

From: Abolitionists Pierce County <abitionistspc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina
Cc: City Clerk's Office
Subject: public comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of our collective Abolitionists of Pierce County. We are calling on the Tacoma City Council to receive public comments during City Council meetings, in addition to accepting written comments through the end of the meeting. By not accepting public comment during the meeting, closing written comment an hour prior to the start of the meeting, and not reading out the written comments during the meeting, Tacoma City Council is participating and perpetuating political and civic suppression.

The following points were submitted to the City Clerk on June 16th, 2020, and describe our collective comments.

These points are specifically centered on the murder of Manny Ellis by the Tacoma Police Department, but also should be applied to all murders by the Tacoma Police Department including the 2016 murder of Jacqueline Salyers.

- Independent investigation into all police killings and misconduct reports, particularly in relation to violations of i940.
- Fire, Arrest and Charge all police officers involved in police killings. Police fired after killing a person should lose all pension, healthcare and other accumulated benefits.
- Fire Tacoma Police Chief Ramsdell and Ed Troyer of the Sheriff's department
- Defund and disband policing in Tacoma. Cut ties with the Pierce County Sheriff, remove Tacoma Police Department from our neighborhoods, our schools, and our healthcare facilities.
- Immediately release all people incarcerated in the Pierce County Jail who are awaiting pre-trial and are unable to pay bail.
- Immediately suspend the operating licenses of North West Detention Center and mandate the end of cooperation between the Tacoma Police Department and Geo Group, Homeland Security, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- Provide an itemized budget on the city of tacoma website showing all line item categories as well as updated monthly payment sheets.

Further, we request a response to each of the following questions:

1. How much total money is allocated to the Tacoma Police Department directly, or through other budget categories like "non-departmental" category?
2. How much money is allocated to Pierce County Sheriff including Pierce County Jail?
3. Who of the City of Tacoma's City Council members, Mayor, or City Manager reviewed Manny Ellis' case prior to May 2020?

Please respond to our letter and the included questions within the next 5 business days.

Additionally, we are still waiting to receive information requested through a Public Document Request. Our request's reference

number is T005168-060920. It has been over seven days since we submitted our request. We are available through abilitationistspc@gmail.com.

Signed,
Abolitionists of Pierce County

From: Abolitionists Pierce County <abilitationistspc@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:35 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: public comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

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Signed,
Abolitionists of Pierce County

From: Guion Rosenzweig <guionyork@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:41 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 06/16/2020
Attachments: Screenshot_20200614-160655_Chrome.jpg; 20200614_133814.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Tacoma City Council,

The following I sent to Pierce County Sheriff's Office over the weekend. I implore you to read my message from a tax paying and voting citizen. Much of this applies to the Tacoma Police Department too.

After yesterday's additional video of Manuel Ellis' death surfaced, it seems that TPD and PC sheriff and Ed Troyer have a lot to answer for. We as the public have been misled by officers since the beginning of this process. As a citizen I have more questions than answers and it seems no one is being held accountable.

To add to this frustration, during each peaceful protest in Tacoma the PC sheriff has flown their plane in surveillance. My research and thoughts on this are below.

Thank you for your time and I hope to see this council help move Tacoma towards the future, not be stuck in the past.

To PC Sheriff,

In a time where there are calls to defund the police and your department was involved in a recent call where a man's death at the hands of police was ruled a homicide, I would like to speak to you on the use of your cessna plane to fly over peaceful protests and residential areas on and off for weeks now.

As a private citizen, taxpayer, and voter, I have serious concerns about your department at this time. The use of this plane has been beyond excessive. If you can't provide timely investigations into officer involved homicides, afford dash cams or body cams, or afford correct non-lethal training for your officers, why on earth are you flying an expensive private plane for hours around peaceful protests?

