- Katy Evans

--

KATY EVANS

working & playing for a just & creative Tacoma

katy.nicoud@gmail.com

she/her | 253-583-4718 | [twitter](#) | [about.me](#) | calendly.com/katynicoud

From: Austin Williams <austindallas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:58 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public comment for Tacoma City Council meeting tonight

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, my name is Austin Williams and I'm a Tacoma resident in District 1. I'm writing to urge the council to defund the Tacoma Police Department by reallocating 50% of it's 2021-2022 budget to other underfunded social services that serve Tacoma residents of color.

Thank you,

Austin Williams

From: Saralyn Smith <smith.saralyn@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:46 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Comment for tonight's Council meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

Per the City of Tacoma's 2019-2020 Adopted Budget, the Tacoma PD was allocated \$175.5 million, or 35 percent of total expenditures. In comparison, neighborhood and community services were allocated \$26.3 million, or 5 percent of total expenditures.

This is absurd and the citizens of our city are demanding change. Tacoma deserves better. Defund Tacoma PD and invest in community and public safety programs that actually build our city up. Invest in the lives of our Black, brown, queer, unhoused, and indigenous family, in all their intersections. And do it now.

Thank you,

Saralyn Smith

From: Kelly Larson <kellyxlaron@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:45 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Defund and Disband TPD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a Tacoma resident and I demand that city council commits to defunding and disbanding the Tacoma Police Department. TPD has a long history of violence, most recently illustrated by the recent murder of Manuel Ellis, and the subsequent coverup of this murder.

There is no option moving forward that doesn't include the defunding and disbanding of the Tacoma Police Department.

Thank you,
Kelly Larson

From: Tara Brown <baratown@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:44 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Public comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

It has become clear that the Tacoma Police Department is a threat to the health and safety of the community and needs to be disbanded. Money spent on TPD should be reallocated in ways that support community health and safety, including providing stable housing, mental health services, and conflict resolution supports for those that need it. Bureaucratic functions of the police department, such as documenting theft, should be done by unarmed city employees.

Tara Brown

1705 S Oakes Street

Tacoma WA 98403

From: Karla Rixon <rixon.karla@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:42 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: public comment for City Council meeting June 9th 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I appreciate that you've started to pay attention to the killing of Manuel Ellis, and to the larger scope of the problem we're experiencing with over-policing in our city. I hope you continue to listen to his family and bring his killers to justice.

In the meantime, I want to address the proposal to allocate money for Tacoma PD to purchase body cams.

TPD has a budget of about \$175 million annually; they don't need more. That includes \$31 million for equipment, which could have already been used to buy body cameras if the culture of the police department was truly in favor of accountability. Giving them more equipment and more money won't solve the problem of cops being violent.

Here's what we should do instead:

- Cut the police budget by 50%
- Let go about 50% of police officers (more, if you need scrounge up money to buy body cams for the remaining officers)
- Redirect that money into housing, healthcare, education, and infrastructure
- Prioritize investment in Black and Native communities, specifically Hilltop, the Eastside, and South Tacoma
- Create a city-level Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate and resolve instances of police violence.

2020 is a strange year. It's time to try new solutions to old, intractable problems. In this case, we're lucky that solutions for the city budget are also solutions for police abuse of Black and Native people.

Thank you,

Karla Rixon

From: Parker Eberle <parkerleberle@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:36 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Council Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello. My name is Parker Eberle. I am writing to urge the council to look more closely at the city budget and to DEFUND the police.

This city NEEDS funds reallocated to education and local community efforts. Policing further creates distrust between citizens and there is evidence that crime rates go down when community needs are prioritized over the over-funding of police.

Please consider what your community truly needs and is begging for. You are in public office to aid your citizens. We need aid and support. Listen to what we are saying.

Thank you.

Parker Eberle

From: robin rosenberg <rbn_rosenberg@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:36 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Justice for Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Tacoma City Council,

My name is Robin Rosenberg and I am a resident of Tacoma. Understandably so, there has been a lot of coverage of Manuel Ellis' murder by the hands of Tacoma Police officers, and Mayor Woodward has talked about firing and bringing charges against the officers involved in his murder. It shouldn't require video evidence to lead to the firing or prosecution of a police officer. I want to know even though there is no video of Bennie Branch being murdered (it is outrageous that our Tacoma Police officers don't have body cameras) by our Tacoma Police officers, what are the next steps in dealing with the police officers involved in Bennie Branch's murder? Specifically, Ryan Bradley, who I believe is still active duty and policing the community he so deeply hurt.

