

July 23, 2019

To:

Council President Paul Caprioglio, Council District 4
Council Vice President Miguel Arias, Council District 3
Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, Council District 1
Councilmember Luis Chaves, Council District 5
Councilmember Garry Bredefeld, Council District 6
Councilmember Nelson Esparza, Council District 7
Mayor Lee Brand
City Manager Wilma Quan

Dear Honorable Councilmembers, Mayor, and City Manager,

The Fresno Youth Commission was created by City Council to advise the City Council and Mayor on the effects of executive decisions affecting the youth of Fresno. The selection of a new police chief is of paramount importance to the youth of Fresno.

On Friday, July 12, 2019, the Fresno Youth Commission held a youth Town Hall at City Hall in order to provide a platform for youth to express their input in regards to selection of the City's new the police chief.. The Commission heard from youth throughout Fresno. The youth discussed the questions proposed on the City survey that was used at other community meetings throughout the city.

Some of the youth input that stood out at the Town Hall, and which the Fresno Youth Commission proposes and would like to see the next chief of police address, are written below:

Question 1: What are the Challenges in the city that you would like the new Police Chief to address?

- Police officers need to enforce policies more effectively
- Faster response times when residents make calls
- SRO's to understand students better
- Have SRO's provide more mentorship and healing circles with students
- Reduce racial profiling and discrimination in the community
- Create awareness amongst youth regarding consequences and how their actions affect their future.

Question 2: What issues facing the City should the new Police Chief be aware of and understand?

- Have an understanding of underage drinking issues in the City
- Lessen restrictions regarding dress code violations (such as wearing burgundy)
- Someone who values youth voice and is welcoming to youth
- Police Office to increase understanding of mental illnesses
- Have workshops to help assess and work with people who have mental illnesses
- Possession of drugs in schools and racial profiling
- More accountability on youth by educating on repercussions

Question 3: What qualities are most important to look for in the next Police Chief?

- Be interested in being involved in the community
- Be educated around the diverse groups that exist in the city of Fresno
- Understand and be aware of racial boundaries (geographic and social)
- Be a middle-aged person who has experience, but is open to trying new methods
- Someone who has experience having been low-income and grew up in a violent area and has dealt with violence issues first-hand.
- Builds quality relationships with youth such as having coffee and donuts with youth at youth-friendly spaces (Schools, Parks, Community Centers, etc...)

Question 4: Is there anything else the City Manager should consider when selecting the next Police Chief?

- Work and partner with youth groups and community based organizations to help identify needs
- Find someone who is open to speaking out against racism and racial profiling
- Find someone who is willing to confront corruption in the Fresno Police Department when it happens
- Find someone who is open-minded and is willing to try new things
- Find someone who has good judgement and is a servant-leader
- Find someone who identifies with the community

We have attached a few photos of the event as well as the surveys we collected. We ask that you keep the suggestions and comments made by youth at the town hall as the next chief of police is selected. We appreciate all that you do. Thank you!

Sincerely,
The City of Fresno Youth Commission