



**Additional Documents List
Special City Council Meeting
June 24, 2020**

(Posted 6/25/2020 at 8:34 a.m.)

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Distributor	Document
1	Approve a Resolution to Continue Appropriations of the FY 19/20 Budget and Allocate Funding for Temporary Supplemental Staff for the Finance Department to Expedite the Resolution of Historical Accounting Deficiencies	Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney	Memo
PC-1	Public Comment Submitted for: Closed Session Agenda Item A	City Clerk Division	E-mail Public Comment
PC-2	Public Comment Submitted for: Agenda Item Nos. 1, 2, 3	City Clerk Division	E-mail Public Comment



City of South Pasadena Management Services

Memo

Date: June 24, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

Via: Stephanie De Wolfe, City Manager

From: Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney

Re: Approve a Resolution to Continue Appropriations of the FY 19/20 Budget and Allocate Funding for Temporary Supplemental Staff for the Finance Department to Expedite the Resolution of Historical Accounting Deficiencies

Resolution updated to remove the reference to GC 3504.5 (the emergency procedure under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act).

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA GRANTING THE CITY MANAGER CONTINUING AUTHORITY TO PAY THE BILLS AND PAYROLL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA THROUGH AUGUST 28, 2020 OR UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020–21 BUDGET, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

WHEREAS, the City Council may not adopt a fiscal year 2020–21 budget by July 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, to continue to provide services, the City Manager must issue checks for payrolls, supplies, materials, contracts, leases, debt payments and agreements existing prior to July 1, 2020;

WHEREAS, these services and obligations are essential for the protection of life, property, public health, good order and reputation of the City of South Pasadena;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds these services and obligations should continue at levels not greater than approved in the 2019–20 Budget; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 53901, the City Council must either adopt a formal budget reflecting the current fiscal year or approve a list of anticipated revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year, within 60 days of the beginning of the fiscal year;

WHEREAS, approval of this resolution does not authorize new services to begin or change service levels, and/or establish new agreements or contracts, except those explicitly approved by the City Council;

WHEREAS, the City of South Pasadena has notified union representatives of the City’s unprecedented fiscal emergency, including the precipitous drop in revenue relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and the City’s most current financial documentation of these substantial and sudden economic effects on City finances.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, ORDERS AND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to continue services and issue checks under continuing resolution authority in order to pay for existing employee salaries and benefits, supplies, materials, contract services, leases, debt obligations and other existing agreements approved by the City Council prior to July 1, 2020, not to exceed the 2019-20 budget levels.

Section 2. That the City Manager and/or her designated representative shall meet with all union representatives of the City of South Pasadena's bargaining units regarding the fiscal emergency and possible cost savings measures. Any modifications to labor agreements shall be subsequently ratified by the City Council.

Section 3. That the authority granted by this resolution shall expire on August 28, 2020 or on the date that the City Council either adopts the fiscal year 2020-21 Budget or approves a list of 2020-21 anticipated revenues and expenditures, as required by Government Code Section 53901, whichever date comes first.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of June, 2020

Robert S. Joe, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk

Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, at a regular meeting held on the 24th day of June, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk

Public Comment 6/24/2020 City Council CLOSED
SESSION Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 'A'
LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

1. South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform

Kenia Lopez

From: SP Youth [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:21 AM
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Comment on closed session, item A

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe, Human Resources Manager Michael Casalou, and any labor representatives,

South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform would like to once again state our position in urging our public servants and representatives not to increase SPPD's budget in this time of significant budgetary shortfalls. The department's personal costs represent the single largest expenditure bucket for the city. The implicit culture of maintaining a blank checkbook is no longer the case, and citizens are asking a reckoning with how police departments across the country operate to fundamentally revise the profession. With this logic, we are dedicating time and effort to focussing on our own department. We mean this with no disrespect to our officers. Research has shown that many of the roles police departments play would be better served by community resources or other social services. Indeed a lot of the department's effort goes into non-essential enforcement such as residential parking permitting or youth outreach. Our officers are paid generously. Let's begin the long process of looking for investments in other areas.

