

City Council on 2020-06-09 9:00 AM - Budget Hearings -Commencing on June 9, 2020, the budget hearings will be considered one continuous meeting.

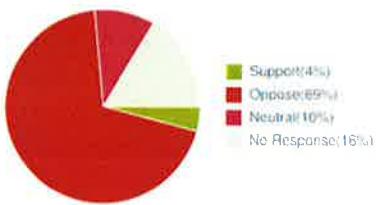
06-09-20 09:00

| Agenda Name | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|--|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| ID 20-00726 Mayor's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Presentation | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| ID 20-00734 Planning and Development Department | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| ID 20-00729 Police Department | 42 | 1 | 34 | 2 |
| ID 20-00728 Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services ("PARCS") | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

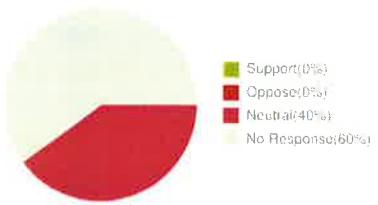
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for ID 20-00726 Mayor's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Presentation

Overall Sentiment



Adeline Navarro

Location:

Submitted At: 8:54am 06-09-20

As a social worker in the local area, I feel compelled to speak up and make my voice heard for those who are not able to voice theirs. Reform needs to occur, and it is evident by the masses demanding it that it needs to come soon. Mayor Brand and the City Council have the power to reform the city and change the way the city is policed and the way that residents are cared for. Money needs to be allotted to more programs that are benefiting those in need- not half the budget going to police alone. Many speculate that it is a crazy idea to defund the police, but services for child welfare programs in the state were cut by \$90 million this year, and schools in the local area lose funding for art, music, and extracurricular programs yearly.

Fresno has seemed peaceful for the most part in regards to protests and rioting, but the racial divide has been long existent. Having police in power, not only mentally, physically, and now fiscally, only encourages this long standing abuse of power in multiple ways. Please take into consideration the comments and concerns put forth by the city and county residents. Thank you, A Concerned Social Worker.

Erik Mast-Foss

Location:

Submitted At: 8:41am 06-09-20

Mayor Brand and City Council, I urge you to follow the lead of respected community leaders and use this catalytic moment of 2020 to turn the tide of "traditional" City of Fresno budget decisions. I speak as a resident of Fresno's District 3 in the Lowell neighborhood, a person of faith as an evangelical Christian, and a faith leader in my community.

There is no more time to waste on policing practices that do not protect, serve, or aid the welfare of our city. There is no more time to waste on slow-moving reform and promises of community policing left unfulfilled. The time to act is now, as our nation and globe is speaking out loudly to elected officials that we need immediate change in our policing systems. You have the ability to engender trust and respect with the residents of Fresno by responding to the calls set forth globally, and the demands set forth locally by the Fresno State NAACP last week, an organization that has the backing of thousands of residents.

We need you to make immediate change and ensure that 2021 looks different than 2020 for our community. We do not need over half of our city budget invested in policing. We need Fresno PD defunded and we need funds allocated elsewhere for the good of our community. Otherwise, the residents of Fresno will continue demanding change and justice until we see it. You have the ability to listen and change course NOW before our community gets impatient.

Robyn Martinez

Location: 93722, Fresno

Submitted At: 6:18am 06-09-20

I struggle to see why the mayor elect would need a padded budget at all. If he truly cares about what happens to this city he'll direct the majority of his funds to the programs he keeps ignoring and actually implement them in our community so we can thrive instead of become yet another fallen city that could have been doing its best for the citizens. Time to trim the fat and start putting your money where it belongs. Too many people have asked for you to do better and we have waited too long. Defund the mayoral and police budget and start doing what the people want. You work for us.

Laura Flores-Newberry

Location:

Submitted At: 11:41pm 06-08-20

I would just like to echo with what Mr. Kreins has to say. I was deeply disheartened and disappointed in the Major Elect Dyer choosing to focus on "black on black crime" instead of taking responsibility and accountability for its Police force who are city employees. Just as within business the employer, the public, are responsible for the conduct of our employees first. We have the capability to create the mechanisms that will ultimately create environments where we can eliminate human to human crimes, that exist all over the city including those in affluent neighborhoods that go under reported or policed, in partnership with our Black and people of color community leaders. I urge that the governing body take the ACLU reports recommendation and start the Advance Peace Fund. I would also urge that the governing body reach out to our community leaders to have more studies & reports done to see the areas we can improve and lift our communities and then enact those changes.