A concerned community member,

Robin Rosenberg

From: Katlin Rutledge <katlinrrutledge@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:34 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Defund TPD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma Council members,

I am writing to ask that you defund the Tacoma Police Department and reallocate those funds into social and community programs.

Unfortunately, traditional ideas of police reform have proven to be ineffective. It is time to look beyond just de-escalation trainings, mandatory first aid, and other reforms passed in WA HB 1064. The tremendous work by the Puyallup Nation and De-Escalate Washington to pass that legislation in 2019 made us all proud to be Washingtonians, but our current moment demands more. It is time to change our city's relationship with police. My understanding is that in recent years, approximately a third of the Tacoma City Budget went to TPD, and TPD's share has increased over the last few years. With looming COVID-19 related budget shortfalls, I encourage you to consider how the City might support critical social services by redirecting funds.

I believe the political momentum is here to reduce funding to the police department and demonstrate to Tacomans that the City Council is committed to supporting the success of all our community members, rather than prioritizing systems that police them inequitably and brutalize them unjustly.

I understand these are hectic and trying times. I appreciate you taking the time to consider adding Tacoma to the growing list of cities using their budgets to show where their priorities lie.

Thank you,

Katlin Rutledge

From: Mary Krauszer <marykrauszer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:30 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment: Support for Diverting Funds from TPD to Community and Social Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Elected Officials,

I am writing to you to voice my support for reimagining public safety in Tacoma, to include reducing the Tacoma Police Department budget and redirecting those funds to [alternative](#) emergency response services and [community](#) social services.

Unfortunately, traditional ideas of police reform, in the form of training and community representation have [fallen short](#). President Obama poured millions into the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice in cities across the country, including Minneapolis. But these programs have [proven ineffective](#) -- with the murder of George Floyd as just the most recent and most visible example.

It is time to look beyond just de-escalation trainings, mandatory first aid, and other reforms passed in WA HB 1064. The tremendous work by the Puyallup Nation and De-Escalate Washington to pass that legislation in 2019 made us all proud to be Washingtonians, but our current moment demands more. It is time to change our city's relationship with police. My understanding is that in recent years, approximately a third of the Tacoma City Budget went to TPD, and TPD's share has increased over the last few years. With looming COVID-19 related budget shortfalls, I encourage you to consider how the City might support critical social services by redirecting funds.

I believe the political momentum is here to reduce funding to the police department and demonstrate to Tacomans that the City Council is committed to supporting the success of all our community members, rather than prioritizing systems that police them inequitably and brutalize them unjustly.

I understand these are hectic and trying times. I appreciate you taking the time to consider adding Tacoma to the [growing list of cities](#) using their budgets to show where their priorities lie.

Sincerely,

Mary Krauszer

Tacoma, WA 98405

marykrauszer@gmail.com

From: Isaac Olson <isaacolson89@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:28 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Citizen support for freezing, cutting, or defunding Tacoma police

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Isaac Olson, and I'm a resident of Tacoma's third district. I wanted to bring to your awareness the growing support in Tacoma for a once-radical sounding proposal- defunding the Tacoma Police Department and reinvesting that money in education, environmental services, and human services. Defunding police only sounds radical until you consider that, both within our city and across our country, we've been defunding education for decades.

I believe that it is a moral imperative to re-invest in educational, social, and environmental services while divesting from police. Cutting budgets from schools and social services while expanding the budgets of police sets our citizens up for failure, harm, impoverishment, and death. A city or society that takes money from education and social services and criminalizes poverty and homelessness while expanding and strengthening its police is a society that has lost its moral bearings entirely.

I'd like to share with you some data in support of this position. It is often claimed that an increase in police presence will mean a safer city. There is no hard evidence supporting this claim, and plenty of evidence, both [academic](#) and anecdotal, that the opposite is true. Additionally, it is often claimed that the job of police is to "keep us safe" or "catch the bad guys". There is also little evidence that this popular notion is true. Across the country, someone is arrested every 3 seconds, and 80% of those arrests are for [low-level offenses](#). The solution isn't to make these arrests safer or more professional; it's to stop sending police out to do the job of a social worker and to let people go about their lives in peace. Additionally, it is estimated that only 40% of victims of a crime report that crime to the police, and out of those reported crimes, only 25% are cleared ([source](#)). When you add in the countless black, brown, and indigenous people who are harassed, hurt, or killed by police daily, the claim that the police "keep us safe" starts to look laughable.