For weeks, as a resident sitting in her home, here is what I have witnessed:

1. Peaceful protests against unjust use of force in police departments, especially against people of color
2. Pierce County Sheriff's plane circling every protest (there have been at least 6) every 3 minutes for hours - as if it were an insurgency of some sort
3. The noise alone involved with this plane is enough to be considered an intimidation tactic, even if you claim to be keeping protesters safe
4. As with many currently inspected police procedures, this is an excessive use of equipment and funds in the name of "protection"
5. I checked the tail number of the plane, and it belongs to PC Sheriff
6. Flights continue for up to 6 hours over various protests - based on calculations I can find for airplane gas & number of circles on radar, this has thus far cost anywhere from \$6,000-10,000 for fuel alone, not to mention staffing.
7. Attached are some flight examples from just this weekend. The one on Saturday was a youth march. A peaceful youth march.

I have done research on your funding and budgets. As someone who works in a professional capacity with such tools, let me tell you how disappointing your numbers are. There is barely anything in the budget for homelessness services or mental health assistance. But tons of money for equipment and staffing - much listed under dubious categories without further explanation such as "Special Teams" & "Miscellaneous Patrol Programs". You need more transparency in your budget to say the least.

As a citizen, I am so disappointed in an institution that I have always believed was there to serve and protect. At this time, my trust in police has been lost. It could be gained again if the actions of police/sheriff's departments and police unions would begin the process of introspection. However, the push back is so strong that it appears as if departments don't even want to consider listening to the community. Funding to community services, homelessness, and mental health would be much better use of funds than flying a plane around a peaceful protest for hours.

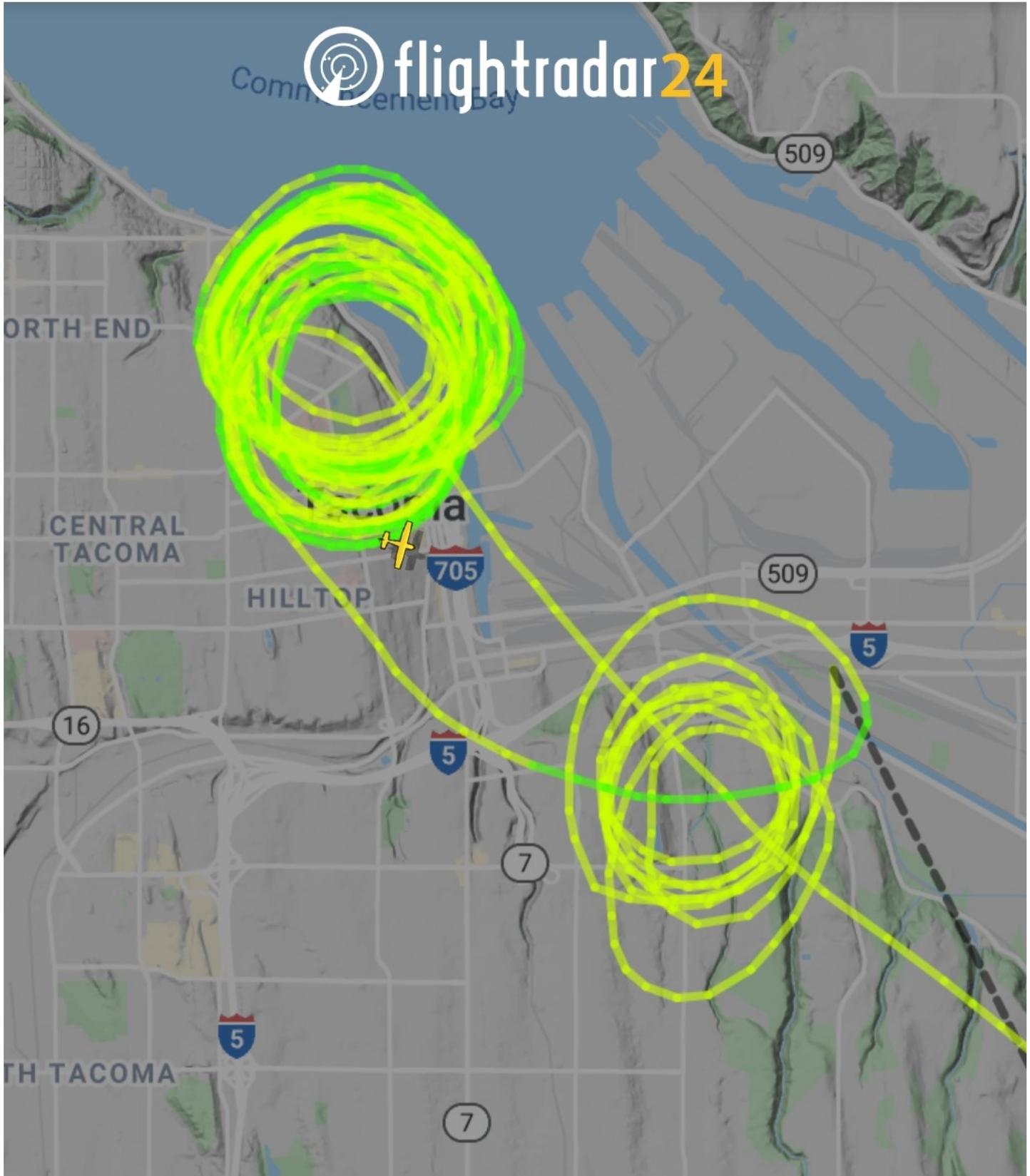
I am not the only one who feels this way. Check local Facebook groups and Twitter, you can see that many other citizens are questioning your use of funds and time here.