Michael Kreins

Location:

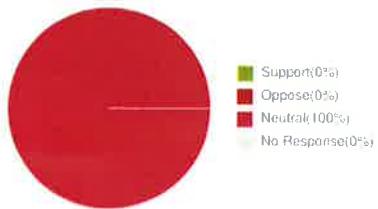
Submitted At: 10:15pm 06-08-20

According to an ACLU report published in 2017, the city of Fresno spent more than \$5.3 million defending and settling lawsuits related to officer-involved shootings from 2008 through 2016. In 2020, the city of Fresno had a budget of approximately \$1.187 billion, which I'm sure you're well aware of. Last year this council authorized

\$200,000 to fund Advance Peace, a program dedicated to ending cyclical and retaliatory gun violence in American urban neighborhoods. However, this proposal was vetoed by Mayor Brand, and our incoming Mayor (Dyer) described the program as "providing money to gang members" — despite the fact that early research points towards its success in preventing gun violence. After last Sunday's demonstration, city leaders said that they were willing to work with us. We are tired of millions and millions of dollars needlessly going to police brutality in our city. How is it that we have areas of extreme wealth while other parts of our community have the highest concentrations of poverty in California. Think about it. A \$1.187 billion budget and we couldn't fund a studied \$200K program. It's time to invest in our communities, and that doesn't just mean North Fresno. I urge you to listen to your community. It's hurting, and it wants change.

Agenda Item: eComments for ID 20-00734 Planning and Development Department

Overall Sentiment



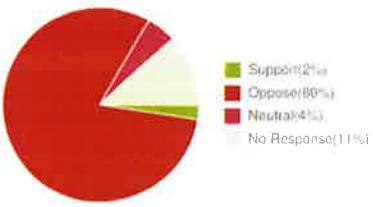
Robyn Martinez

Location: 93722
Submitted At: 9:55pm 06-08-20

Not sure if this falls into this category but it's important in the Herndon Hayes area near rio vista and river bluff elementary we need a safe sidewalk for the kids to get to and from school. It gets flooded during rain and when it's foggy kids are forced to walk in the street when cars cannot see them. The Speed limit on Herndon is 50mph so you can imagine if a car went too fast there and a child has no sidewalk and it's foggy how awful that could turn out. Please consider a plan to fix this for the kids.

Agenda Item: eComments for ID 20-00729 Police Department

Overall Sentiment



Ashleigh Castro

Location:
Submitted At: 8:58am 06-09-20

The Fresno Police Department needs to be defunded. There is no reason why 53% of our city's budget should be allocated to the police department when we have community programs that are struggling to receive any type

of funding. The safest communities are not those with the most police, they are the ones with the most resources. Police are being called to handle situations that they did not receive any training for, and going into communities of people that they do not understand, or know how to properly assess their need. In a city with a population of over 500,000 people and a homeless population of LESS than 2,000 it is so sickening that this issue has not been resolved. Defund the Fresno Police Department and allocate it to the necessary communities and programs, or else Fresno will never be able to progress and transform.

Marissa Hasegawa

Location: 93727, Fresno

Submitted At: 8:58am 06-09-20

Now is the time to take action; it's past time. It makes no sense to allocate 50% of the budget to police when we are still sorely lacking in other areas that would benefit our city so much more. I urge you to take those funds and use them to help those most marginalized and at risk. Use it to start the process of defunding the police and instead, implement new programs and policies to directly address underlying issues that often lead to police being called and then the mishandling of those already difficult situations. Let's have new, unarmed, trained departments that de escalate situations where people are in need and get them the help they deserve. We need caring, not fear and violence. Show the people of Fresno, and the world, that you hear their cries of sorrow and help and do the right thing.