The problem isn't an increase in crime (crime rates have steadily fallen for decades); it's an increase in criminalization. Reducing social services and replacing them with punitive social control mechanisms works less well and is more expensive.

Particularly during a time of economic crisis and looming budget shortfalls due to the COVID-19 crisis, a reduction in police services and a reinvestment in social, educational, and environmental services would be good [fiscal policy](#), good [climate policy](#), and would likely keep residents of Tacoma as safe, if not safer in the long term. I recognize that the proposal to cut funding to the police may seem radical, and would certainly face massive backlash from police unions,

but according to academic research and the lived experience of countless US citizens, many common suggestions for police reform have not, when implemented, led to a decrease in police violence or killings. For example, the Tacoma budget mentions that there is a goal to increase police personnel from under-represented communities by 20%. I think this is a laudable goal for many reasons, but a reduction in police violence isn't one of them. Recent research suggests that, while increased diversity in police forces does not, in and of itself, decrease police violence or killings ([source](#)). Like many other popular reforms, including mandatory usage of body cameras or diversity and equity training, there is no evidence that they've had the desired effects, and plenty of evidence that the status quo has been maintained.

The popular 8 can't wait campaign has underscored the necessity for radical solutions, not reform. In addition to being based on [faulty data](#), many cities, including Tacoma and Minneapolis, have implemented these reforms. They did nothing to save the lives of Manuel Ellis, George Floyd, and many others.

Our police feel understaffed and overworked. I sympathise with them; I think that, as a society, we've asked police to take on far too many roles in our society that we used to ascribe to social workers, schools, non-profits, and other civic organizations. Our country has seen fit to divest from those programs and invest in police and prisons, and I think we, as a city and society, urgently need to change course.

Again, I recognize that this proposal, on its face, sounds radical. But it sounds a lot less radical than it did a week ago. What would have sounded like a fringe position a week or two back is now being seriously discussed on the front page of the New York Times. And it's actually doable; participatory budgeting led to a reduction in the police budget of Durham, NC, a city about the same size as ours. Their city council voted against hiring 18 new police officers and began discussing a community safety and wellness task force after advocacy by a citizen group called Durham Beyond Policing. Their proposal is [here](#). This is a moment of crisis, but it is also a moment of opportunity for Tacoma to take the lead in re-imagining what safe, healthy, communities look like.

Thank you,
-Isaac Olson
1210 S. Ainsworth Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

From: arianamcneil11@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:22 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to submit a question for tonight's city council meeting.

Question:

With the recent events and BLM demonstrations is city of Tacoma going to consider allocating more funds into community programs like mental health first responders?

Sincerely,

Ariana Hoard

From: Angela Westergreen <angelawestergreen@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:18 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Community Forum Question

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

As more and more police violence is uncovered, can you speak to plans regarding defunding police? I heard about funding TPD with body cameras, this just records violence and doesn't get to the extent of the problem, which is a product of white supremacy. As Tacoma public schools lose para educator positions and are reporting budget issues, doesn't it make sense to follow with other cities that have defunded police to create more money for schools in the city budget? What is your plan to address the larger systemic issue of white supremacy?

Thank you,

Angela Westergreen

South Tacoma

253-227-4500

From: rachel haxtema <rachel.haxtema@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:17 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please move public safety out of hands of police and invest in the community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council,

As you discuss the budget for the future, I ask you to please reconsider the funding that has been given to police and instead re-imagine public safety. There are a variety of existing organizations and agencies and also new jobs that could be created to allow safety to be created by a variety of groups rather than asking armed police officers to be the only source of our safety.

I do not doubt you are hearing ideas about how we can do this and I'm not an expert but I am a very concerned community member. When we have community members who are afraid of the police, we are not creating safety. We must completely re-imagine how to make our communities safe and I know this will happen better when we invest more in public health and mental health resources, housing assistance, education and so many other resources that will benefit our community.

Please pay attention to those calling for new forms of justice and re-imagine the budget of our city as one way to look towards more investment and less funding for militarized police force, police misconduct and armored vehicles and rather peaceful solutions and restorative justice options.

Sincerely,

Rachel Haxtema

Tacoma, WA 98406

From: Rachel Kunze Wilkie <RachelleAnnKunze@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:10 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Defund TPD/Invest in Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I want to comment that I support the #defundpolice movement. I believe the TPD should immediately be disbanded, and rebuilt from the ground up. I defer to the leadership of my community leaders as to which programs would do the most good, and have the most impact for our BIPOC neighbors. Incremental changes in policing nationwide have not brought about community safety.