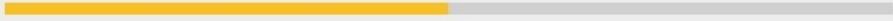
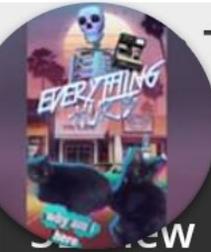
I will be sending this message to the Pierce County Council and Tacoma City Council as well. I'm one of the few you could re-gain trust with, but please, for God's sake, in a time of police accountability, calls for defunding, and calls for transparency, don't dig your feet in the mud on these issues. Please. Be willing to compromise and listen to the people you claim to want to protect.

Kind regards,
Guion Rosenzweig, North Slope Tacoma

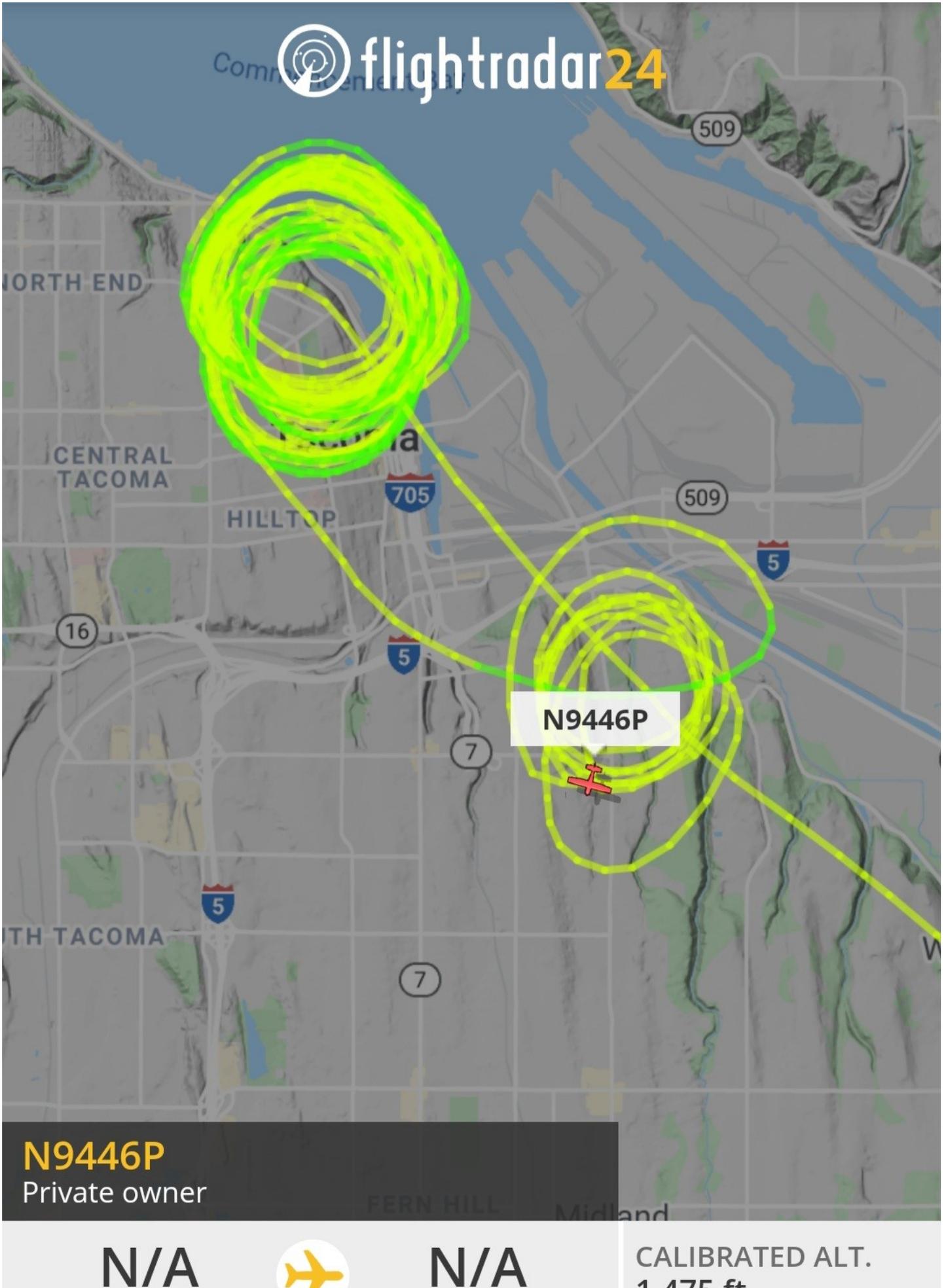


flightradar24.com/N94



N9446P Private owner			
N/A		N/A	CALIBRATED ALT. 425 ft
			GROUND SPEED 31 kts
	T206H Turbo Stationair		REG N9446P
			
Route	More	Follow	Share





	1,475 ft GROUND SPEED 83 kts			
Cessna T206H Turbo Stationair	REG N9446P			
 3D view	 Route	 More	 Follow	 Share



From: Fiona films stuff <fionacmbrennan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:41 AM
To: City Manager; City Clerk's Office; Nowman (Emery), Nicole; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina; Woodards, Victoria
Subject: Tacoma PD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi my name is Fiona, I am 18 and I have lived in Tacoma my whole life, I know that Tacoma may not be as bad as Minneapolis but that doesn't mean we still don't need to enact change. Reform over the years has still reached the same outcome and that is why it is time to change our justice system and our police. I am imploring that you read this email over and consider disbanding the Tacoma PD.

Thirty-five percent of Tacoma's general fund goes to the Tacoma Police Department according to the Tacoma budget proposal for 2020-2021.

Those funds could be put to better use through rehabilitation and other social programs. We have come to a point in America where our justice system is not just broken, but purposefully built to attack and prey on lower socioeconomic classes and people of color. Police in this country have had a long history of abusing their power and the community will not stand by any longer. This is a call to Action for governments across the U.S. protect and serve has been replaced by fear and violence.