Diana Gallardo

Location: 93722, FRESNO

Submitted At: 8:57am 06-09-20

Good Morning City Council members,

I have lived in Fresno, my whole life. I believe that it is a good place but there are flaws. One of the flaws in Fresno is the FPD, which receives a major portion of the city budget. That money should be given to areas that for a long time has not been given the attention by this council. No, police department should cost half the city budget. While there are streets, lights, sidewalks, and other public maintenance that clearly have fallen through the cracks. I know this because the same things that need the money now are the same ones that needed funding when I was growing up. The city could use that money to better ourselves rather than giving it to a police department that have only harmed our communities.

Erik Mast-Foss

Location:

Submitted At: 8:43am 06-09-20

Mayor Brand and City Council, I urge you to follow the lead of respected community leaders and use this catalytic moment of 2020 to turn the tide of "traditional" City of Fresno budget decisions. I speak as a resident of Fresno's District 3 in the Lowell neighborhood, a person of faith as an evangelical Christian, and a faith leader in my community.

There is no more time to waste on policing practices that do not protect, serve, or aid the welfare of our city. There is no more time to waste on slow-moving reform and promises of community policing left unfulfilled. The time to act is now, as our nation and globe is speaking out loudly to elected officials that we need immediate change in our policing systems. You have the ability to engender trust and respect with the residents of Fresno by responding to the calls set forth globally, and the demands set forth locally by the Fresno State NAACP last week, an organization that has the backing of thousands of residents.

We need you to make immediate change and ensure that 2021 looks different than 2020 for our community. We do not need over half of our city budget invested in policing. We need Fresno PD defunded and we need funds allocated elsewhere for the good of our community. Otherwise, the residents of Fresno will continue demanding change and justice until we see it. You have the ability to listen and change course NOW before our community gets impatient.

Gwyneth Quitorio

Location:

Submitted At: 8:36am 06-09-20

It is unfortunate to learn that growing up in a city I loved has worse problems than I could have come to imagine.

It is not fair to our healthcare workers to not have access to PPE masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also unfair for our school teachers to pay for school supplies out of pocket when their salaries are already very low. These dilemmas could be solved if more funds were allocated from the police's budget to other essential services, such as healthcare and the school system, to represent a just budget for all services in Fresno.

Jorge Cubillos

Location:

Submitted At: 8:30am 06-09-20

I'd encourage city council members to consider reducing funds to the police department. Why are we allocating half the budget to the police department when there are other areas that need crucial funding? The city should prioritize spending on community health, education, and affordable housing. Reducing the budget could include withdrawing from any police militarization programs, requiring cops to be liable for misconduct settlements, suspending paid leave for cops under investigation, and reducing the overall size of the police force.

Malcolm Church

Location: 93728, Fresno

Submitted At: 8:27am 06-09-20

It is shameful that over 50% of Fresno's budget goes towards the FPD, when the basic needs of our community continue to fail to be met. This money must be reallocated to fund the education and social services our city needs. Instead of over-policing our communities, we need to address the root problems by building by building up our community and providing it with basic resources.

Jillian Ramirez

Location:

Submitted At: 8:20am 06-09-20

I request that the City Council reconsider their proposed budget allocation to the Fresno Police Department, and instead divert a larger portion of the budget toward community-based models of safety, support, and prevention. The people who respond to crises in our community should be the people best equipped to deal with those crises, such as mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors, and friends. Rather than overextending our expectations for Fresno police, we should allow the people who truly make up the fiber of a community to have the support they need to heal and address the variety of social issues currently faced within the Black community of Fresno. By shifting money away from policing and toward services that actually meet the needs of the community, we will be able to get to a place where crime does not need to be committed in order to meet basic human needs. We don't need more cops in this community. We need more jobs, more educational opportunities, more arts programs, more community centers, more mental health resources, and more of a say in how our communities function.

Ed Winchester

Location: 93722, Fresno

Submitted At: 8:03am 06-09-20

I support the Fresno Police Department and oppose any reduction in their budget. Police are not the enemy! Cutting or eliminating the police budget will result in a less safe city and increases in crime and violence. The call to defund the police department or reduce their budget plays well to some elements in the current crisis, but will do nothing in the long run to reduce crime or improve the quality of life in Fresno.