- SPY4PR

Public Comment 6/24/2020 City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Approve a Resolution to Continue Appropriations of the FY 19/20 Budget and Allocate Funding for Temporary Supplemental Staff for the Finance Department to Expedite the Resolution of Historical Accounting Deficiencies

1. Chris Bray
2. Madeline Di Giorgi
3. William Kelly
4. Delaine Shane
5. South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform
6. Mary Urquhart
7. Josh Betta
8. Wendy Gutschow
9. Emily Diaz-Vines
10. Jan Marshall
11. Mel Trom
12. Joanne Nucklos
13. Ella Hushagen, Helen Tran, and John Srebalus

Kenia Lopez

From: City Council Public Comment
To: Chris Bray; City Council Public Comment
Cc: City Clerk's Division
Subject: Received: Public Comment for 6/24 Special City Council Meeting

(Please read out loud to the council.)

Chris Bray
[REDACTED]

Councilmembers,

In the spirit of helpfulness, here are some additional excuses to use alongside your budget excuses as needed:

- 1.) After an investigation, we have determined that recent poor communication between city staff and the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission was caused by unprofessional behavior in the Public Works Department during the 1950s, when the city engineer fell under the influence of the beatniks.
- 2.) With assistance from a team of consultants, we have determined that the long delay in the release of body camera footage from the officer-involved shooting of Vanessa Marquez was caused by intransigence in the administration of President Grover Cleveland.
- 3.) We are distressed that planning failures in the administration of the Byzantine Empire have caused serious delays in the completion of the audited financial report for fiscal year 2018-19.
- 4.) The City of South Pasadena is aware of poor road conditions in the vicinity of Raymond Hill. Unfortunately, however, the Code of Hammurabi failed to anticipate current needs in transportation infrastructure.
- 5.) Completion of a new onramp to the 110 freeway from Fair Oaks Avenue is delayed pending completion of the review of unresolved administrative matters arising from the transition from homo erectus to homo sapiens.

Like blaming the long-dead David Batt for financial problems in 2020, these excuses all have the advantage of laying blame on people who aren't around to argue with you. Always blame dead people -- it's a very modern and professional communications strategy.

From: [Madeline Di Giorgi](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item 1 and Item 3
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:47:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read out loud--

Item 1:

I support the adoption of the lower spending tier for the post covid budget projections by July 1 with a resolution to amend in 60-90 days with audit results, the development of a Community Care or Community-based Budget including public participation, and another look at durable and more progressive sources of revenue. We have an opportunity to create our community in a way that may not have been possible pre-covid. Everyone is open to new ideas and fresh perspectives to make our city the best it can be, so let's make this happen! Thank you!

Item 3:

I support the appointment of a City Council sub-committee on the future of policing in South Pasadena.

Best,

Madeline Di Giorgi


From: [William Kelly](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#); [Maria Ayala](#)
Subject: Public Comment for June 24 City Council Meeting on Item 1
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:35:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: 1. Approve a Resolution to Continue Appropriations of the FY 19/20 Budget and Allocate Funding for Temporary Supplemental Staff for the Finance Department to Expedite the Resolution of Historical Accounting Deficiencies

Please Read Aloud:

I urge you to adopt a resolution of continuing appropriations for at least 60 days until the 2018-19 financial audit is delivered and examined by the Council and community and to allow more time for genuine public participation. Time also is needed to make corrections and develop full documentation in the proposed budget.

In adopting a resolution, you are not bound to set funding either at the levels in the proposed 2020-21 budget, nor stick to the levels outlined in the current 2020-19 budget.

A case in point is that the city of Sebastopol, CA, just adopted a resolution of continuing resolutions based on its 2019-20 budget adjusted upward to account for a COLA for represented employees, upward for higher insurance costs, and with capital improvement expenditures zeroed out and replaced with council direction to staff to limit capital projects to needed repairs in the event of infrastructure failures, like a water pipe break or pump failure. The city plans to adopt an amended budget in September.

The implications are that you can direct spending in a continuing resolution at last year's expenditure levels (2019-20), the levels proposed in the draft budget for 2020-21, some combination of the two, or something entirely different.