Thank you,

Rachel Wilkie, 98408

From: Nick Gillett <n.gillett@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:10 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: 2021 Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello!

Please hear our cries, defund the TPD. We need drug counselors for drug cases, social workers for social cases, we need house authority for homelessness. We do not need cops being the end all be able of the law.

They need diversity training, they need stronger more intensive courses, and they need to weed out racism. Defund TPD. Use that money to allocate towards community programs. Google Camden NJ to see the benefits of defunding the police, their crime has decreased by 50%.

Nick Gillett

Architectural & Design Account Executive

LEED, Green Associate

C: [206.495.1571](tel:206.495.1571)

WWW.PORCELANOSA-USA.COM

From: Whitney Levis <ms.whitney.levis@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:08 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Serious look at Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Too long Tacoma residents have been underserved. The money that goes to police departments which should serve the citizens is used in ways that hurt the community. Many community service functions should be taken from the police who are not suited for that work and the budget should reflect that shift. The more we deal with underlying issues the more we can reduce our dependence on police and justice systems at all. Please look into the works of police abolitionists for visions of how the system can be transformed into one that can work for all Tacomas residents.

From: Tatum Hennige <tatumhenn.ge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:06 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Manuel Ellis; City Council Meeting Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Tatum Hennige, and I live in Stadium, previously in Hilltop. I am writing on behalf of the family of Manuel Ellis, who was murdered by Tacoma police on March 3rd, 2020. I am writing to demand justice and answers for the death of Manny.

I demand:

- The release of complaint history, disciplinary record, and a toxicology report of all officers involved to the family and public.
- The release of the autopsy information with all and any footage to the family of Manuel Ellis.
- Fire *and* convict to the highest degree officers Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masyih Ford and Timothy Rankine.
- The police chief Donald Ramsdell is fired.

Sincerely,
Tatum Hennige

From: Calvin Rabirotff <calrabirotff@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 2:55 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Justice for Manny Ellis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Calvin Rabirotff and I am a resident of South Tacoma. I care about our community and the safety of our residents, especially my black neighbors.

Echoing the demands being made by the family of Manny Ellis I am asking that the council does the following:

The release of the complaint history and disciplinary record of the officers involved in his homicide.

That all autopsy information, as well as any recordings and video of his homicide be released to the family.

That the officers involved in his homicide be fired and investigated and subsequently charged to the highest possible degree.

That the Police Chief resign immediately following the shameful way this matter has so far been conducted.

Further I would urge the City Council to follow the lead of Minneapolis and start the conversation of defunding our police department. I am adamantly against increasing the funding for the department in any capacity - including funding for body cameras.

Tacoma has the opportunity to show up for our community and be a leader in this struggle. Let's not lose this opportunity for change.

Sincerely,

Calvin Rabirotff

[6237 S Puget Sound Ave](#)

From: Kayleigh Bacon <bacon.kayleigh@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 2:49 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: defund the police

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

I am in favor of defunding the police. Those funds need to be reallocated to community resources and education which is proven to reduce crime. I am in favor of gutting the entire police department and starting over with community based "policing". Social workers should be doing wellness checks not police. Ambulances should be responding to rape reports, not police. I am in favor of the Black Lives Matter movement and Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective. You need to have deep discussions with those organizations on how to replace the police department moving forward.

Kayleigh Bacon

Tacoma, 98444

From: Sarah mc <mclaughlin.sarahchristine@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:48 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: public comment for tonight's City Council Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Elected Officials,

I am a resident of Tacoma and I am writing to express my support for the national movement to defund police departments. As a nation we spend too much money on surveillance and punishment and not enough on fostering equitable, healthy and safe communities. Tacoma is not immune from this problem.

Tacoma Police Department (TPD), an agency that has \$175 million to its name does not need more funds. They allocated \$31 million for equipment (which I understand to be weapons & cars). Their lack of equipment is not the problem. Giving them more equipment will not prevent future killings at the hands of the police.

With Tacoma receiving national attention regarding the murder of Manuel Ellis, I find your call to Manuel Ellis' death as a reason to fund police body cams as missing the mark on a larger problem at hand. Body cams alone have not proven to be effective in reducing police violence. Yesterday, the Mayor made a "Commitment to Criminal Justice Reform" statement. Police reform has been a band-aid for years and in the meantime has taken more and more \$\$ away from vital community resources. Body cameras are not a satisfactory response to police violence in Tacoma.

