

Regular Council Meeting

December 2, 2021

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2021 DEC -2

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Email / eComment Report

The Following item(s) were commented on:

File ID 21-889, 6:00 P.M.

Actions pertaining to Redistricting:

1. HEARING - regarding redistricting
2. BILL (for introduction) - Adopting new Council District boundaries pursuant to the Council redetermination process set forth in Section 304.1 of the Charter of the City of Fresno, Section 21621-21629 of the California Elections Code, and Article 2, Chapter 2, of the Fresno Municipal Code

Total number of emails / eComments: 1

File ID 21-924, 3-A

Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds:

1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto).

Total number of emails / eComments: 19



City of Fresno

10 Street Fresno, CA 93721

November 30, 2021

<sent via email>

Dear Council President Chavez and fellow City Councilmembers,

The undersigned organizations are a group of community-based organizations working hand-in-hand with community partners and leaders throughout the City of Fresno. We write to you in response to agenda item 3-A where Mayor Jerry Dyer will present on the partial allocation of the City's allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Before this City Council or the Mayor move forward with allocating these dollars, **we urge you all to implement a public process and allocate funding that is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to communities' needs who were most impacted by the pandemic.**

Attached you will find two letters previously shared with many of you providing best practices for how the City should meaningfully engage the public, and especially those most impacted by the crisis. Additionally, we have a letter with budget priorities directly influenced by community residents' needs and priorities.

We thank you for taking the time and consideration towards these documents and comments.

Sincerely,

Alex Alvarado
Faith in the Valley

Briana Zweifler
Fresno Barrios Unidos

Karla Martinez
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Marisa Moraza
Power California

Claudia J. Gonzalez
Root & Rebound

Appendix A



November 30, 2021

<sent via email>

Letter RE: 2021 American Rescue Plan Budget Priorities & Guiding Principles for a Just and Equitable Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Mayor Dyer and City Councilmembers,

The unforeseen pandemic has not only exacerbated existing problems but also spotlighted pervasive issues most prevalent in Fresno's low-income communities of color. We continue to consistently rank poorly in air quality, social and health outcomes, and quality of life for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities¹. Most recently, the State's updated CalEnviroScreen 4.0 has once again identified three of the top five most burdened census tracts are found in the 93706 zip code of Southwest Fresno. With the unanticipated allocation of \$171 million, this City and its leadership have the opportunity to change this reality by **funding and investing in equity-focused priorities driven by the very people who have borne the burden of discriminatory practices.**

We urge the city to adopt a transparent and inclusive process that's responsive to the community, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted most by COVID-19. Moreover, we provide the following community priorities below identified in partnership with resident and youth leaders. This is not a comprehensive list and again, recommend a participatory process to ensure robust meaningful community engagement.

¹<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/msas/fresno-madera-hanford-ca#pmann>

HOUSING STABILIZATION

- **Additional \$45 Million Allocation to Further Fund a Comprehensive Affordable Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF)**

The housing crisis in California was at its worst pre-pandemic and the situation has only worsened since 2020 for Fresno City residents as they face some of the hottest rental and home buying markets in the nation. “Affordable” rents and homes have attracted outsiders to our large city making it that much more difficult for existing residents to find and maintain stable and healthy housing. Fortunately, City leadership has worked on attempting to stabilize the current crisis by developing and implementing an Eviction Protection Program, a local eviction moratorium, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and a Local Housing Trust Fund. However, Unfortunately, this has only provided some relief for residents while they continue to struggle to find affordable healthy housing. To seriously address the current housing crisis, City leaders need to take urgent and comprehensive action to support protecting existing residents, produce diverse housing options for all, and prevent more residents from losing their housing.

The initial \$2.5 million allocation to create the Local Housing Trust Fund must be increased in order to expand the scope and scale of the housing programs. Additional programs include but are not limited to:

1. **Eviction Protection Program:**
 - a. With a recently approved resolution establishing an Eviction Protection Program and **the recent end to the national eviction moratorium**, we urge the City Council to follow suit and commit funding to this program for the next three years using American Rescue Plan dollars. This would allow the City time to identify a more comprehensive source of funding to sustainably support this program, meanwhile establishing a comprehensive program that supports tenants facing eviction, inhabitable living conditions, harassment, retaliation, and other problems.
2. **Housing Rehabilitation Programs:**
 - a. There should be funds available to tenants and homeowners who are interested in rehabilitating their homes, especially for low-income residents. This should also focus on energy efficiency and climate sustainability, such as weatherization and energy retrofit programs.
2. **First time home-owner assistance programs:**
 - a. This project can support with first-time home buyer forgivable loans, assistance with purchasing a home, amongst other community identified projects this includes low-interest loans or grants for mortgage assistance programs, down payment assistance programs
3. **Acquisition:**
 - a. This includes purchasing vacant or abandoned buildings and homes, transferring ownership to a citywide land trust to promote community ownership and fend off corporate speculators.
4. **Housing Rights Education and Eviction Protection Program:**

- a. Programs that include community outreach and education on tenant rights, investigation of rights violations, and landlord responsibilities. This program should work with Code Enforcement to resolve violations.

5. Shelters & Transitional Housing

- a. Fresno has approximately 4,000 unhoused residents and only approximately 1,200 shelter beds.² Many residents returning home from incarceration or recovering from substance use disorder also require temporary supportive housing, but there are far too few options available, especially for youth. Fresno rents have soared during the pandemic, and people getting back on their feet need free or low-cost options to help bridge the gap between crisis and stability.

6. Tenant Assistance and Temporary Housing:

- a. The Housing Trust Fund programs should focus on long-term solutions, not temporary relief. Even so, the Fund should include protected resources for emergency circumstances which may require financial assistance or temporary housing for tenants. These programs should include rental assistance or temporary relocation.

7. Community Oversight:

The LHTF must be community led and priorities identified by residents. Tenants should have decision making authority and oversight on all activities and programs related to housing trust fund.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- **\$9 million for Youth and Community Resilience Centers**

If the pandemic has highlighted anything, it is that community gathering spaces are crucial for a community's quality of life. Communal spaces are critical to people's health and well-being, and have served to provide Fresnoans with COVID tests and vaccinations, food distribution centers, and other necessary resources. Youth especially need spaces to play, connect and socialize, in safe, enriching, and non-judgmental environments, and they need these spaces more than ever after a year and a half of disrupted social development. Now is the moment to expand access to youth and community resilience centers for low-income communities in Fresno that have failed to see critical investments in their neighborhoods. Access to quality community gathering spaces should not be a privilege only available to some.

The state has also recently allocated millions over the course of three years across the state to support investment in climate resilience centers. Allocation from ARPA into these spaces allows the City to more competitively apply for these funds and leverage local dollars. The University Medical Center campus the City is currently considering purchasing, for instance, would be an excellent site for a youth or community resilience center. We have the opportunity to invest deeply in youth and community well-being and should make these one-time investments in spaces that will serve Fresnoans for generations.

² <https://www.fresnobee.com/fresnoland/article255133397.html>

- **Funding for the Zero Fare Clean Air Act**

Earlier this year, the City passed a Zero Fare Act which made all FAX buses fare free for Fresno residents. This proposal has helped parents, students, and community members get to their destinations without worrying about the cost of taking multiple buses to get to the doctors office, the grocery store, or COVID-19 vaccine appointments. Now is the time for the City to allocate ARPA funding, while the City finds and plans a more sustainable, long-term funding and expenditure plan to extend the Act. Additionally, there needs to be community conversations to discuss the needs and priorities of FAX riders including switching over to a long term funding source to keep Fresno transportation free, switching over from diesel to an 100% electric powered fleet, transit line extension, and increasing frequency in areas with low vehicle ownership.

- **\$15 million for Infrastructure Projects for Public Safety and Environmental Mitigation**

The City needs to invest in infrastructure improvements in neighborhoods that rank the highest on CalEnviroScreen for pollution and poor health outcomes. Relevant investments include urban greening to mitigate the environmental impacts created by sources of pollution. Additionally, substantial investments in adequate pedestrian and bike safety infrastructure are necessary to mitigate climate impacts. This includes but is not limited to complete streets, bike lanes, community youth centers maintenance, bike safety education, and vouchers for protective bicycle gear. As stated in the Treasury guidelines state necessary investments include **projects that are required to maintain a level of service that, at least, meets applicable health-based standards**, taking into account resilience to climate change **to unserved or underserved populations** to reach an adequate level to permit a household to work or attend school.