Slowing and opening the process to more community participation and oversight is needed to allow time for developing a truly "community based budget" that reflects the rapidly changing needs and aspirations of residents and rebuilds trust in local government.

Bill Kelly



From: [D. Shane](#)
To: [Maria Ayala](#); [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Karen Aceves](#)
Subject: Special City Council Meeting Agenda: June 24, 2020: Agenda Item No. 1
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:47:46 PM
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Maria:

Please read my comment during Agenda Item No. 1 out loud to the City Council.

Thank you.

Best.

Delaine

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Please approve a resolution to continue appropriations of the current budget. The Finance Commission has recommended this action to you, along with several financial experts, including Josh Betta.

Also, please vote to have an independent audit done of potential accounting deficiencies, past or present, in the Finance Department to restore the public's trust.

Sincerely,

Delaine Shane


From: [SP Youth](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: comment on item 1
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:00:04 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform would like to support a resolution of continuing appropriations for at least 60 days until a financial audit of fiscal 2018-19 is delivered and examined by the Council and more public outreach and other steps can be taken before a budget for FY 2020/21 can be adopted. Considering the concerns citizens have voiced over the previous draft budget, we should really not rush into deciding how tens of millions of public funds should get spent. A better public engagement process would also engage a larger segment of the city who wasn't able to participate last time, many of whom believe that we should radically be rethinking the role police play in our relatively small community. The evidence of the need to reallocated funds is right in front of you: how much better off would we be right now with 2 or 3 more professional city staff working on the budget and 2 or 3 fewer officers? Instead, we'll likely hire another short term professional to fill in for the result of decades of austerity toward basic governmental functions and a blank checkbook for our PD. This isn't radical. Talk to any public school teacher.

We also would like to voice support for the replacement of regressive tax and fee revenue sources that disproportionately hurt poor residents with progressive tax sources such as a transfer tax. A continued budget process would allow for this discussion to happen.

-SPY4PR

From: [Mary Urquhart](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#); [Robert Joe](#); [Diana Mahmud](#); [Dr. Richard Schneider - Personal](#); [Michael Cacciotti - Personal](#); [Marina Khubesian](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:18:34 AM
Attachments: [Urquhart PC 6.24.20.docx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Public Comment for the 6/24/20 City Council Meeting.

Mary Urquhart
South Pasadena

We are at a historic crossroads in our wonderful City.

At this point, there is only one course of action to take regarding our budget. The City must complete its independent financial audit before any budgetary discussions continue. To achieve that, the "Resolution of Continuing Appropriations" must be adopted by the City Council.

The very real technical analyses brought to light in the work of Josh Betta, Sheila and Steve Rossi, and Bill Kelly, to name only a few, must also be given due diligence and further study. THEIR ANALYSES SHOULD NOT AND CANNOT BE IGNORED.

Beyond the completion of the City's financial audit, it appears we have reached the point where an independent "forensic" review of financial management should be strongly considered. I understand these tools are referred to as "risk assessment reviews."

This is about the fundamental credibility of our community. It is your fiduciary and MORAL duty to protect our City's precious funds. And our community reputation.

How can we support the utility users tax again if we have lost our credibility with the voter?

South Pasadena City Council: your vote will be remembered.

From: [Josh Betta](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Steven Lawrence](#); [Robert Joe](#); [Michael Cacciotti - Personal](#); [Diana Mahmud](#); [Marina Khubesrian](#); [Dr. Richard Schneider - Personal](#); [Evelyn Zneimer](#); [Marina Khubesrian](#); [Michael Cacciotti](#); [Diana Mahmud](#); [Robert Joe](#); [Maria Ayala](#); [Josh Betta](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Public Hearing No. 1: Reso of Continuing Appropriations
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:35:28 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment PH No. 1 - June 24 2020.docx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City Clerk,

The attached statement comprises 246 words. My name is Josh Betta. I wish my statement to be read aloud at the meeting.

Los Angeles County communities that have endured scandal have one point in common: in each case, elected officials mistakenly believed that the LA Times and other regional media were not paying attention. The City Council is at this point. The LA Times and Pasadena Star-News now possess the elaborately detailed reporting performed by the South Pasadenan.

