

September 8, 2020

Sent via email: rjoe@southpasadenaca.gov, mcacciotti@southpasadenaca.gov, dmahmud@southpasadenaca.gov, srossi@southpasadenaca.gov, rschneider@southpasadenaca.gov

Mayor Bob Joe, District 1
Councilmember Michael Cacciotti, District 4
Councilmember Diana Mahmud, District 5
Councilmember Stephen Rossi, District 2
Councilmember Richard Schneider, District 3

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers:

Our jails are filled with people struggling with poverty, mental health needs and homelessness. Far too many people enter the criminal justice system instead of getting the resources they need to avoid contact with the system in the first place. We have seen routine contacts with law enforcement escalate into tragedies taking a disproportionate number of black lives. It is time for a new vision of public safety, one centered on health solutions and services provided in the community so that police intervention is the last option rather than the first and only response.

Here in South Pasadena, we support a Care First approach that reallocates resources from jails and law enforcement to programs that promote health, safety and welfare of communities. We demand that our city leaders adopt the priorities of a Care First approach as developed by the Los Angeles County Work Group on Alternatives to Incarceration.¹ It is time to start realigning our city budget to support community services, not excessive levels of policing.

The city is in a budget crisis. We demand a good-faith minimum 15% cut to the South Pasadena Police Department (SPPD) budget, Any expansion of the police budget should be halted. Below are our recommended immediate cuts to expenditures:

- We demand fewer police officers on the payroll. Wage and benefit expense has increased by \$1.2 million (17%) since 2016-17 while the crime rate has fallen. Total patrol staffing is out of proportion to patrol scheduling as reported in the SPPD's organizational chart.
- The SPPD owns 32 vehicles at an annual maintenance cost of \$100,000. With fewer than 10 officers on patrol at any given moment, this expense is unjustified. We demand that

¹ See Care First, Jails Last: Health and Racial Justice Strategies for Safer Communities (2020), <https://lacialternatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ATI-Final-Report.pdf>; JusticeLA, Care First Budget: LA County Reimagined Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (2020), https://justicelanow.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CareFirstLABudget_2020.pdf.

some of these assets be sold, and the SPPD implement bicycle patrolling where feasible. As helicopter patrols are unpopular with residents and problematic in terms of privacy, noise and carbon emissions, we demand that the \$30,000 contract with the Foothill Air Support Team be terminated.

- During this time, we request that the city enlist an independent audit of the SPPD. See City of Sebastopol.²

We look forward to working with you. We can be reached at Care First South Pasadena carefirstsouthpas@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

1. Adam Fagenson
2. Afshin Ketabi
3. Afton Figueroa
4. Ahilan T. Arulanantham
5. Alexander Aquino
6. Alexandra Shannon
7. Alice Le-Nghiem
8. Aliza Rood
9. Allison Schreiner
10. Amber Chen
11. Amber Hernandez
12. Andrew Eaton
13. Andrew Terhune
14. Angel Gomez
15. Anna McCool
16. Anne Bagasao
17. Ariel Lee
18. Ava Carbonara
19. Ayaka Nakaji
20. Barbara Eisenstein
21. Barrett Schreiner
22. Becky Rios
23. Brandon Yung
24. Brian Henderson
25. Byron Sleugh Jr.
26. Caitlin Lainoff
27. Caitlyn Ference
28. Caroline Creaghead
29. Cassandra Horii
30. Cassandra Terhune
31. Che Hurley
32. Christine Higgins Chin

² Sebastopol City Council Policing Review Process [https://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/getattachment/Meeting-Event/City-Council/2020/City-Council-Special-Meeting-of-June-30,-2020/Sebastopol-City-Council-Policing-Review-presentation-\(002\).pdf.aspx](https://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/getattachment/Meeting-Event/City-Council/2020/City-Council-Special-Meeting-of-June-30,-2020/Sebastopol-City-Council-Policing-Review-presentation-(002).pdf.aspx)

33. Christopher Kramsch
34. Ciena Valenzuela-Peterson
35. Claire Cardet
36. Cloe Maurer
37. Daisy Mayer
38. Daniel Saunders
39. Danny Le
40. David Carbonara
41. David Hillel
42. Elana Mann
43. Elizabeth Moore
44. Ella Hushagen
45. Eric Schermerhorn
46. Erin Klingensmith
47. Erin Monty
48. Felicie Borrendon
49. Fiona Eddy
50. Frank Barrera
51. Georgia Parsons
52. Geri-Lynn Cesar
53. Glen Eddy
54. Gretchen Schulz
55. Halle Sunabe
56. Heidi Parker
57. Helen Tran
58. Hilary Graves
59. Hugo Budd
60. Ilai Gilbert
61. Isabel Barbera
62. Isabel Chin
63. Jacob White
64. Jade Roman
65. Jasleen Kohli
66. Jean Yu
67. Jennifer Ho
68. John Srebalus
69. Julia Moreno Perri
70. Juliet Chin
71. Kara Lane
72. Kate Hillel
73. Katharine Florence
74. Kayla Solomon
75. Kerrie Barbato
76. Kimberly Icreverzi
77. Kyle McBurnie
78. Laboni A. Hoq
79. Laura Riley
80. Laurent Borredon
81. Laurian Lien
82. Laurie Chatham
83. Leonor Nila
84. Levi Srebalus
85. Liana Derus
86. Lily Sortino
87. London Lang
88. Lulu Talesnick
89. Madeline Chin
90. Matthew Barbato
91. Matthew Hubbard
92. Megan Adams

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 93. Nancy Hurley | 111. Riva Weinstein |
| 94. Nancy Jo Lane | 112. Robert Grant |
| 95. Natasha Prime | 113. Ross McLain |
| 96. Nikita Mankad | 114. Ruby Mullen |
| 97. Nina Rathbun | 115. Sadie Metcalfe |
| 98. Norma Hernandez | 116. Sarah Perez-Silverman |
| 99. Ohad Gilbert | 117. Sean Meyer |
| 100. Paige Fillion | 118. Shandor Garrison |
| 101. Patrick Suarez | 119. Sharon Mizota |
| 102. Phung Huynh | 120. Sofia Alva |
| 103. Polly Grant | 121. Somi Jun |
| 104. Quinn Manzo | 122. Stefani Williams |
| 105. Rachel Orfila | 123. Stephanie Stein |
| 106. Rebecca Tager | 124. Susan Grant |
| 107. Remy Luz Julian-Lorenz | 125. Tony Lockhart |
| 108. Renee Rubin | 126. Warren A. Chin |
| 109. Richard Elbaum | 127. Will Hoadley-Brill |
| 110. Riko Enomoto | 128. William Kelly |