Zachery Clark

Location:

Submitted At: 7:05am 06-09-20

It is a shame that 53% of Fresnos over all budget is used towards the police department. By funneling money into the police department we are avoiding the underline systemic problem. It has been proven that in order to lower crime rates people need better social programs. Instead of money being funneled into the Fresno PD the money would be better allocated into social programs such as implementing better drug and alcohol outreach programs. I know it is not feasible to cut the police departments budget by half, but I do know that Fresno would benefit redirecting 15-20% of the Fresno PD's over all budget to education, parks, outreach programs, and infrastructure.

Genesis Gutierrez

Location: 93720, Fresno
Submitted At: 3:20am 06-09-20

I've lived in Fresno, Ca for almost twenty years and have noticed the over policing over criminalization in our neighborhoods. It was very notable that those affected by this were in poverty. And majority of our poverty stricken citizens happen to be Hispanics and Blacks. This due to systematic racism. And the only thing I see that could possibly be any sort of positive change is by first dismantling our current legal system. How is it that 50% of our money goes solely to the police? I can think of many ways our money can be put for better use. We always hear that there's a lack of funds for repairs, schools and parks. Why not use some of that 50% to better our city in appearance and pride.

Simran Gill

Location:
Submitted At: 2:47am 06-09-20

Defund the police—heck let's take it further and follow Minneapolis's lead and dismantle the police department altogether. Let's use the enormous amount of money Fresno puts towards the police department to help our education system, to help the homeless population of our city, to help our veterans, to help provide food and other resources for lower income families and others in need. We could use that money to help implementing various drug and violence programs that would help reduce crime in our city. We could use that money to help educate our community on diversity and make Fresno a better place to live for people of all races, religions, colors, genders, etc. There are so many ways we can allocate the money that currently goes to the police department, that COULD ACTUALLY benefit Fresno and it's people as a whole. We can either strive to be leaders in a better future where everyone is equal or we can remain where we are and do the bare minimum. The choice is yours and we, the people of Fresno, hope and expect our leaders to do the right thing.

David Paredes

Location: 93706
Submitted At: 2:11am 06-09-20

Across this country and in our town, our communities have fallen into a cycle of over-policing which has led to the over-criminalization of our hood. Growing up in West Fresno, I have seen up close and personal the effects a heavy police presence has on our community. If we defunded the police department and addressed the systemic issues that an oppressive institution has on me and my neighbors, then we will begin to see resilient neighborhoods without the need for crime. Poverty is violence. And the fact that the police department's hot spot for business is in my community is disheartening.

There is no need for reforms. Reforms means more money to the police department. We need to take the lead of black activists and people who have had to deal with a heavy police presence in our communities. Our need for the police department with millions of our tax payers' money is no more. Let's transfer responsibilities of the police to experts who are not just aggressive people with guns. Let's make a difference and do something amazing in front of the world during these unprecedented times.

Finally, please help us get rid of the police from our school campuses. There is no reason to police children. I never felt safe with police on campus. Let's switch up the culture at school and advance programs like wellness centers where our youth will feel safe and heard. This will boost morale and lead to less violent incidents.

Kevin Hanjiev

Location:
Submitted At: 1:54am 06-09-20

The City of Fresno has spent more than \$5.3 million in defending and settling lawsuits related to officer-involved shootings from 2008 to 2016. Why is it that the city can spend millions of dollars defending and settling officer-involved shootings, but can't use those resources to start healing a hurt community? Change needs to take place, and a reallocation of those funds must be aimed toward building up our community instead of over-policing it.

Clelia Kennedy

Location:
Submitted At: 12:57am 06-09-20

Fresno is a great place, but it could be even better. One way to achieve this goal would be to cut the massive

budget of FPD and redirect it into channels that give back to the community. A very important one would be more funds to education. The police department should not cost over half of the budget, while general maintenance of public places and facilities are left to rot. Furthermore, homelessness continues to rise within the county, and it is certainly not helped by over-policing the homeless. Additionally, Fresno has a doctor shortage, both primary care and specialists, including nurses and dentists. Overall, Fresno would greatly benefit from more funds being directed towards supporting the community - not policing it. Thank you, and I hope you will consider your constituents and residents concerns.