Our drama hit technical bottom last week when a Finance Commissioner inquired if the Finance Department has reconciled its cash against its accounting records. The very question implies incompetence and wrongdoing. The City Treasurer did not respond.

There is little doubt that Ms. DeWolfe's \$80,000 "line in the sand" is intended to stimulate new dramas and tilt the vote toward adoption of a budget that has been proven to be a product of professional incompetence.

Without knowing it, however, Ms. DeWolfe is moving in the right direction. But \$80,000 will not be enough. If I were CFO of South Pasadena, I would recommend the appropriation of \$150,000 to contract with a highly-regarded firm and solve all accounting problems at root levels within an estimated 6 months.

I would, at the same time, petition an insurance provider like C-SAC to bring field representative to the City and conduct a "risk assessment" review of all financial operations. Such investigation, conducted by a provider independent of the City Manager, can end the abusive "blame game" that characterizes this administration and allow the City to rebuild its integrity before the November utility users' tax vote.

From: [Wendy Gutschow](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: June 24 City Council Special Meeting Item 1:
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:08:01 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello members of the City Council. My name is Wendy Gutschow, resident of South Pasadena. I am commenting today to express my favor of a resolution that continues appropriations for at least 60 days, which will hopefully allow enough time for a financial audit of fiscal 2018-2019 to be delivered to you and to be made public. To be quite honest, it is disheartening, to have been following the city budget quagmire that has been made known in recent weeks. How is it possible that multiple budget reports can be made but none of them match the others? Not only that, but as we are in the middle of a pandemic as well as and most importantly brining your attention to the issue of police funding, I ask that you continue your work and hold accountable those that you rely on to produce an accurate and timely city budget. With the approval of a continuing resolution, I urge you to be completely transparent about the city budget progression as it moves through the next 60 days. We cannot come to the end fo the 60 days, only to find drastic and undocumented changes. Thank you.

Wendy Gutschow
South Pasadena

From: [M.Devine](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#); [Maria Ayala](#)
Subject: Public Comment 6/24 meeting, Agenda Item #1
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:45:37 AM

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Please Read Aloud

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I've been following the story about that former finance director Josh Betta who lives in Pasadena. He says someone from South Pasadena got him to write a 56 page financial report for free undermining our Latina finance director. Why would he do that? Is he trying to get his old job back?

Well, I looked him up and found this article talked about him being investigated for creating a hostile work environment.

Star-News (Pasadena, CA)-March 26, 2006
Author: Gene Maddaus Staff Writer

SOUTH PASADENA – The city's finance director is under investigation for alleged "boisterous and vulgar outbreaks," according to a labor negotiator.

"The issue is a hostile work environment," Luttrell said in an interview. "When he goes on one of these tirades, it's heard throughout the whole building."

I then made some calls. You should know that a former employee who worked there in 2006 said he was having inappropriate relations with a much younger lady that worked there. A reporter who was covering the government, told me Betta had a restraining order put on him by his ex-wife who was a former school board member. He didn't last beyond a year in San Marino in 2018 with reports of yelling at the female employees.

Betta is bad news. Don't hire him. You don't need a #metoo situation on your hands. Listen to the professional women. Listen to Director Karen Aceves.

Respectfully,

Emily Diaz-Vines
Resident of South Pasadena

From: [Jan Marshall](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment for Item #1 I've taken in our of PDF format
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:30:18 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Maria! Hope this works for you.

Jan Marshall


Agenda Item #1

Please read ALOUD.

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Please approve the resolution to continue appropriations of the current budget while seeking an independent audit.

I'm troubled that a "confidential" no-bid audit from 2018 was "magically" released last week. I'm trying to reconcile how the word "confidential" can be in the the same sentence as the word "transparency." And I can't.

It would seem that the release of this audit was an attempt to prove that the city has had financial problems predating the arrival of our current city manager. Yet, the audit outlines financial shortcomings and actions that promptly need to be taken. Yet two years later, none of these recommendations have been implemented.

Because there has been zero accountability, without an independent audit, the citizens cannot trust the city to prudently manage our money. Please keep that in mind, because if we can't trust the city, there's no reason to vote for the UUT in November only to have more money disappear into a black hole.