In the middle of a pandemic and a homelessness crisis, our community services are funded seven times less than TPD. Investing money in community services rather than the police makes everyone safer. Yet 35% of our tax dollars go to the police. Mental health services, social workers in schools, safe and affordable housing etc. are all in extreme need of funds. Police are currently expected to act in all these roles, roles they are not appropriately trained in and should not be expected to perform. Data shows police acting in these roles leads to escalation, putting people in danger. Eugene, OR successfully uses a mobile crisis intervention program called CAHOOTS that responds to "non-criminal crises, including homelessness, intoxication, disorientation, substance abuse, and mental illness problems, as well as dispute resolution and conflict mediation" (link below). Tacoma could greatly benefit from a similar program. TPD needs to be defunded and money invested into the community

Police reforms are necessary, but they are *not enough*. TPD should be required to examine and reform, using funds they already have - do NOT give them more money for these baby steps. Body cams must be coupled with use of force policies, community oversight, training and accountability. However, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. We will not be placated with small actions. City Council needs to divert massive funds allocated to the police and put them into community led initiatives. The movement is bigger and bolder and demands a more creative and better future than merely police reforms.

I am an elementary public school teacher here in Tacoma. I want my students to grow up in a city where they feel safe and valued, no matter their zip code or the color of their skin. I have listened in on recent City Council Meetings and watched your press conference last week. I believe that you have the power to make positive change in this city to make Tacoma a safe place for all of its residents. Now is the time. The world is watching, and your residents are watching.

Sincerely,
Sarah McLaughlin

Resources on defunding police:

CAHOOTS:

<https://www.mentalhealthportland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2018CAHOOTSBROCHURE-1.pdf>

8 to Abolition:

<https://www.8toabolition.com/>

Police out of schools:

<https://advancementproject.org/wecametolearn/>

Freedom to Thrive report:

<https://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Freedom%20To%20Thrive%2C%20Higher%20Res%20Version.pdf>

--

Sarah C. McLaughlin

From: Guion Rosenzweig <guionyork@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written public statement for city council June 9th, 2020 - Tacoma Resident

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for your time, city council.

As a Tacoma resident for over 15 years, I ask you to be a leader in the current movement to change how our streets are policed. This is a nationwide issue with our own recent events mirroring the ongoing plight.

It appears from the testimony available and video that Manuel Ellis was brutally beaten by Tacoma Police Officers prior to his death.

Please prosecute these officers, change training so this does not occur again, and teach every officer that black lives matter.

This is not a political issue. This is a community issue.

Do not delay 1 day longer in receiving the additional information from police on the death of Manny Ellis. There is no excuse for delay for an hour longer.

Stand behind police accountability and training, not just pay lip service. Remove relationships in our schools and other public areas with the police until they agree to be accountable for their actions.

Defund militaristic gear and training from the tpd and allocate towards education and housing. How can we have a housing and education funding problems and allocate so much towards our police?

In closing, please be a model for city accountability rather than furthering of the status quo which has obviously served us so

poorly. Be the future, not the past Tacoma!!

Kind regards,

Guion Rosenzweig, Tacoma

(Pronounced Guy-in Rose-in-swige)

From: Jimmy G <j@jpgunter.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 12:25 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Question for City Council Meeting 6/9/2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Why were the officers involved in the Manny Ellis case allowed back to work before the investigation was complete? Is there a plan to reform this policy?

--

James Gunter
4217 N Vassault St, Tacoma, WA 98407

j@jpgunter.com

From: Sarah Clabaugh <sclabaugh17@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 12:18 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Cc: Mary Ann Clabaugh

Subject: Mayor Woodards

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

I am concerned for the well being of our entire Tacoma Police Department and personally hold Mayor Woodward responsible for her misuse of power and accusing four officers of something before an investigation has even been completed. How is this justice? How is this equality? How is she to be held accountable for her childish irresponsible behavior? I move to have her removed from office and let the adults make productive and positive change for our community, not some over emotional hot head that puts more innocent lives in danger. If she is not removed I believe there is a strong case for a law suit for her behavior.

Sincerely,

Concerned citizen for ALL

From: Mary Ann Clabaugh <mclabaugh58@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 11:56 AM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Our leaders behavior

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Someone please enlighten me as to why our mayor and other department heads are being allowed to put their personal bias and beliefs out to the public? Doing so in the capacity of their positions just seems WRONG on every level. With her statements, she has basically endangered the lives of ALL of our City police officers AND their families by her words and actions. Please stop this train wreck now, before she becomes a liability that the City has to answer for.