Our justice system needs reform, according to an article from the Brennan Center for justice *"crime reduction is difficult without addressing problems stemming from chronic poverty. These organizations play a significant role in reducing crime rates not by changing justice system policy but by providing more support for individuals without a wealth of economic resources."* Throughout the Brennan Center's article they statistically prove this theory that more social benefits and community outreach programs prevent more crime. Whereas incarceration and increase of police lead to more incarceration, studies show 44% of those who are incarcerated end up in prison again, thus the cycle begins. Even the APA (American Psychological Association) argues for rehabilitation over incarceration, studies show a good 15-20% of prisoners suffer from mental illness, *"Prisons have really become, in many ways, the de facto mental health hospitals,"* says former prison psychologist Thomas Fagan, PhD. *"But prisons weren't built to deal with mentally ill people; they were built to deal with criminals doing time."* How can we expect to stop and lower crime if we do not address the direct causes? People need mental health support, rehabilitation, and economic support now more than ever, and instead we lock them up and continue the cycle. According to the Report of the Treatment Policy and Funding Task Force to the King County Bar Association Board of Trustees Drug-Related Crime and Disorder: Practical Policy Options Reducing Criminal Justice Exposure Through Early Intervention *"95% of imprisoned offenders relapsed within three years of prison release, 85% of them within one year."*

To reform our community, our country, and our justice system it is our duty to decode the systematic racism written into our country's foundation and rebuild. The first step you need to take is defunding and disbanding the police department. Freeing up the funding for social programs such as drug rehabilitation centers, more community outreach and training, homeless shelters, crisis counselors, mental institutions, food stamps, and healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Fiona

From: Michaela Blanchard <mjaybe15@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:29 AM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Comments for 6/16 City Council Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello and thank you to Tacoma's City Council members. I am writing today in regards to purchasing body cameras for the Tacoma Police Department. I have done a minimal amount of reading of the scholarly research available on body cameras, and there does not appear to be any research that shows they are effective at reducing police brutality.

I find it very concerning that the city is potentially planning to add an additional \$5 million to TPD's budget, which is already the highest expense item on the overall city budget, that is not effective at reducing police brutality. It seems to me that it would be better to use that money to establish a '311' mental health/social work hotline similar to the program piloted in Portland, OR. The city of San Francisco, CA has recently announced plans to redirect funds towards a similar project to better support their community.

Tacoma should follow suit and redirect funding towards mental health and addiction hotlines to help connect individuals struggling in our community with resources to help.

This all being said, I am aware that the family of Manuel Ellis, who was killed by suffocation during police restraint, is calling for body cameras on all officers to start the process of healing for their family. This seems reasonable to me – but the money needs to come from the existing budget set aside for TPD. Seattle has recently passed legislation banning the purchase, store, and use of “non-lethal weapons” used for crowd control such as rubber bullets, blast balls, tear gas, and more by the SPD. If Tacoma were to do the same, the money saved from purchasing these items could instead be used to purchase body cameras.

I do not have an in-depth knowledge of TPD's individual budget items, but I imagine there is space in an already enormous budget to make room for the purchase of body cameras without adding \$5 million to the city's 40 million deficit.

Thank you for your time.

From: Nicole Chang <nchang520@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:57 AM
To: City Clerk's Office; Wille, Tadd
Cc: Johnston, Kathryn; Nowman (Emery), Nicole; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina
Subject: Re: Tacoma City Council budget considerations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Nicole Chang and I live in the city of Tacoma.

I would like for the Tacoma City Manager and Council to re evaluate budget priorities; in particular, I request that the City defund the more than \$80 million annual Police budget and use those resources to invest in existing and new social services that support a safer and more prosperous community.

Alternate uses for those funds include investment in education, public parks, libraries, affordable housing, community counseling, domestic interventions and deescalation, abuser programs, creating or expanding options for free access to medical care, food, and shelter for the community.

I would be happy share the research demonstrating that these are better uses of our limited community funds if our goal is the safety and prosperity of our neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Nicole Chang

On Sat, Jun 13, 2020 at 8:18 AM Margaret Staples <margaret.staples@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Margaret Staples and I live in the city of Tacoma.

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I would be happy to dig into the research demonstrating that these are better uses of our limited community funds if our goal is the safety and prosperity of our neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Margaret Staples

From: Margaret Staples <margaret.staples@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 8:18 AM
To: City Clerk's Office; Wille, Tadd
Cc: Johnston, Kathryn; Nowman (Emery), Nicole; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

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