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Agenda Date: 10/13/2020
Council Meeting

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

ITEM(S)

File ID 20-001279 – Police Department

Contents of Supplement: Community Emails Received

Item(s)

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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The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

Bernard Canez

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Updated public comment

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I state this after listening to the hearing. I want to state that for something as important as the police budget, the public should have more than one minute. It should have stayed set in the afternoon, so that the item would in no way be rushed on the public's end.

I have heard much from the community regarding police reform. It's been expressed repeatedly that defunding doesn't mean taking all funding away but redirecting funding in line with these reforms. It's calling for the police to be focused on what should be their responsibility and identifying that. Where they are needed.

And we need a holistic response not only to address injustices but also more effectively address crimes.

I am concerned about the presentation on the agenda by the police department, especially that they would list calls for police defunding as reasons for an increase in crime. There are a lot of reasons Marissa has addressed some of those root causes. but I feel it is likely unquantifiable that this is a significant reason and dismissive of the voice of the community asking for reform. Reforms that will benefit the community and the officers.

I appreciate in other areas there have been efforts to address these concerns and and take action, **but an honest response to these calls for defunding need to be acknowledged.**

Last month I had concerns about Hall's statement following the Breonna Taylor grand jury statement because in his post, he failed to acknowledge reason why people have negative feelings and distrust of the police department.

Their focus has been on who is supporting them, rather making a significant public recognition of a hurting community that is bringing up injustice issues.

It would help the police department officers as well to address these concerns in order to gain trust.

Hall mentioned they could do better with the homeless and other issues. but we've been asking for those changes for years and it feels like it falls on deaf ears. There are a lot of injustices people have vocalized not addressed here.

Also I take issue with the action of the police department to take credit for the protests as an accomplishment of the police department. Hall did recognize the community but they are the ones who deserve recognition. Their community leaders have chosen to function as they have for their own reasons and people have chosen to go this route and while I know that the large group has chosen to work with the police department, with the goal to demand real reforms and to actually be heard, whatever credit belongs there belong to them. This is a slap in the face.

I hope that you take seriously the voice of the community and the findings of the commission on police reform. If the concerns of a hurting community aren't adequately addressed, it will be more of the same.

I had hoped to express these things in front of Hall. In no way will we stop seeking for the voices of the community to be heard.

Bernard Canez

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment: Police Budget

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Dear council,

I have heard much from the community regarding police reform. I have listened to those in the homeless community, those voicing why they are protesting, those who have experienced injustice because of the police department, and sat through the police commission meetings. There is a need for reforms that are laid out after careful exploration and analysis by the commission on police reform.

I am concerned about the presentation on the agenda by the police department, especially that they would list calls for police defunding as reasons for an increase in crime. There are a lot of reasons, the insecurity of COVID-19 and being at home being an unfortunate possible reason, but I feel it is dismissive and likely unquantifiable that this is a significant reason. Likewise, I hope that your decisions today show that you take seriously the voice of the community and the findings of the commission on police reform.

Yvonne Spence

From: Chelsea McMillen <chelseamcmillen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:12 PM
To: Lee Brand
Cc: Esmeralda Soria; Mike Karbassi; Miguel Arias; paul.capriogolio@fresno.gov; Luis Chavez; Garry Bredefeld; Nelson Esparza; Wilma Quan; Yvonne Spence
Subject: Fresno concerns

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello,

I want to know what we as a city plan to do about the many senseless shootings we have here in Fresno that are continuing to rise rapidly as you watch the daily news. What about the gun fights going on in our cities streets where 50 plus gun shots are throw where kids play. What about kids taking weapons to school and endangering other students. How about the families that fall victim to others breaking in and taking all of their belongings. We can't live in a world without police when our citizens can't respect the laws with the current policing policies. Everything in Fresno from this time last year has gone way up in the world of crime. We let 1000+ people In the jail system out just to see them return and be released for 0 bail again. Shootings, stabbings, Dangerous driving, domestic violence dui ect. You name it it's up. If you scroll the news app all you see is shooting, armed robbery, death and more violence. We need to be honest with ourselves and look at the crime we have going on in Fresno. Those lives will not come back. They are gone. Fresno can't tolerate this behavior. The police need to be able to do their jobs. I see and hear many of the members saying cut the police budget or the fact we don't need them as much as we need the money over here. We have people who are shooting at police cars because they feel like it's ok to "cancel" something they don't like. When will we stand up for the people who keep us all safe. The ones who risk their lives even though they have so little support from our leaders. I just want to end with when we as adults expect our children to respect adults or teachers in the classrooms or the property of people how do we allow adults in our own city to not do the same. Many of the adults have no respect for authority or laws at all. Our jail system is full. We have crimes being committed all over Fresno every day which is making it unsafe for us all. The officers sign up to help and instead have people cussing them out, screaming at them and becoming aggressive with these officers daily yet none of that is brought up ever. We always have something to say about the officers never about our citizens. Fresno needs help in all aspects not just the police officers. Let's hold all of Fresno accountable and make it better starting in our homes and communities.

A very concerned Fresno citizen.