

## **Bernard Canez**

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**From:** Andy Levine <andy@faithinthevalley.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 8:12 AM  
**To:** Andy Levine  
**Cc:** Marcel Woodruff; Aaron Foster  
**Subject:** Support letter for Advance Peace  
**Attachments:** Advance Peace support letter.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City Councilmembers and Mayor Brand:

On behalf of the signatories included, I am attaching here a support letter from Fresno faith leaders and other community leaders for the full budget motion of \$300,000 in support of Advance Peace Fresno. Thank you for your consideration and for what you all do.

Peace,  
Andy

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Presley Fletcher <pressfletch42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 2:27 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Whomever it May Concern,

My name is Presley Fletcher and I've lived in Fresno my entire life. As a Fresno citizen I'd like to exercise my right to ask council members to please consider the Advance Peace program and matching the donations given. It is time we end gun violence in our city and begin putting our funds into areas needing assistance. Our police funding budget is incredibly high and I believe we can better allocate our funds. Benefiting the entire city as a whole, including low and poverty stricken income areas, will create a better Fresno. Please support and match funds towards the Advance Peace program.

Sincerely, Presley Fletcher

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Marcella Tea <mgtea@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

My name is Marcella Tea and I urge Fresno City Council members to allocate at least \$300,000 to Advance Peace program. Gun homicides are disproportionately concentrated in impoverished and underserved communities of color and it needs to stop as it harms the lives and wallets of the county's taxpayers - costing taxpayers \$2.4 million per gun homicide! The \$300,000 allocated to Advance Peace in Fresno is a step towards alternatives to policing and implements preventative measures as it directly invests in the community's health and safety. Much of the community is on board with what Advance Peace stands for, but now we need the entire council to be held accountable and do their part for the community. Thank you.

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Frederick Hives II <frederick.hives@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 6:34 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good morning,

This message is to encourage the Fresno city council to fully fund Advance Peace in its upcoming vote. Advance Peace has a proven track record of reducing gun violence in major American cities and would help Fresno significantly reduce its costs related to gun violence. A new report from the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform showed each gun related homicide costs Fresno residents \$2.4 million, while each gun related injury costs \$864k. These costs are reversible and much needed for other services, and it is in the city council's hands to make the change. Please fully fund this program to make Fresno a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Frederick Hives II, PsyD  
Neuropsychologist  
Kaiser Permanente Fresno

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Jessica Mast-Foss <jessica.mast-foss@intervarsity.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 8:34 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

**External Email: Use caution with links and attachments**

Mayor Brand and City Council,

I urge you to allocate \$300,000 to Advance Peace, a program proven to reduce gun violence by proactively investing in the health and wellbeing of those who need it the most.

Please 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.

*Shalom,  
Jessica Mast-Foss*

InterVarsity  
Christian Fellowship  
Pink House Co-Director  
[learn](#) | [pray](#) | [give](#)

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Kazlsayso <nkdelacruzromero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 9:19 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City council 6/22/20- Advance Peace

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Please lend your support to this program as it will reduce gun violence in the city of Fresno and save millions of taxpayer dollars as well.

Thank you.

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Karen Urrutia <kurrmick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:06 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Hello Fresno City Councilmembers,

The country is calling for dramatic change in policing and financial support of historically underserved communities.

I am writing to express support for a reduction in the budget allotted for the Fresno Police Department. I request that those funds be redistributed to underfunded schools and social programs. I request specifically that the council vote in favor of allocating funds to bring Advance Peace to Fresno. This program will work to advance the health and wellbeing of communities that need it most.

Warm regards,  
Karen Polnitz

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Miranda Weldon <mlweldon@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:17 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good morning Fresno City Council,

I am writing in support of the City of Fresno funding Advance Peace to the amount of \$300,000. I believe this program would be instrumental to the reduction of gun violence in our area, which has also launched similar programs in Richmond, Stockton, and Sacramento with measurable success.

Thank you,  
Miranda



## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Katerina Friesen <katerina.m.friesen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:24 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** June 22 Meeting - Support of Advance Peace: FY 21 Budget Motion # 11

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council members and Mayor Brand,

I work with people in prison as part of a rehabilitation program, and can say that the system is not working in terms of bringing lasting change and healing to people inside prison or to our communities. People incarcerated (mostly people of color) are separated from their families and communities, denied the opportunity to make amends, are often introduced to gangs in prisons, and for the most part, are not given opportunities to heal. I believe that Advance Peace offers the kind of preventative change that is necessary to keep people out of prison.