Sara Snider

Location:

Submitted At: 12:51am 06-09-20

Over 50% of Fresno's general budget went to the police department last year. That is unacceptable. Fresno's budget should reflect the wants of the people who live and take part in the community. The city and its people would be better served if the money was reallocated to programs that helped build the community and addressed the problems within. I believe that the majority of funds given to the FPD should be used for public education and other social programs that focus on community needs instead.

abel omari

Location:

Submitted At: 11:39pm 06-08-20

the police department should be defunded; frankly, it should be disbanded. everyone on the city council is FIENDING for the police union endorsement and their money. prioritize the community for ONCE and actually work to solve the issues that we are facing as a city which can't be solved by the police. especially luis chavez who was working for mr stop and frisk bloomberg's failed presidential campaign, has taken thousands from the FPOA, been endorsed by them, and his relation to mims, he better work to solve the issues our community is facing or he fasho isn't getting re-elected next cycle.

Laura Flores-Newberry

Location:

Submitted At: 11:26pm 06-08-20

Good Morning,

I am commenting to voice my opposition to allowing the majority of the cities budget to be allocated to the police force in the City of Fresno. I believe those resources would be better served in programs & organizations that improve the betterment of those in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. We have asked to much of the police. We have asked them to play to many roles they were never meant to. They are over extended and we, the people, are over policed. Instead of reacting to issues in the community we should be creating programs, as well as reinvesting in current programs that are working, with the help of Black and people of color community leaders to prevent issues in a positive way as a opposed to criminalizing our neighbors.

Clearly our current system is not working to protect and serve all community members. Our police force is overly militarized without actually creating safer communities for all. We do not feel safe. It's time to change tactics and invest in our teachers, schools, programs, homeless, medical and the celebration of the many differences Fresno has to offer in partnership with our Black and people of color leadership. We can & must do better. The first step is allocating money & resources to where will they will do the most good. That currently is not the police department. It is also not repeating previously approved budgets with slight adjustments. Thank you for your time.

Grace Gray

Location:

Submitted At: 11:22pm 06-08-20

For too long Fresno has neglected, disregarded and not cared to address the root causes of income inequalities, crime, violence and poverty. We must address the roots of these problems, not trying to trim back weeds with racist, violent, militarized force. Cops are not equipped to deal with these issues and we all know why Fresno doesn't want community led protection, aid, deescalation, resources and opportunities to take the place of the cops. To do so would be to loosen the grip on white supremacy and control in this city. We must change and we must do what is right for each and every one of us here in Fresno. Defund the police, pass programs like Advance

Peace which was vetoed by mayor. We are only as strong as the weakest among us and Fresno has a responsibility to uplift those people.

The police is payed for by the people, the police works for us, we collectively sign their paychecks, and the people of Fresno demand the defunding of the police and for the community to decide how and what will replace it!

Drake Dimaculangan

Location: 93725, Fresno

Submitted At: 11:21pm 06-08-20

Now more than ever is the time to re-examine the unnecessarily large budget for the Fresno Police Department. With more than 50% of the general fund being allocated to this department, you'd expect better responses to the growing number of inmates with Covid. You'd expect unarmed teenagers like Isiah Murrietta-Golding wouldn't be unjustly killed by cops. Instead, shot spotter technology and excessive amounts of police are sent to lower income (specifically colored) communities. Now more than ever, with former police chiefs holding positions in local office, is the time to insure accountability in our police force. We have brought up too many policies this past year that criminalize colored and homeless communities to be brought into the discussion, when really it should be time we take the first step in investing in these communities by defunding the police.

Allison Stoothoff

Location:

Submitted At: 11:17pm 06-08-20

Last year, the Fresno PD budget was \$160,000,000, over 50% of the Fresno general fund. This means Fresno PD cost taxpayers more than was spent on public streets, facilities, park maintenance, and human services combined. Fresno's projected 2020-21 budget appears to be heading in an extraordinarily similar direction.

While we've been spending astonishing amounts of money on policing, we have not seen improvements to safety, homelessness, mental health, or affordability in our city. Instead, I see the wasteful and harmful actions of our police.

I join the calls of those across the country to defund the police. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk Fresno residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I call on you to slash the Fresno PD budget and instead meaningfully reallocate funds towards social programs and resources that support housing, jobs, education, health care, child care, and other critical community needs. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowers the police forces that tear them apart.

