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CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Late Submission Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID#19-1905

**Contents Late Submission re: Letter From Fresno Barrios Unidos
Item(s)**

City of Fresno 2020 Proposed Budget

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

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FRESNO BARRIOS UNIDOS

Advocacy • Education • Wellness

June 13, 2019

Fresno City Council Members
2600 Fresno Street
Room 2097
Fresno, CA 93271

RE: City of Fresno 2020 Proposed Budget

Dear Fresno City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Fresno Barrios Unidos and the undersigned organizations, we express our deep concern for the 2020 proposed budget for the City of Fresno. We ask for a re-examination of budget priorities to drive investments into the well-being of all community members through the **reallocation of funding towards a community based public health framework centered on equity and acknowledgment of social determinants of health.**

As stated in Mayor Brand's Transmittal Letter, the city's budget is a tool to build on four key initiatives: "economic prosperity, quality of life, public safety and unifying the community". The current budget demonstrates the city's priority: Policing. Police occupy the largest portion of city dollars. If approved, the Fresno police department will have a total budget of \$201,764,000. Police will receive 53% of the city's general fund amounting to \$184,783,400. Overall, 89% of FPD's budget relies on general funds.

Under this current model, public safety through policing dominates as the leading intervention to address health outcomes such as addiction, homelessness, mortality rates, trauma and blight in Fresno. To build a healthy and just Fresno, the city budget needs to shift away from public safety interventions to include and prioritize a public health framework. We believe no more than 50% of our general funds should be spent on policing.

We ask for a reallocation of 3% of the general fund to support efforts that address social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the economic and social conditions that lead to health inequities. These are circumstances that can be improved with evidence-based interventions by cities. We envision a Fresno that integrates a health-promoting platform such as prioritizing stable housing, anti-displacement policies, equitable economic development, complete neighborhoods, addressing climate change, supporting immigrant health and well-being, and eliminating the historic legacy of discrimination in Fresno. In Fresno, the city can integrate documents and plans that list the many needs of the community.

To fully address the “quality of life and unifying the community” initiatives, we ask for a funded participatory budget process in 2020 that values, seeks, and integrates community input. A true participatory community budget process is needed to achieve this shift to center equitable community reinvestment. It is imperative that community members are engaged and given access to inform the city budget to address what affects their wellbeing.

We dream of a Fresno that centers community based decisions and prioritizes health interventions through a public health framework. Please take our concerns and recommendations into consideration.

Sincerely,

Fresno Barrios Unidos
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)
Faith in the Valley
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR)
Radio Bilingüe, Inc.
Youth Organize California Network
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Food Commons Fresno
The People’s Dispensary Fresno
Olive Leaf Family Therapy
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Cc: City Council President Paul Caprioglio, District 4
City Council Vice President Miguel Arias, District 3
City Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, District 1
City Councilmember Luis Chavez, District 5
City Councilmember Garry Bredefeld, District 6
City Councilmember Nelson Esparza, District 7