The future and reputation of our town is at stake. Please act accordingly.

From: [Mel Trom](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#); [Maria Ayala](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #1
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:57:05 AM

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Please Read Aloud

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I applaud your staff and especially City Manager DeWolfe and Director Aceves for taking on the task of adjusting your budget allocations based on the reality of a covid economy. Since this work has already been done and your departments have proposed cuts in expenditures to balance out the projected loss of revenues, you would be foolish to not adopt a budget based in the current economic reality. You've also done as much public outreach as possible and have presented your budget at every single commission meeting which are all open to the public. You have clearly been addressing the deficiencies in accounting that Manager DeWolfe identified upon her hire. Austerity measures forced upon the City government by it's singular focus on the 710 cause had left many departments behind the times. I applaud your leadership to modernize and professionalize operations and staffing. Your new hires in Planning, Finance, Public Works, Library Services, Public Safety are impressive and a testament to expertise in maximal leveraging of limited resources of a government starved for far too long.

The Old Guard is desperate to hold onto its privileged and well- financed influence of the past. The community is watching. The youth are watching. Adopt the covid budget in front of you and stop wasting time on insider political baseball. Then immediately begin working with the community and especially the youth you raised and educated in your fine public schools on their budget priorities. Every city expects to review and amend their budgets in this fluid environment. Adopt the covid budget, plan to review and amend as needed. Thank your staff for being the dedicated and professional public servants that they are.

Mel Trom
South Pasadena Resident

From: [Joanne Nuckols](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comment #1
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:04:28 PM

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Mayor Joe and City council members.

You are certainly aware of the different reports about the budget that have circulated in the community which have caused a lot of uncertainty. This time in our history is probably the most critical due to the pandemic and economic downturn and probably the budget you are considering tonight is probably most important budget a city council has ever considered.

You must be certain of your actions and responsibilities. You are the citizens elected representatives and your decision tonight is critical to our city's future wellbeing.

If you have any doubt whatsoever, the citizens of our city hope you vote for more time to be crystal clear about the budget and your ultimate decision to move forward.

I hope the council seriously considers voting for a Resolution of Continuing Appropriations until all the questions, audits and confusion can be sorted out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Nuckols



From: [Ella Hushagen](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Division](#)
Subject: Re: PLEASE ADVISE: Public Comment for 6/24 Special City Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 5:33:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am so sorry. I don't know what happened to the formatting in the email. Here is the comment:

We support continuing appropriations, and we encourage the Council to reevaluate how to use CDBG funds in the FY 2020-21 budget.

On June 18, the Councilmembers indicated some disinterest in using COVID-related CDBG funds for emergency rental assistance in part due to the limited reach of such a program after administrative costs. We encourage the Council to create a robust emergency rental assistance program by using some of the \$241,565 in existing CDBG grant money to shore up the \$73,528 in CDBG-CV funding.

Further, we challenge the Councilmembers to reconsider the idea that providing a relatively small number of households with rental assistance would be inadequate. Providing housing stability to even one family or individual has compounding benefits on health, education, employment, and overall community wellbeing.

California's unemployment rate is a staggering 16 percent. People with limited income before the pandemic hit are struggling. Now is not the time for modest measures. While certain sidewalk improvements are necessary, we disagree that infrastructure is the best use of almost 70% of the City's existing CDBG funds in the midst of a historic financial crisis.

The fact that other cities' rental assistance programs have been overwhelmed with applications indicates the profound need for such a program -- it is not a reason to shy away. As Councilmembers recognized at the June 18 meeting, the senior meals program already enjoys substantial support from the City, and the meals are modestly priced.

We look forward to future opportunities to weigh in on CDBG funding.