I write today to strongly urge you to unanimously pass Councilmember Esparza's budget motion of \$300,000 for Advance Peace Fresno. During this past Monday's budget workshop for Fresno Police Department, you heard dozens of public comments unanimously urging you and us to use this moment to truly reimagine how we define and invest in public safety, away from one that pours \$200 million ever year in our city into policing and instead invests some of those limited resources into proactive, proven programs that provide true safety, health and healing for all of us. Because, regardless of our positioning, one thing we should all be able to agree on is that the current structure is absolutely not providing full safety and protection for everyone.

While a \$300,000 investment per year for Advance Peace is absolutely not the only step needed to reimaging public safety in our city, it is a critical, long overdue step. A soon-to-be-released study commissioned for Fresno on the financial cost of violence to taxpayers, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform found that each homicide shooting here costs roughly \$2.4 million and injury shootings are almost \$900,000 each. This program will save lives and free up resources for other critically-needed investments.

I am grateful that Fresno EOC has agreed to house Advance Peace Fresno, so that it is locally staffed and driven. They are dedicating their own time and resources to make this program finally happen, and other private philanthropic partners are making commitments too. Now is the time for the City of Fresno to allocate 0.00025% of its budget to contribute to and get the launch of this program across the finish line.

Respectfully,  
Katerina Friesen

*Mennonite Pastor  
In-Prison Program Manager, Insight Garden Program*

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Lauren Carter <craftycarter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 12:11 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20-Advance Peace

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hi, I am a resident of Fresno and I would like to support the funding of Advance Peace. There are no excuses for a program like this to be vetoed or shot down when the city has done nothing else to help reduce gun violence. There needs to be change and it starts with this program.

Have a nice day.

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Erik Mast-Foss <e.foss87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 6:53 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20, Advance Peace

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Hello Fresno City Council members,  
I'm Erik Mast-Foss a local clergy worker who lives and serves in District 3, specifically in the Lowell neighborhood.

Here on the ground we know the power that community-led violence reduction programs have to interrupt the cycle of social harm. We also see on a daily basis the way in which that social harm and mistrust is accelerated by the over-policing and under-serving of Fresno's neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.

Advance Peace is a huge step in the ethical, just, and effective direction for Fresno. We don't just want, we pray and demand a community-based solution to violent crime. Our demand is for a solution that does not further empower the traditional "police occupaton" of our poor neighborhoods. A strategy that historically has lead Fresno to lose millions of dollars yearly (funds that could easy pay for advance peace every year) to payouts and settlements from the endemic misconduct and violence that results from treating a struggling neighborhood like an occupied warzone!

If you care about making Fresno TRULY one united Fresno, Advance peace will be a step of good-faith that will help our communities feel like you are putting action behind the symbolism of painting "Black Lives Matter" in front of City Hall, one way to show us this wasn't just a PR stunt to get the heat off would be to FUND ADVANCE PEACE!

thank you,

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** gwyneth quitorio <gquitorio123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 8:06 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good morning,

I am emailing to support Advance Peace. It is imperative that we take care of our community in the best way possible. In order to do that, we must invest in the health and wellbeing of our residents, especially those affected by gun violence. I implore you to allocate our General Fund dollars to help support Advance Peace, which is committing to doing exactly this.

Thank you,  
Gwyneth Qutorio

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** Karl Gurney <karl@csufnewman.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 8:56 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council 6/22/20 - Advance Peace

**External Email: Use caution with links and attachments**

Hello City Council, and District 4 Councilmember Caprioglio,

For Comment at the City Council Meeting 6/22/20

I am writing on behalf of the St. Paul Catholic Newman Center and the faith community which supports the college students and young adult professionals in our city. It is my hope that the work we do to encourage the intellectual and spiritual formation of these bright young people can be matched by an equally serious consideration of the many limitations that underprivileged groups meet as they navigate their academic careers.

Along the many faith organizations that work so hard on behalf of peace in this city, the Newman Center wishes to see a more just and equitable future for our young people of color especially. We are blessed by many rich cultures whose contributions make this city unique. Specifically, we hope to see more of the city's budget devoted to mental health care services, social services, education, alternative education programs, and job training programs. Each of these service areas can affect our young people in critical ways. This should work in tandem with a significant reduction in the Police Department's annual operating budget. It is time that our collective duties as peacekeepers do not fall solely on our law enforcement officers.