Below are community-identified infrastructure projects:

- Railway crossing barriers on Floradora Ave. between North 8th Street and North Barton Avenue. Residents here have consistently voiced concerns around the lack of a barrier between housing and the train tracks, especially when there is a middle school and local grocery store nearby, putting kids and community members at risk. (District 7)
- Complete streets along Floradora near Yosemite Middle School. Elderly folks and children find it difficult to get to and from school without appropriate sidewalks and many elderly folks have fallen or tripped due to this. (District 7)
- Proper street lighting near every bus stop to promote safer trips and visibility, especially for children, women, and folks who are elderly or disabled. Additionally, better bus stop infrastructure to cover riders from extreme weather conditions is needed. (All Districts)
- Complete sidewalks near the Addams elementary school community, specifically on Mckinley from Marks to the Golden State Hwy underpass. (District 3)
- Complete protected bike lanes beginning on NW Olive and Hughes and going along Hughes to Mckinley. This would be conducive for a safe biking path to Addams Elementary. (District 3)

- The communities of Central and Cherry Avenues, and Central and Orange Avenues need complete street, and water and wastewater infrastructure. The City has committed to seek funding for bike and pedestrian safety infrastructure and water/sewer connectivity to the city. Since the development of more industrial facilities, safely walking in this community has become difficult and dangerous with distribution trucks passing by at dangerous speeds. (District 3)
- Better transit systems for parents who have children who attend schools near low income areas such as: Sunnyside and Roosevelt High Schools (District 5), Edison High School (District 3), Gaston Middle School (District 3), Baird Middle School, and Patino High School (District 7). The majority of parents come from neighborhoods in Southeast and Southwest Fresno, so better connectivity from these areas to these schools needs to be sought out. This can look like protected bike lanes from Addams to Edison and Gaston, and Calwa to Roosevelt and Sunnyside; higher bus frequency with Route 35 that goes to Addams and Route 1 that goes to Sunnyside; and protected bike lanes that go along Cambridge starting from Blackstone to Clark.
- Street lights need to be placed throughout the community between Jensen/Church and Fruit/Walnut region and immediately around the Addams Elementary neighborhood to ensure safe and secure travel for residents, especially after dark. (District 3)
- West Jensen Ave from MLK Jr to West Fresno Regional Sports Complex that includes complete sidewalks, lighting and protected bike lanes so that West Fresno residents can actually walk or bike safely to the park without having to drive. (District 3)

HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Care NOT Cops**

We urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. We create systems of care through concentrated community reinvestment—by investing into people, places, and equitable opportunities. The people of Fresno need generative strategies that lift us from the roots. We ask the Council and Mayor to not invest American Rescue Plan dollars in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being as outlined in the other sections of this letter.

- **\$30 Million for a Recovery Fund**

Fresno is a city of stark inequities stemming from years of systemic discrimination and disinvestment. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these inequities. Residents of the City of Fresno urgently need access to emergency relief funds to pay for food, shelter, household items, hygiene supplies, baby care items, school supplies, child care, medical bills, and more. Many residents also need aid to help fill the gaps in existing support programs that have complex state or federal eligibility restrictions. Before the pandemic, Fresno was cited as having the highest concentrated poverty rate of any metro area in the US,³

³ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2018/04/23/cities-hit-hardest-extreme-poverty/528514002/>

with 1 in every 3.5 Fresno residents living in poverty.⁴ Low-income families have been hit hardest by the ongoing pandemic and need assistance now.

We urge the City of Fresno to establish a Recovery Fund of at least \$30 million for emergency cash assistance. This fund should be as low barrier as possible. To maximize accessibility, the aid should be accessible through a network of trusted community-based organizations. People with the highest need, such as young parents, undocumented residents, people released from incarceration during the pandemic, and unhoused people, should be prioritized for assistance.

- **\$3 Million for Mental Health Services and Community Wellness Programs**

Youth and community advocates have urged the City of Fresno to deepen investments in systems of care, and those calls have only grown more urgent throughout the pandemic. People everywhere have been hard hit by the social isolation of the last year and a half, and our youth have felt this pain most acutely. We urge the City of Fresno to make at least \$3 million available for services and programs such as clinical and non-clinical mental health services, community-based healing programs, substance use disorder treatment, violence prevention and intervention programs, domestic violence services, family supports, and enrichment activities for youth ages 0-26 to help repair the stress and trauma of the pandemic. We urge the City to partner with the community in identifying the needs of Fresno residents, and to work with a diverse network of community-based organizations to promote existing services and design a holistic and responsive set of services and programs to meet these needs.