Mary Ann Clabaugh

Concerned Tacoma citizen/taxpayer

From: Robb Krehbiel <robb.krehbiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Beale, Chris; Walker, Kristina; McCarthy, Conor; Hunter, Lillian; City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine
Subject: Policing Reform in Tacoma

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Blocker, and City Councilmembers,

Early tonight, I attended the virtual meeting of the Citizen Police Advisory Committee. I provided the below comments to the committee. I also wanted to share them with you and encourage the city council to also take action on police reform.

I also would like to say that I have been very proud of Tacoma during the last few weeks. Protests have largely been peaceful and Tacoma police have not provoked violence (which has occurred in other cities). I have also been proud of the strong and swift action taken by all of you. I especially appreciate Mayor Woodards statements, sharing her personal experiences.

While I have been proud of my city, I stand with all the black, brown, and indigenous Tacomans calling for reform and systemic change. Big and bold action is needed, and I believe Tacoma is able to rise to the challenge.

Thank you,

Robb

--

My name is Robb Krehbiel and I live in the Fern Hill neighborhood in SE Tacoma.

Like many Tacomans I am angry and upset about the murder of Manuel Ellis. Manny's death and the deaths of countless black, brown, and indigenous people have prompted a bigger conversation about policing in this country. We need justice for Manny. We

also need massive reforms to policing in Tacoma.

I'm not an expert, but I encourage the city to look into the feasibility and impact of actions like:

- Ban the use of tear gas in Tacoma. Tear gas has been used by militarized police to attack nonviolent protesters. Before these scenes unfold in Tacoma, the city should ban the use of tear gas.
- We need police body cams. That is a bar minimum requirement for any police force.
- Expand de-escalation training for police officers so they prioritize using non-lethal tactics instead of using force.
- Prevent the police department from purchasing and using military weapons. These are tools of war and do not belong in our communities.
- Significantly reduce the budget for the police. Given the current budget shortfall, now is an opportunity to reduce any areas of excessive spending.
- Change who responds to emergency calls. I don't believe police officers are the best suited to respond to every call. Social workers and other first responders may be better trained to deal with people in a compassionate and non-lethal way.

I know that there are other policy ideas and actions that should be considered, and it is essential that black, brown, and indigenous community members have a seat at the table during these conversations and are empowered to help develop reform.

I really encourage you all to put everything on the table. Big systemic change is needed and I encourage you all to be bold.

Thank you.

From: Michaela Johnson Blanchard <mjohnsonblanchard@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 6:29 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fwd: Comments for this evening's meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, my name is Michaela Johnson Blanchard, and I am a longtime Tacoma resident with a comment regarding the ongoing discussion of purchasing body cameras for the Tacoma Police Department.

Body cameras seem to be the kneejerk reaction in many cities after an incidence of violence against a community member; often a death due to excessive use of force by a police department. However, in a city and state with a huge budget deficit due to impacts of COVID-19, it feels irresponsible to outfit the police force with expensive technology that has questionable efficacy. It can cost millions of dollars to simply purchase the cameras outright, but that doesn't even take into account the cost of storing and maintaining the massive video files produced through these methods.

Furthermore, officers using body cameras must remember to turn them on and use them appropriately. Even if a body camera is used properly and the footage is stored and reviewed, who is responsible for stating whether a use of force is excessive or not? Will an independent civilian oversight organization be allowed to overview use of force footage to ensure there is justice for unnecessary violence? When is a death at the hands of police acceptable?

Currently, there are officers in Seattle escalating violence with peaceful protestors while wearing body cameras. Yesterday in Seattle, medical aid tents had tear gas and flash bangs thrown at them; trained medical staff had to dodge rubber bullets, pepper spray, and shrapnel while carrying a protestor who lost her pulse due to violence incited by the Seattle Police Department, all while these officers were wearing body cameras. Most egregiously, this violence was enacted immediately after an armed domestic terrorist drove into the crowd of peaceful protestors and shot one of them. Body cameras did nothing to prevent this violence, and is unlikely to lead to prosecution for any of the involved parties.

The attention on body cameras seems to pull money, resources, and steam away from more meaningful responses that actually work to reduce police brutality. Examples of better uses of taxpayer money include but are not limited to: improving de-escalation training, empowering civilian oversight groups, investing in education, revamping mental health resources, providing comprehensive support for individuals suffering with addiction, and developing a collaborative policy for those experiencing unstable housing/homelessness.

