

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I normally reach out with matters political and the national rhetoric has become dangerous and our police officers are being targeted for harm. The idea of "Defund the Police" is making its way through social media and is a constant theme in the recent marches. They have been so loud in fact, that they have swayed the City Council and the Mayor to potentially change the budget of the LAPD with a severe cut of \$150 million dollars. First of all, I believe that the George Floyd killing was murder. I was disturbed by it and so is everyone I know. It was distressing when I saw that video, When I saw the video I sensed that this was going to severely damage over 2 decades of work both within and outside of the Department. As to the demands of the protesters, the country does need to look at systemic racism and to police reform because not all police departments are created equal. If you read the bill that Democrats have introduced into Congress it is as if they took the LAPD manual pulled out the changes we have made in the last 25 years, and wrote the word, "BILL" on them. The LAPD's actual annual operating budget is \$1.85 billion (http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/2020-21Budget_Summary.pdf Page 12). Activists giving public comment before the City Council have quoted as high as \$3 billion. The Total City budget is 10.5 billion (http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/2020-21Budget_Summary.pdf Page 13). While it is the largest single line item, it was not 54% as the activists claim. Los Angeles is experiencing the lowest crime rate in many years and crime went down again last year. This year, crime is down in all areas except shootings and homicide victims. However, we are still talking about 100,000 part 1 crime victims per year. Is that enough? Is it time to pull back now? Activists say that police officers are the wrong people to deal with mental illness, child abuse, elder abuse, homelessness, animal control issues, business regulation (illegal vending for example), and a host of other issues. Therefore, the funding should be removed from the police to deal with other issues. We only deal with these other issues because the entities in government that are meant to handle them have failed and police have been deployed to fill the gap. There are many other services and crime related issues that police cannot get to because of these additional burdens. For example automobile burglary, theft, illegal

fireworks, traffic enforcement, graffiti, fraud to name a few. It's not just a matter of funding. Prop 63 has raised over a billion for mental health in CA. Has anyone seen any change? Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority funding has increased by a factor of 4. The City of LA's funding alone for LAHSA is now \$37 million and we are now spending hundreds of millions per year in the City and County on homelessness managed by LAHSA and the County. Has anyone noticed the reduction in homelessness? Here is a list of reforms that activists have demanded or have been considered short of disbanding Departments: Civilian Oversight of the Police – LAPD has been governed by the Board of Police Commissioners since 1920. They have the power to discipline the Chief, make Department Policy, have access to every document and investigation in the LAPD, have an independent Inspector General, and are the only civilian board in the country that rules on uses of force. By comparison, the voters of LA County just voted this year to give the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight committee subpoena power and the Sheriff has refused to comply. Ban the chokehold – LAPD banned chokeholds in 1982 Video Cameras on Cops – LAPD piloted video cameras in 2016 and went Department-wide in 2018. LAPD was the first Department with more than 100 employees to require video on all field officers. More comprehensive Use of Force reporting of critical incidents – LAPD established Force Investigations Division in 2004 and is the only Department in the country that requires its Inspector General and the District Attorney to roll out on any critical force incident. Eliminate unannounced police raids known as "no-knock warrants." The Motion before the LA City Council reads "While a complete overhaul of the City's budget will take time, we can begin to slowly dismantle those systems that are designed to harm people of color. A preliminary cut to the LAPD budget will not solve everything, but it's a step in the right direction to become the city we aspire to be." This statement is hurtful and denies 25 years of change. Where once we were the Department of Operation Hammer, Public Disorder and Intelligence Division, CRASH, and The Hat Squad, we are now the Department of Community Police Partnerships, Community-Police Advisory Boards, Community Police Academies and the Cadet Leadership Program. I request that you VOTE NO on this Council File to Defund the Police.