- **Covid Mitigation and Prevention**

We cannot recover from the COVID-19 pandemic until we reduce the spread of this deadly virus. Currently, accessing a free COVID-19 test can require waiting days for an appointment. For our poorest residents who work long hours, this can mean simply going without a test and potentially putting off treatment until the infection worsens, or infecting others around them. Masks, especially the N95 masks that offer the best protection against COVID-19, are costly and can be hard to track down. We ask for an allocation of ARPA funds sufficient to provide free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE to any Fresno residents who want them. Sufficient protective measures are critical for the health of our city, and especially for the BIPOC residents who have been most deeply impacted by COVID-related illness and death.

* * * * *

Creating a better Fresno can only be accomplished via active and genuine collaboration between City leaders and community residents. The American Rescue Plan funding should be allocated through a transparent, meaningful, and responsive public process so as to ensure equitable investments for all Fresnoans regardless of zip code, income, race, gender, immigration status, and housing circumstance. The City of Fresno is at the forefront of the San Joaquin Valley. Continuing down this leadership path means implementing bold initiatives, policies, and investments addressing and correcting the years of systemic

⁴ <https://www.welfareinfo.org/poverty-rate/california/fresno>

oppression BIPOC communities have been subjected to, and prioritizing the voices of its most impacted residents.

Sincerely,

Alex Alvarado
Faith in the Valley

Briana Zweifler
Fresno Barrios Unidos

Karla Martinez
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Marisa Moraza
Power California

Claudia J. Gonzalez
Root & Rebound

Appendix B



November 9th, 2021

RE: City of Fresno ARPA Outreach & Engagement Plan

Dear Mayor Dyer, City Councilmembers, and City staff,

The undersigned organizations write to you to advocate for a public process that is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to disadvantaged communities' needs. We are a group of community-based organizations working hand-in-hand with community partners and leaders throughout the City of Fresno. The following recommendations are based on our experience to push for transformative community led and identified solutions.

The City of Fresno has long perpetuated the tale of two cities exacerbated by the global pandemic's disparate public health and socioeconomic impacts placed on Fresno's black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) populations. However, as City leaders, you all have the rare opportunity to meaningfully address these injustices by **aligning the \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) with community priorities**—especially those who have been historically excluded—**identified through a participatory budgeting process**. Participatory budgeting is not a new concept and has even been successfully implemented here through the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) process.

Moreover, the **Treasury Department urges governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments**. As the fifth largest city in California, Fresno can lead once more, by enacting another participatory process and be a model on how to leverage ARPA funds to reduce racial health, educational, and wealth gaps.

Key Public Participation Recommendations:

- **Citywide remote and in-person listening sessions and meetings targeting communities most impacted by COVID-19.**

- *Recommendation: A 4-round process will take place where on average 3-4 meetings occur per round, prioritizing communities most impacted by COVID-19. In person meetings and virtual options will be made available.*
 - Round #1: Purpose is to provide context, and obtain general needs and projects which residents want to prioritize. Residents are encouraged to identify specific projects. Staff will then take back the information received, summarize, and identify projects that align with resident priorities and can be funded with ARPA funding.
 - Round #2: The City will come back to residents with a summary of minutes from Meeting #1 and list of projects that align with resident priorities and ARPA requirements. An initial vote prioritizing general themes will be taken to begin arranging priorities. Feedback from residents will help further refine this list.
 - Round #3 : A recap of meeting #1 and #2 will occur at the beginning. Voting on specific projects and priorities will take place at this meeting creating a near final list for Councilmembers and the Mayor to adopt.
 - Round #4: Council members and staff will come back with a final list of projects and funding amounts to present to residents.

- **Alternative Methods of Participation Will be Available**

- Interactive Mapping Tool: The City should develop an interactive mapping tool where folks can place markers on a map with projects, comments, and transportation projects throughout the city such as [Norfolk, VA](#) has done.
- Online Survey: The City should also develop a survey for folks to fill out. The survey will allow folks to describe their COVID-19 impacts, such as loss of job, wages, housing, etc. The survey will then help the city identify programs and projects that will most impact affected communities and will help better understand the short-term and structural challenges that they faced over the course of the pandemic.