Ella Hushagen
Helen Tran
John Srebalus
Elizabeth Anne Bagasao

On Wed, Jun 24, 2020 at 5:14 PM City Council Public Comment
<ccpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov> wrote:

Public Comment 6/24/2020 City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

**Discussion and Direction on the Estimated Costs for
Continued Virtual Public Meetings**

1. William Kelly

Kenia Lopez

From: William Kelly [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:16 AM
To: City Council Public Comment; Maria Ayala
Subject: Public Comment for June 24 Council Meeting on Item 2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE READ ALOUD RE: ITEM 2 ON AGENDA:

<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-south-pasadena-reviving-verbal-comments-before-the-south-pasadena-city-council>

Reviving verbal comments before the South Pasadena City Council

William Kelly started this petition to **City of South Pasadena**

Let's [open South Pasadena](#) city hall right now to the voices of its residents. The pandemic is now three months running and it's time to reinstate verbal public comments at city council and city commission meetings. The technology is there and is being widely used by neighboring cities. It consists of allowing residents to dial in on the phone or through Zoom video conferencing to address the council.

This should be done beginning with the South Pasadena City Council meeting on June 24, where the city's controversial budget proposal will be decided, including its proposed \$400,000 increase for police, bringing the small and relatively crime free town's total police budget to more than 35 percent of general fund expenditures.

Neighboring San Marino allows members of the public to sit six feet apart in city hall during council meetings or call in. Alhambra, which holds council meetings remotely, allows anyone who calls in by 5 p.m. the day of the council's evening meetings to speak out. In Sierra Madre, residents can phone in and speak to the council during meetings. The same is true in La Canada Flintridge and in the City of Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, in South Pasadena, the city still operates council meetings like the pandemic broke out just a week or two ago.

It's time to demand the ability to directly address the South Pasadena City Council. Let's get our three minutes back.

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Desiree Camacho	Woodside		11377	US	6/20/2020
Kori Prevatte	Wichita		67208	US	6/19/2020
Michael Childs	South Pasadena	CA	91031	US	6/20/2020
Joanne Nuckols	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Chris Bray	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Wendy Gutschow	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020

Meghan Kiser	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Claire Wang	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Renee Rubin	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Nancy Hurley	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Elizabeth Bagasao	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Sheila Rossi	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Alisa Diez	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Lee Kelly	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Tracey Hutson	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Kristin Roche	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Ellen Daigke	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Marc Perkins	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Jonathan Eisenberg	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Tina Kistinge	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Steve Zikman	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Trenton Ahern	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Alberto Ocon	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Nancy Polino	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Robert Defulgentiis	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Barbara Eisenstein	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Judith G Hoyt	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Alan Ehrlich	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Roxy Ortiz	South Pasadena		91030	US	6/20/2020
Madeline Di Giorgi	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Khanh Oberley	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Janet Marshall	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Delaine Shane	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Jane Brust	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Robert Bridges	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Travis D	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
Kris Curry	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/20/2020
William Kelly	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/18/2020
Linda McDermott	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Jason Wallace	South Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Ayla Morgan	Sacramento		95816	US	6/20/2020
Victoria Tan	S,Pasadena	CA	91030	US	6/19/2020
Ahmai Chaney-Smith	Rosedale		11422	US	6/19/2020
Aryan Jain	Plano		75074	US	6/20/2020
Lily Nichols	Pittsburgh		15228	US	6/20/2020
Wesley Coop	Pasadena	CA	91103	US	6/19/2020
Morey Wolfson	Pasadena	CA	91103	US	6/19/2020
Wallace Drew	Orlando		32801	US	6/20/2020
Natalia James	Moses Lake		98837	US	6/19/2020
Minerva Garcia	Los Angeles	CA	90057	US	6/19/2020
Marie Palacios-Rios	Los Angeles	CA	90042	US	6/19/2020
Anita Ghazarian	Los Angeles	CA	90041	US	6/19/2020
Elana Mann	Los Angeles	CA	90027	US	6/19/2020

Jeven Stark	Hermiston		97838	US	6/20/2020
Isabella Lewis	Harrah	OK	74851	US	6/21/2020
rt day	Flower Mound		75028	US	6/19/2020
Desteny Rodriguez	Covina		91724	US	6/19/2020
Akshita Movva	Cary		27519	US	6/20/2020
Kimora Mitchell	Birmingham		35208	US	6/19/2020
Alyssa Chanthakhoun	Alexandria		22312	US	6/19/2020
Cheryl Auger		CA		US	6/19/2020

