

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 12/07/2020 04:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S83

Comments for Public Posting: We need to defund the police and invest that money in real community safety solutions like mental health services, supportive housing, and more. There are so many jobs that police are not best suited to do, like traffic stops, mental health calls, etc. When police resources are used to assault and arrest peaceful protesters while anti-mask demonstrators who are truly putting our city at immediate risk are left alone, it's clear that police funding is not being used responsibly. Taxpayer dollars should instead be used for proven community safety solutions, and we can look to existing models as a starting point. Drawing on the expertise of leaders like Aqeela Sherrills, programs like Advance Peace and the Stockton Trauma Recovery Center, and trauma-informed school models like UCSF Hearts and TISLC in New Orleans, we can begin to develop our own community-based approaches to public safety. Earlier this year there was \$150 million cut from the LAPD budget, and that money was supposed to go back into Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. Where is that money now? Why has there been no transparency about how that money will be reallocated, and no opportunity for participatory budgeting to take into account the will of the people? We demand that this money is not reallocated behind closed doors, but transparently using a process that centers the voices of those most impacted.