- **Best Practices**

- [Cities throughout the United States](#) have already begun engaging their constituents for the use of these funds. More closely, the City of Merced has been promoting their public process for ARPA funding through radio broadcasts, mailers, hearings, and mass texting for a survey on budget priorities which received 300+ responses.
- Translation Services should be provided at all meetings. Options should include at least Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi.
- Meetings should be scheduled both during the evening and the morning in order to give the most residents an opportunity to participate.

- Hybrid options for participation should be available virtually and in person.
- Recovery efforts should be centered around racial and geographic equity. We cannot allow ourselves to perpetuate a tale between two cities.
- Partnering with trusted community groups is essential to ensure robust engagement from the hardest to reach communities.

Participatory budgeting is needed for the \$171 million dollars going to the City of Fresno. This funding is meant for the economic recovery of those most impacted by COVID-19 and they must guide the way in which these dollars are spent. Fresnoans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs. Participation and decisions for these funds should not be available only to a select few and needs to be guided by the residents of Fresno. Programs, projects, and priorities should not be solely guided by elected officials and community participation is critical to equitable use of American Rescue Plan funds. These recommendations are not exhaustive of the various modes, formats, and mediums to engage the public, however, have been demonstrated to be best practices approaches. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss any of our recommendations and ongoing partnership with City Staff.

Sincerely,

Alex Alvarado
Faith in the Valley

Briana Zweifler
Fresno Barrios Unidos

Karla Martinez
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Marisa Moraza
Power CA

Claudia Gonzalez
Root and Rebound

Amanda Martin

From: Marisa Moraza
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:16 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Marisa and I am a Fresno community member in district 2. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

I urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest millions of ARPA funding in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. Funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Thank you for your time.

Amanda Martin

From: Yenedit Mendez Avendaño
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:09 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Yenedit Mendez Avendaño and I am a Fresno community member in district 7. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

I urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest roughly \$6 million of ARPA funding in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. Funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Amanda Martin

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 10:09 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Amanda Woody and I am a Fresno community member in Clovis and works for Fresno Unified School district. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

I urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest roughly \$6 million of ARPA funding in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. Funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

In particular improvements to the bus system and to outlying areas. It would be great if we could expand to a few more rapid lines.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Amanda Martin

From: Angel Rivera
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:32 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Angel and I am a Fresno community member in district 2. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

I urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest roughly \$6 million of ARPA funding in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. Funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Sincerely,
Angel Rivera

Amanda Martin

From: Arthur Robinson
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 5:04 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Arthur Robinson and I am a Fresno community member in District 1.

As you know, The City of Fresno is about to receive \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic, and at this time, I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive, responsive, and more acceptable & accessible to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

My intention is that the City of Fresno invests in systems of care and rejects systems of harm.

And in conclusion, I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest roughly \$6 million of ARPA funding into the police and other local authorities, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health organizations and local organizers promoted to the general well-being of its community members.

This funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, any & all forms of other PPE, and to health and wellness programs.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to have their voice heard on how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city has a responsibility to put forth a good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Thank you for your time.

Arthur Robinson

Amanda Martin

From: Emily Artz
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 6:53 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 3-A

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Emily Artz and I am a Fresno community member in district 4. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic.

I urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. I ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest roughly \$6 million of ARPA funding in police, and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. Funding needs to go towards housing stabilization, youth and community resilience centers, infrastructure projects, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

Fresnans deserve the opportunity to voice how they want these dollars spent through a participatory budget process and the city should make a diligent, good faith effort to listen to those needs.

Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:33 PM
To: Bernard Canez; Amanda Martin
Cc: Todd Stermer
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Thanks,

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Amanda Martin; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Michael G submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

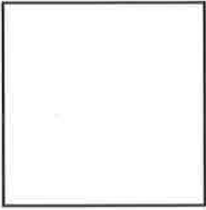
eComment: Dear Councilmembers, I am a resident of district 2 and I write to oppose the allocation of ARPA funds to Fresno PD. Fresno needs to invest in public health solutions such as

housing stabilization, infrastructure projects in South Fresno, and mental health and wellness programs to address the disparate outcomes exacerbated by the pandemic. The city should create a public input process to determine the allocation of the \$171 million. This process needs to be fair, transparent, and equitable.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:33 PM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Cc: Todd Stermer
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Same with this