Thanks,
Bill Kelly



Public Comment 6/24/2020 City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Appointment of City Council Sub-Committee on the Future of Policing in South Pas (No Staff Report)

1. Will Hoadley-Brill
2. Sofie Dreskin
3. Madeline Di Giorgi
4. South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform
5. Ashley King
6. Wendy Gutschow
7. Phung Huynh, Elana Mann, Stefani Williams, and Arts Magnet

Kenia Lopez

From: Will Hoadley-Brill [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:55 AM
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item #3 for 6/24/2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read aloud at the meeting:

I write to you as a concerned South Pasadena Community member regarding the future of policing in South Pasadena. The policing system in our city must change. It is not designed to provide the services and resources that are necessary in our community specifically. The limited capacity of police officers in their current form is not sufficient to provide the mental health services, social services, and housing services that are often required when SPPD is called.

In light of this insufficiency, I urge the council to pass Dr. Khubesrian's motion to form a City Council Sub-Committee to research and investigate the incarnation of policing in the future in South Pasadena. I would like to recognize the council for taking swift action for banning the lateral neck hold, and unequivocally state that this single change is not enough.

In order to move forward on this sub-committee in a meaningful way, I also urge the council to pass the proposed budget before the end of the fiscal year and revisit the possibility of a Community Care Budget Amendment which will seek to make necessary changes in the light of the challenges that our community now faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We must ensure that our city can function before we are able to direct the energy necessary to reassess policing.

The city council must not only stand with the Black Lives Matter movement, but also make substantive change to demonstrate that support. When this sub-committee is formed, I would like to extend my time to serve as community input and I hope that there will be an accessible manner for all community members to contribute their thoughts.

Thank you!

--

With good wishes to you and your family,
Will Hoadley-Brill
He•Him•His

Kenia Lopez

From: Sofie Dreskin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:47 PM
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Community Care Budget Amendment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please Read Aloud at the Meeting

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

Many thanks to the city staff and council for their hard work in these times.

I am a SPHS graduate and current college student and in solidarity with All Black Lives Matter I am calling for policy change at all levels of government to end systems of policing built on prejudice.

I am asking that the South Pasadena community and city council address the future of policing in SP moving away from punitive and inhumane measures.

My community is protesting peacefully on the streets, organizing outreach, building coalitions, demanding justice reform and more community care resources for vulnerable populations.

I urge you to support the motion by Councilmember Khubesrian to form a City Council Sub-Committee to address the public's need to be heard by their Councilmembers on the impacts of systemic racism on the lives of people of color in South Pasadena past and present.

I am advocating for creating alternatives to policing and punitive systems in the form Transformative Justice and asking for reconsideration of who and what makes the public truly safe. Many are advocating for a Community Care Budget Amendment to the current budget.

In order to truly make Black Lives Matter, we as a community need to take action. This needs to start by listening to the people of South Pasadena. We offer our partnership to the Council Sub-Committee on the Future of Policing in South Pasadena and are eager to serve in an advisory capacity.

Best,

Sofie Armine Dreskin

From: [Madeline Di Giorgi](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item 1 and Item 3
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:47:08 PM

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Please read out loud--

Item 1:

I support the adoption of the lower spending tier for the post covid budget projections by July 1 with a resolution to amend in 60-90 days with audit results, the development of a Community Care or Community-based Budget including public participation, and another look at durable and more progressive sources of revenue. We have an opportunity to create our community in a way that may not have been possible pre-covid. Everyone is open to new ideas and fresh perspectives to make our city the best it can be, so let's make this happen! Thank you!

Item 3:

I support the appointment of a City Council sub-committee on the future of policing in South Pasadena.

Best,

Madeline Di Giorgi


From: [SP Youth](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: comment on item 3.
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:51:11 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members, Mayor, Staff, and City Manager,

South Pasadena Youth For Police Reform would like to voice support for the creation of a subcommittee focussing on police reform and budget reallocation in working towards a city with racially just policy, not just attitude. We are glad to see our elected representatives move to create a dialogue about changing a city culture that for too long has ignored our history of segregation and thought of public safety as getting rid of the silhouette on the sidewalk. We can do better.