Heather Norum

Location: 93711, Fresno

Submitted At: 11:15pm 06-08-20

Police have too much power and little accountability. This is true across the country, and Fresno is no exception. This city is over-policed and under-served. Fresno Police Department's budget should be cut and the funds should be allocated to areas that actually benefit the community - such as public education, housing and mental health services.

Israel Hernandez

Location:

Submitted At: 10:58pm 06-08-20

I love Fresno. I wish to make this my home for many years and to live out a peaceful and productive existence as a part of this community. I believe that the city should reform the police department, by restructuring funding, and using those assets to re-invest in our communities.

Camden, New Jersey was able to strengthen the connection between the police and the community and cut its murder rate by 50% in two years.

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2020/06/08/guardians-not-warriors-how-crime-fell-when-new-jersey-city-dismantled-police-dept/>

Fresno is a great city with a handshake mentality. I believe in Fresno. Let's come together to rebuild a great city into a greater city! Let's make true our president's call to action. Let's Make America Great Again, by defunding

the police.

Invest in training and educating our officers, educating our youth, caring for our sick and elderly, and getting our mentally ill off of the streets. The money is there, please I urge you to use some of it on the citizens of this community. I believe in the City of Fresno. Will this city show me, that it too believes in me?

Thank you,
Israel Hernandez

Mateo Lopez

Location: 93727, Fresno
Submitted At: 10:54pm 06-08-20

There is simply no reason for Fresno PD to be receiving as much money as it does currently, especially when so many other services such as education, healthcare, housing, and parks and recreation have become increasingly strangled of money as of late. If we were to spend all the money wasted on police and instead invest that into our other neglected services, we'd see a large improvement in quality of life, while also answering the problems of drug addiction, homelessness, and crime, without needing power tripping police officers to decide they're judge, jury, and executioner, all while not getting punished for actions.

Caroline Fanelli

Location: Fresno
Submitted At: 10:25pm 06-08-20

Simply put, the FPD doesn't need or even deserves the amount of funding that it regularly receives. The broken policy in body cameras and lack of transparency within the Fresno Police Department's system of training makes it harder to understand why the FPD would be so deserving of funds. The structure of policy and funding serves police officers more than the citizens who pay for such large funding. The ACLU has reported in 2017, that Fresno has spent more than 5.3 million dollars in defending and settling lawsuits related to officer-involved shootings from 2008 through 2016. However, Advance Peace, a program dedicated to ending cyclical and retaliatory gun violence in American Urban neighborhoods, would've only taken 200,000 dollars but it was vetoed by our mayor. Beyond shifting the funding towards better avenues that would serve people of color, such as education, social work and many other ideas that other people in the comments have listed already, the FPD needs to use the funding they do receive towards restructuring training and policy to serve the best interest of oppressed people, not the police officers. The FPD needs to invite non-white and/or youth leaders and activists within their training to reestablish trust. The FPD website also needs to make it clearer the training that takes place; I can't even find the apparent POST links to understand the communication training officers must undertake.

Yasmine Ali

Location:
Submitted At: 10:24pm 06-08-20

Our community is suffering because our funding isn't being distributed properly. Fresno would benefit more by investing into schools, public transportation, businesses, and rehabilitation centers. We should aim to make our city more clean and productive. As well as utilize the excessive funding of the police department by training them to effectively deescalate confrontations with communication rather than force and remove racial discrimination.

Christina Vang

Location:
Submitted At: 10:21pm 06-08-20

With all the peaceful protest happening and the police attacking those protestors who are clearing peacefulling protesting, I agree that it is needed to defund FPD. Instead, I believe that the funds should be allocated to schools near the poor areas, used to help the homeless community, and funded towards healthcare.