With respect,

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**Karl A. Gurney, M.A.** | Pastoral Associate  
St. Paul Catholic Newman Center  
mobile: (916) 521-0458  
email: [karl@csufnewman.com](mailto:karl@csufnewman.com)

## Cindy Bruer

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**From:** Kassandre Clayton <kc084@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** Advance Peace-2021 Budget

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Fresno Council approve funding for Advance Peace. Advance Peace's community intervention model is consistent with addressing the Risk-Needs-Responsivity of the formerly incarcerated, specifically, reducing the risk for violent, firearm recidivism. Advance Peace identifies the greatest risks for offender recidivism: social isolation, significant social influences (negative), and underserved health and/or wrap-around-services that attend to specific treatment for this high-risk population.

There are anticipated gaps in services for individuals exiting both CDCR, and county jails due to COVID-19. Since March 2020, Inmates within CDCR do not receive any programming except, Medical, GED Education, and limited religious services due to the pandemic. Additionally, Inmates within 180 days of their Earliest Possible Release Date, will receive early, community supervision release. A program such as Advance Peace will fill a much-needed safety net to support this population's successful re-integration into the community, and possibly save a life.

I don't understand why some Council Members are resistant to participants receiving a monthly stipend for \$1,000? This amount breaks down to \$12.50 an hour working part-time at 20 hours weekly. Yet, the Fresno Police Officer's Association and Department Pension Spikes Overtime and Worker's Compensation up to near \$15 million dollars? This is immoral. Financial incentives are one intervention method to support a person, community throughout their Stages-of-Change. The non-material benefits (safety, mentorship, leadership, employment, health and well-being), will outweigh the financial costs.

Thank you for your "Yes" vote for funding Advance Peace for the FY 20201 budget.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Cindy Bruer**

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**From:** STEPHEN SACKS <johnsonsacks@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 12:56 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** Budget Meeting

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Advance Peace

I'm in support of allocating \$300,000 for the Advance Peace program. This is a good investment in our community in many ways. It has been shown to significantly reduce violence where it has been used. A big problem with gang violence I heard Mayor Elect Dyer state is the lack of jobs for gang members. This program deals with that. Also, many violent youth need positive mentors which this program also deals with.

As a city, we want to stop violence before it happens and this program has been shown to do just that making Fresno a better, safer city.

Stephen Sacks



June 19, 2020

Dear Fresno City Councilmembers and Mayor Brand,

Last year, our city missed an important opportunity to launch Advance Peace and invest in a proven model for saving lives and creating new opportunities. We write today in firm belief and conviction that we cannot afford to let that opportunity pass us by again. We write today to strongly urge you to unanimously pass Councilmember Esparza's budget motion of \$300,000 for Advance Peace Fresno.

As you by now all know, an independent study of Advance Peace in Richmond, CA – where the program originated – found a 55% reduction in gun violence. The program has begun seeing similar results and progress in cities that have more recently adopted the model, including Sacramento and Stockton. Unfortunately, our gun violence numbers are trending in the opposite direction, with shootings up significantly compared to this time last year. We must act and we must act now.

During this past Monday's budget workshop for Fresno Police Department, you heard dozens of public comments unanimously urging you and us to use this moment to truly reimagine how we define and invest in public safety, away from one that pours \$200 million every year in our city into policing and instead invests some of those limited resources into proactive, proven programs that provide true safety, health and healing for all of us. Because, regardless of our positioning, one thing we should all be able to agree on is that the current structure is absolutely not providing full safety and protection for everyone.

While a \$300,000 investment per year for Advance Peace is absolutely not the only step needed to reimaging public safety in our city, it is a critical, long overdue step. A soon-to-be-released study commissioned for Fresno on the financial cost of violence to taxpayers, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform found that each homicide shooting here costs roughly \$2.4 million and injury shootings are almost \$900,000 each. This program will save lives and free up resources for other critically-needed investments.

We are enormously grateful that Fresno EOC has agreed to house Advance Peace Fresno, so that it is locally staffed and driven. They are dedicating their own time and resources to make this program finally happen, and other private philanthropic partners are making commitments too. Now is the time for the City of Fresno to allocate 0.00025% of its budget to contribute to and get the launch of this program across the finish line.

In Community,

Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan, D.D., Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno  
Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin  
Rev. Bob Willis, Sr. Pastor, Northpark Community Church  
Rev. Audrey N. Hindes, Pastor, Willow Avenue Mennonite Church  
Rev. Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Wesley United Methodist Church  
Rev. DJ Criner, St. Rest Baptist Church  
Rev. Dustin Maddox, University Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Bryson White, Faith in the Valley  
John Richardson, Lead Pastor, Prodigal Church