Briana Parra, CMC
City of
FRESNO
Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:43 PM
To: Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments



New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Ruben Espinoza submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Dear Council President Chavez and Council members, My name is Ruben and I am the Policy Advocate for Fresno Barrios Unidos, a youth advocacy organization in district 7. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act to help address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. we urge the council to create a public process that is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of young people and their communities that

have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. we urge the City of Fresno to invest in systems of care and reject systems of harm. We ask the Council and Mayor to NOT invest nearly \$10 million of ARPA funding in police and to instead support real community safety by funding community health and well-being. The Council should give youth and their communities who have bore the brunt of the pandemic proper funding and allow them to be creative and help them build out communities that will allow youth to thrive and achieve their dreams. We strongly recommend that these dollars go towards housing stabilization such as transitional housing for youth who are coming home from incarceration, low-barrier emergency cash assistance for formerly incarcerated youth who are trying to get back into their communities, and for the community, youth, and community resilience centers, free and on-demand rapid COVID-19 testing, vaccines, N95 masks, and other PPE, and health and wellness programs.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:34 PM
To: Bernard Canez; Amanda Martin
Cc: Todd Stermer
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Here is another

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: noreply@granicusideas.com <...>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Yvonne Spence, Briana Parra >
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Andrea Mangano submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

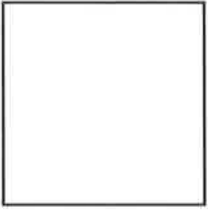
Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Why is so much being given to the police department? What about our health and safety?

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:12 PM
To: Bernard Canez; Amanda Martin
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC
City of
FRESNO
Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:58 PM
To: Yvonne Spence; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Sharrah Thompson submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

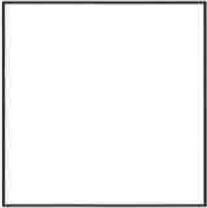
eComment: My name is Sharrah Thompson. I am a community leader with multiple organizations, Im a resident, and a single mother of a child that will have a future of going to school here in Fresno. I am opposing this as I feel that there is a much needed approach to spending the funds from ARPA Funding. If we look at the crime rate of domestic violence on the news we can see that there is a need for a larger capacity for the Domestic Violence Shelters and programs (i.e. Stand Up Placer County does a great job in providing for victims). Also, the

homeless population continues to grow, opening up more shelters and providing transitional programs for those in need is a great way to lessen the problem. If we work on making the community better and offering the programs, tools, and necessities for people to live here crime wouldn't be such an issue. I as a mother would like to grow and maintain roots here in Fresno but after moving back and seeing how Fresno has declined in their way of serving those who live here its not a place I want to invest in and stay and raise my child. Adding more vehicle and rifles to the force isnt going to change anything if the city doesnt try to take action in getting crime stopped in a preventative way. Housing/shelter, Infrastructure, and ways to assist the people through programs offer a better way to spend this grant dont waste 10 Mil on unnecessary budgeting. Lastly, public comment is imperative.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:18 PM
To: Bernard Canez; Amanda Martin
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC
City of
FRESNO
Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Yvonne Spence ; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Yenedit Mendez submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Dear Councilmembers, I am a resident of district 7 and I write to oppose the allocation of ARPA funds to Fresno PD. Fresno needs to invest in public health solutions such as housing stabilization, infrastructure projects in South East Fresno, and as a therapist in the making i advocate for mental health and wellness programs to address the disparate outcomes

exacerbated by the pandemic. The city should create a public input process to determine the allocation of the \$171 million. This process needs to be fair, transparent, and equitable.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Yvonne Spence <Yvonne.Spence@fresno.gov>; Briana Parra <Briana.Parra@fresno.gov>
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Tim Haydock submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

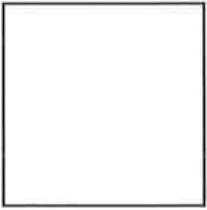
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eComment: I urge city council to conduct a deep community needs assessment and invest these dollars in youth jobs, safe housing and equitable solutions to our city's injustices. These dollars are an opportunity to invest in our people and should be spent in a way that improves quality of life, addresses racial inequity and provides real community safety.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From:
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 7:43 AM
To: Yvonne Spence ; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Octavio Peralta submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