Michael Kreins

Location:
Submitted At: 10:11pm 06-08-20

According to an ACLU report published in 2017, the city of Fresno spent more than \$5.3 million defending and settling lawsuits related to officer-involved shootings from 2008 through 2016. In 2020, the city of Fresno had a budget of approximately \$1.187 billion, which I'm sure you're well aware of. Last year this council authorized

\$200,000 to fund Advance Peace, a program dedicated to ending cyclical and retaliatory gun violence in American urban neighborhoods. However, this proposal was vetoed by Mayor Brand, and our incoming Mayor (Dyer) described the program as "providing money to gang members" — despite the fact that early research points towards its success in preventing gun violence. After last Sunday's demonstration, city leaders said that they were willing to work with us. We are tired of millions and millions of dollars needlessly going to police brutality in our city. How is it that we have areas of extreme wealth while other parts of our community have the highest concentrations of poverty in California. Think about it. A \$1.187 billion budget and we couldn't fund a studied \$200K program. It's time to invest in our communities, and that doesn't just mean North Fresno. I urge you to listen to your community. It's hurting, and it wants change.

Martin Newberry

Location:

Submitted At: 10:09pm 06-08-20

I realize that there is a National Movement to defund the police. We have already seen Minneapolis move away from their police force, what that will look like we do not know. What we do know is that the current status quo is no longer acceptable. We have seen in Eugene OR having Mental Health First Responders respond to 911 calls has taken a burden off the local police and reduce violence. Our officers are not properly trained to deal with someone having a mental health crisis. Before you vote to carry over the budget from last year ask yourself can Fresno afford to keep the status quo. Fresno lead the state in Domestic Violence just a few years ago, keeping the budget at the same or a higher level will not help stop Domestic Violence. But if we added some of that budget to support the community, we could prevent future issues that the police will have to answer the call. lets fund after school programs, Domestic Violence support, and mental health services. Thank you for your time and I hope you take the time needed to properly look into the benefits of these services to our community and how it will benefit the City of Fresno a Great American City.

Chris Martinez

Location: 93722, Fresno

Submitted At: 10:06pm 06-08-20

As a city, we need to take a hard look at the rest of the US.

Our nation is finally waking up to a significant problem: police departments around the country are given too much power with no accountability.

Fresno is not perfect in this regard, either.

Police misconduct is costing us taxpayers millions - yes, MILLIONS - a year. Last year's 4M case was 2x the budget for "legal claims"!

I recommend that the police department's budget be significantly reduced to reflect the following:

The department needs to figure out how to allocate its own funds better rather than attempting to increase it.

The department should train their officers better and implement more strict rules to prevent needing an enormous budget for handling legal issues due to their own misconduct.

Instead of blowing up the department's budget, make their job easier: invest in social/community programs that have been proven to reduce crime and improve the community itself.

Abigail Arredondo

Location: 93675, Squaw Valley

Submitted At: 9:58pm 06-08-20

Please use these funds to better our schools and small businesses as well as mental health resources. Or consider proper educational training that helps to better the police officers involvement in difficult situations.

Gurjeenjot Gill

Location:

Submitted At: 9:56pm 06-08-20

Simply put, our police does not need so much of our budget. The city of Fresno can put this money to use in other things that will actually benefit the city itself and its citizens. One thing I love about Fresno is that we have access to so many places in California because we're in the middle of the state! We're also the stop for many people who travel in California. If we use this money on bettering the city, we can attract more people and bring in more citizens/money. Instead of using this money on the police, we can better our education for our children, we can help people in need, we can end homelessness. There is so much good Fresno can do with its budget; our police doesn't need more money, the people do!

Marcella Tea

Location: 93702, Fresno
Submitted At: 9:55pm 06-08-20

More than 50% of Fresno's expenditures go towards police. I believe the police needs to be defunded and divested back into the community. Reforms such as de-escalation tactics, implicit bias training, etc. will not work as increased training will only fund more to the police department (Minneapolis Police Department has already held a model of progressive police reform, but George Floyd was still murdered). In order to end police violence and cultivate a safer community, we need to reduce the power of the police and their contact with the public. Most crimes occur due to a lack of basic needs and resources. We need to reinvest the funds back into our communities towards counseling, education, and housing, prioritizing West Fresno.

C Vill

Location:
Submitted At: 9:51pm 06-08-20

Please consider utilizing the police budget to properly train officers on how to engage with the public, especially people with mental illness & POC. 5.3million has been used in the past years to settle officer involved shootings. I believe if officers were trained as well as health care workers you might spend less money defending their actions because they have not been properly educated.