Current community resources are unable to provide exemplary services to the civilians of Tacoma. In light of current city budget concerns, there are better places to put financial support instead of providing more funding to TPD. For example, employees of the Tacoma Public Library are currently furloughed from their jobs, waiting to receive unemployment assistance almost a month and a half later. Libraries in Tacoma, similar to public schools, provide services to help support the most vulnerable people in our communities: families in poverty, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those with significant mental health concerns. By providing funding to these services, we can work towards building a community that has reduced need for police presence.

I want police brutality to end in America and for it to start here in Tacoma, WA, but I do not believe that body cameras lead to the outcomes we are seeking as a community.

Best,

Michaela Johnson Blanchard

From: Franco Rafael Ramos <francotramos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:38 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: City Council Meeting public comment from Franco Ramos

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, my name is Franco Ramos and I am a resident of Tacoma. I am writing in response to Mayor Victoria Woodards' call that the city manager allocates funding for police body cameras. This call is an actionable item that responds to outrage and protests over the death of Manuel Ellis at the hands of Tacoma police officers.

There is an idea implicit in body cameras as a solution to police brutality. To find it we must ask why do we *need* officers to have body cameras? Why is there a *need* to surveil law enforcement as they interact with the public?

It is because we know that the police will act with impunity if not watched. That each time the police are called they may harass, assault, or at worst, murder someone without repercussion if it is not caught on video. We know that the police as an institution have a long history of violence against people of color and even hard video evidence only gives the slightest glimmer of hope that a police officer will be convicted of any wrongdoing.

Mayor Victoria Woodards is calling for body cameras because we all know that the police as an institution and individual police officers cannot be trusted.

If we know that the police cannot be trusted, why is the solution to give them more money and resources? I understand the appeal behind body cameras as an easy, fast, actionable item that may serve to placate protesters. They will make us feel good momentarily, but only serves to drain funds that could be used to help people.

Body cameras at the Seattle police department have done nothing to stop police agitation and brutality at the current demonstrations.

Body cameras at the Minneapolis police department did nothing to stop the death of George Floyd. The only video evidence available is from an outside source and even with this video evidence it took weeks of nationwide protests to get his murderers convicted.

Body cameras will do nothing to stop police violence in Tacoma.

This is a time for bolder, more imaginative solutions, not a retreat into technocratic baubles. I am calling to defund the police force and reinvest into services that would treat the underlying causes of suffering and inequality in our city.

The Tacoma police department has a budget of 175 million dollars, 34% of general fund expenditures. Neighborhood and community services has a budget of 26 million dollars. Imagine a world where those two budgets are flipped, where instead of money going to guns, planes, and armored personnel carriers it goes towards alleviating homelessness, protecting survivors of domestic abuse, and supporting people with mental health issues. There are so many issues in the world and so few of them are solved by a man with a gun.

From: Zaire Watkins <zairewatkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 6, 2020 8:00 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Beale, Chris
Subject: Public Comment for 6/9; How Do We Be Better?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello ladies and gentlemen of the council-

Thank you for taking a moment to address my concerns; the ability to communicate with my local officials is very appreciated.

I am writing to you today in the midst of not only a pandemic, but heavy nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism inspired by the unjust murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. I'm writing to you today in the wake of finally learning of the nauseatingly familiar death of Manuel Ellis, father of two, gentle brother, beloved son, artist, musician, Tacoma resident.

I am relieved that someone with enough power and influence has finally advocated for Manuel, and given him a voice to defend his person and actions after the police took his life and voice. I am also relieved to know that there will be justice for his death, and that his family and friends have finally found support in their efforts to find the truth in this senseless tragedy.

Any relief I have felt has been tempered by the fear that nothing will change. I am driven to find some small way of participating in the work that will be necessary and vital in ensuring that not one more life will be lost to police brutality, starting here in Tacoma.

My initial search yielded frustrating results. It was difficult finding any information on opportunities for community/law enforcement engagement or community input. City and County leadership statements acknowledge a need for change and community input, but there is no plan or agenda that I am seeing regarding this very relevant, very raw topic. The community needs an opportunity to engage with our leadership, and help form the first steps in creating change. We need our leadership to prioritize not just the investigation, but the urgent need to untangle the issues that resulted in Manny's death.