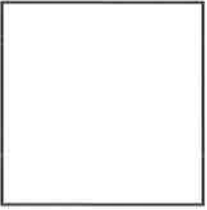
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eComment: The allocation of these resources should go to help the communities get better, not the officers that don't even live in the communities they police.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 7:35 AM
To: Yvonne Spence; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Michael Yamamura submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

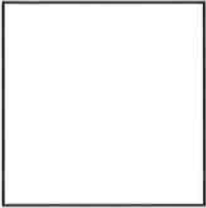
eComment: I am a student at Sunnyside High school, and I am strongly against the use of ARPA funding for police. The police department in Fresno has continued to get obscene amounts of funding from the city while the community has suffered. This funding is the city's chance to finally invest in the PEOPLE. I urge the council to instead gather community input on how this money

should be used. The people of Fresno are the ones who know best what we need, the city needs to listen to us.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:13 AM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

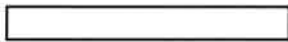
Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: noreply@granicusideas.com <noreply@granicusideas.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 6:33 AM
To: Yvonne Spence ; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Linda Garcia submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

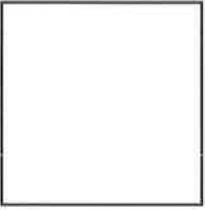
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eComment: I am a resident of district 1, and I oppose the use of ARPA funding for law enforcement in Fresno. This is an opportunity for the city to invest in our community. I believe the funding would be best spent on developing affordable housing.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:13 AM
To: Bernard Canez; Amanda Martin
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC



Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 2:58 AM
To: Yvonne Spence >; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Grisanti valencia submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

eComment: Hello council members,, My name is Grisanti Avendaño and I am a Fresno community member. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to have a equitable community input process on where those funds should go to . An investment to the police department should not be the option as a city we are going for. Community needs support

in other areas and we need to invest in community supports rather than continue investing in FPD that causes more harm than good. We hope you listen to community on this one.

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Amanda Martin

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:13 AM
To: Amanda Martin; Bernard Canez
Subject: FW: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Briana Parra, CMC
City of
FRESNO
Briana.Parra@fresno.gov

From: Briana Parra
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:08 PM
To: Yvonne Spence; Briana Parra
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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New eComment for City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Marissa Corpus submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2021-12-02 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 3.-A. ID 21-924 Action pertaining to budgeting American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds: 1. ***RESOLUTION - 30th Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution (AAR) No. 2021-178 appropriating \$38,155,000 for citywide operational support that will be funded from first tranche of ARPA funds (Requires 5 Affirmative Votes)(Subject to Mayor's Veto)

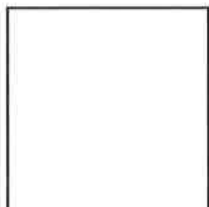
eComment: My name is Marissa and I am a Fresno community member. The City of Fresno is receiving \$171 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the unequal impacts of the pandemic. I urge the council to move these funds to sustain and provide accessible, low cost housing, as well as to mental health services that are rooted in harm reduction and youth services. We have heard time and time again that the community needs and

wants these things. The council once again has an opportunity to let voices be acknowledged and to move those voices forward in providing for the community.

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Amanda Martin

From: Mark Felten
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:39 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: I Support the Inclusive Families Map for the City of Fresno

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My name is Hashid Kasama and I want to support the Inclusive Families Map for the City of Fresno Redistricting process. I have lived & worked in

the City of Fresno for 36 years. I live in El Dorado Park. I'd like you to keep my community together. My community is El Dorado Park Questions to consider: Who lives in your community? High concentration of Southeast Asian, Black and Chicano-Latino folks.

What are the major cross streets that define your community? Bulldog Lane & 6th Street, the area between Shaw, First, Barstow, and Cedar Avenue corridors. Are there important places where people like to gather? El Dorado Park. What makes your community special?

Community Gardens, Wesley Methodist Church, and Bulldog Stadium.

My community is similar to these neighborhoods:

Highway City (Forestiére Underground Gardens)

Pinedale, Mayfair District. High concentrations of apartments, high density housing/multi-family units, predominantly working class.

My community is different from the following neighborhoods:

Fig Garden Loop (portion to the northeast of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks), Woodward Park, Friant, Woodward Lake, Old Fig Garden, Copper River Ranch, Clovis West - Upper-scale/affluent, neighborhoods of opulent wealth, & privilege.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Hashid Kasama

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