Anastacia Wiggins

Location:
Submitted At: 9:48pm 06-08-20

FPD needs to be defunded, far too much is spent on our police force when it could be going towards much more useful causes such as helping fund schools, mental health programs, ending homelessness and bettering our community overall.

Laurel Ciummo

Location:
Submitted At: 9:41pm 06-08-20

As a life-long Fresno resident, mother and teacher I believe that this city is doing a disservice to all of its residents by allocating so much money to the police department. The fact that my tax dollars are going to lawsuits related to police brutality And a racially biased institution, instead of going to programs that help our community is frustrating to say the least. Instead of spending nearly 50% of our general fund on police we should consider reallocating those funds into helping our population of homeless, social programs for youth, social workers, parks and other valuable services that would greatly impact this city in a positive way. Please consider the best way to help your city and its population. Thank you!

Robyn Martinez

Location: 93722, Fresno
Submitted At: 9:33pm 06-08-20

I definitely think the schools would be a better place to put these funds. We need to re-evaluate where our money is going. If we had the funds to educate our children and maybe fund their health care options, counseling, and social services instead of unnecessary things like military grade gear for cops our community would be better off. Give educators the funding instead!

Ashley Banuelos

Location:
Submitted At: 9:26pm 06-08-20

The police departments budget should include less funding for militarization and more towards training, particularly in diversity training, de escalation tactics, and use of force as a last resort. There is too much of the city's funding going towards policing the city and not enough towards community programs and education.

Ashley Norton

Location:

Submitted At: 9:23pm 06-08-20

My fear in Fresno electing Chief Dyer as our mayor was that the budget for community programs--including education, mental health services, and youth programs--would be decimated in support of more money to our police departments. The City of Fresno does not need more of its budget to go toward our police department. The real crime prevention takes place in these underfunded community programs. It's time to stop relying on financially-strapped nonprofits to do what our taxes should have been paying for this entire time.

Marco Ramirez

Location:

Submitted At: 9:22pm 06-08-20

As an aspiring police officer I would recommend that a portion of this funding would go towards teaching officers the basics of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. BJJ teaches methods to control a suspect and restrain them in various positions, rather than striking them, which reduces the risk of injury to the suspect as well as to the officer. BJJ is more effective, can be taught to anyone, and looks better on camera to the public and media. Thank you for listening.

Ashlee Ochoa

Location: 93711, Fresno

Submitted At: 8:46pm 06-08-20

With the recent events in the United States, it has come to the public's attention that the Fresno Police Department outspends some of the largest police departments in the nation. In light of this fact, coupled with the detrimental economic effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is in the best interest of the residents of Fresno for some of this extraneous funding to be used for the greater good of the community. As a public school teacher for the last 7 years, I propose that more funds be used towards education. It is abundantly clear that schools are an invaluable resource. Even when closed for distance learning, they still provide meals, mental health services, and human connection to the children of our community. Our schools are in crisis, as we faced even deeper cuts to already sparse funding. Let us invest in the future. In the words of the great revolutionary, Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

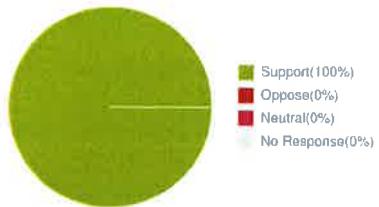
Vancent Edwards

Location: 93726, Fresno

Submitted At: 1:42pm 06-08-20

Fresno is beautiful, I lived here for 25 years and now I have a son that I want to raise in fresno also. Why does the City Council and the Mayor provide Fresno PD with half of the budget and pay so much in settlements, but can't fund programs that'll help our communities in Fresno ? I understand we need protection, but what's been going on in the world lately I believe we should put that money towards schools, more businesses, parks and etc. Our youth is our future. No future without youth. If we build our city up and open more opportunities in our city then more people will come to Fresno. More people mean more money!! We need homes, apartments, restaurants, art, buildings restored and parks. Invest in us and we will invest back.

Overall Sentiment



Robyn Martinez

Location: 93722

Submitted At: 9:52pm 06-08-20

Community pools! It gets so hot and not every kid has access to swimming. It's good exercise and could be great for the families.