Injustice thrives when good people don't take action against wrongdoing. Social change requires energy, persistence, and resilience. These are finite resources in a community at large, and the anger and compassion that fuel the fight against injustice are quickly displaced by comfort and convenience. If we do nothing beyond the protesting of today's injustice, we ensure tomorrow's tyranny. We need a date to move towards so we don't lose our momentum.

How do we do better? How do we fix things? How do we align our reality with the our country's founding ideals? How did a black man die while handcuffed in Tacoma go unnoticed (for THREE MONTHS) and unpunished? Why were the responsible officers allowed to work during an investigation into their actions? These are complex issues, and simply addressing them honestly and critically is a daunting task. Creating the change to resolve these issues will take immense effort and cooperation. By delaying action, we give ourselves permission to be overwhelmed by a problem that is beyond our personal ability to solve. We grant fear the time required to magnify the personal cost of doing the right thing. We relinquish the strength found in solidarity and allow a few brave souls to carry a burden meant to be borne on the shoulders of an entire community. We can't wait. Please don't delay.

I'm asking the council to please put a date on the calendar for our community and our leaders devoted to police brutality as soon as possible. Manuel's unjust death happened here in Tacoma on March 3rd. We've waited long enough to begin working on a better Tacoma. We owe Manuel Ellis that much, and we owe his children a future where their color isn't a criminal offense.

Thank you for your time and attention to this comment.

Sincerely,

Zaire Watkins

From: Shaina Colombo <sbmicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Beale, Chris; Walker, Kristina; Ushka, Catherine; Blocker, Keith; Hunter, Lillian; Thoms, Robert; Hines, John; McCarthy, Conor; City Manager
Subject: RE: Call to reduce budget to TPD and reinvest funds into community-focused programming

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Elected Officials,

I am a resident of Tacoma and I am writing to express my support for the national movement to defund police departments. As a nation we spend too much money on surveillance and punishment and not enough on fostering equitable, healthy and safe communities. Tacoma is not immune from this problem.

Tacoma Police Department (TPD), an agency that has \$175 million to its name does not need more funds. They allocated \$31 million for equipment (which I understand to be weapons & cars). Their lack of equipment is not the problem. Giving them more equipment will not prevent future killings at the hands of the police.

With Tacoma receiving national attention regarding the murder of Manuel Ellis, I find your call to Manuel Ellis' death as a reason to fund police body cams as missing the mark on a larger problem at hand. Body cams alone have not proven to be effective in reducing police violence. Yesterday, the Mayor made a "Commitment to Criminal Justice Reform" statement. Police reform has been a band-aid for years and in the meantime has taken more and more \$\$ away from vital community resources. Body cameras are not a satisfactory response to police violence in Tacoma.

In the middle of a pandemic and a homelessness crisis, our community services are funded seven times less than TPD. Investing money in community services rather than the police makes everyone safer. Yet 35% of our tax dollars go to the police. Mental health services, social workers in schools, safe and affordable housing etc. are all in extreme need of funds. Police are currently expected to act in all these roles, roles they are not appropriately trained in and should not be expected to perform. Data shows police acting in these roles leads to escalation, putting people in danger. Eugene, OR successfully uses a mobile crisis intervention program called CAHOOTS that responds to "non-criminal crises, including homelessness, intoxication, disorientation, substance abuse, and mental illness problems, as well as dispute resolution and conflict mediation" (link below). Tacoma could greatly benefit from a similar program. TPD needs to be defunded and money invested into the community.

Police reforms are necessary, but they are not enough. TPD should be required to examine and reform, using funds they already have - do NOT give them more money for these baby steps. Body cams must be coupled with use of force policies, community oversight, training and accountability. However, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. We will not be placated with small actions. City Council needs to divert massive funds allocated to the police and put them into community led initiatives. The movement is bigger and bolder and demands a more creative and better future than merely police reforms.

I am a community activist here in Tacoma. I want my neighbors and neighbor's children to grow up in a city where they feel safe and valued, no matter their zip code or the color of their skin. I have listened in on recent City Council Meetings and watched your press conference last week. I believe that you have the power to make

positive change in this city to make Tacoma a safe place for all of its residents. Now is the time. The world is watching, and your residents are watching.

Sincerely,

Shaina Colombo

Resources on defunding police:

CAHOOTS:

<https://www.mentalhealthportland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2018CAHOOTSBROCHURE-1.pdf>

8 to Abolition:

<https://www.8toabolition.com/>

Police out of schools:

<https://advancementproject.org/wecametolearn/>

Freedom to Thrive report:

<https://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Freedom%20To%20Thrive%2C%20Higher%20Res%20Version.pdf>