As conversations get started, we want to make clear that SPY4PR will be asking for a reduced police budget, with priorities placed in community and social services. We will also be asking our elected officials to create an independent citizen appointed body to act as a police review commission, whether this is in the form of amending the charter of the public safety commission or the creation of a new body. The conversations will be difficult, but we will know they are the right ones if that is the case. For now, we are glad to know they will even happen.

- SPY4PR

From: [Ashley King](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: The Future of Policing in South Pas
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:13:01 AM

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Dear City Council,

As a resident of South Pasadena I strongly support the creation of *The Future of Policing in South Pas* subcommittee. I hope that you will not only support this subcommittee but dedicate yourself to ensuring it is a meaningful process: all public comment should be recorded, public hearings should be announced well ahead of time and advertised well, and the subcommittee must understand that budget reallocation is at the heart of the issue and be willing to take those recommendations seriously.

Sincerely,

Ashley Steimer-King

From: [Wendy Gutschow](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: June 24 City Council Special Meeting Item 3: Future of Policing Sub-committee
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:45:09 AM

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Hello members of the City Council. My name is Wendy Gutschow, resident of South Pasadena and supporter of South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform . I think creating some kind of oversight committee that is independent of the police department is very necessary. However, it has come to my attention that initially this committee might only consist of two city council members. This is a good start. However, I want to insure this is a meaningful committee that can indeed make concrete recommendations that address needed reforms in the SPPD so that it might be a racially equitable and community driven service to the community. A two person committee cannot do this. This initial committee needs to quickly communicate their intentions which will hopefully include forming an SPPD oversight committee that includes a diversity of South Pasadena residents including youth, Black, and indigenous people of color. You all have the opportunity to move our city toward lasting and significant change. One of the things you can do to start and I quote from the list of demands that the South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform has made public which is *“Create a charter amendment to introduce civilian oversight through the public safety commission and be independent from the City Manager. Currently the commission is deeply limited and can only make recommendations.”* Don't waste your time forming committees that have no power, this is not acceptable. We are watching and will continue to hold you accountable. Thank you.

From: [Elana Mann](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Phung Huynh](#); [Stefani Williams](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #3, support formation of subcommittee
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:34:07 AM
Attachments: [Agenda_item_3_support.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please Read Aloud at the Meeting
Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

Good Evening. First, we want to thank you for your service to the community during these challenging times.

We are three concerned citizens of South Pasadena participating in and witnessing the global Movement for Black Lives. We are professionals, artists, educators and mothers who recognize that effective global change begins at home. While South Pasadena does not have some of the cases of extreme racial injustice as we are seeing in other parts of the country, self-examination, improvement and pro-active policy is needed here as much as anywhere. We love this community and we want to make sure that every single person living, visiting and working here recognizes this city as one that values racial equity and justice.

As we walk through the streets of South Pasadena we know that we are not alone—our community is crying out for this work. Our kids in local schools, the young people protesting on the corner of Fair Oaks, the yard signs popping on all over our neighborhoods (see photos below) all pleading for racial justice in our city. **We thank Dr. Khubesrian and Dr. Abajian for providing a forum last week where about 2 dozen members of the South Pasadena community expressed their concerns, shared personal experiences, and insights about systems in place that may cause more harm than good, especially to the black and brown members of our community.** The urgency is here and the time to act is now. Let's be on the right side of history.

We thank the City for your quick action banning the Lateral Neck Hold. We need to do more however.

We would like to support Dr. Khubesrian's Agenda item #3 to create a subcommittee on the future of public safety in South Pasadena.

Thank you for your consideration.

In collaboration,
Phung Huynh, Professor, Los Angeles Valley College, resident of South Pasadena and mother

Elana Mann, Independent Artist, resident of South Pasadena and mother
Stefani Williams, Principal, Los Angeles Unified School District Rockdale Visual & Performing
Arts Magnet, resident of South Pasadena and mother

--

www.elanamann.com

To the Honorable members of the South Pasadena City Council,

We are a concerned group of South Pasadena citizens participating in and witnessing the global Movement for Black Lives. We are professionals, artists, educators and mothers who recognize that effective global change begins at home. While South Pasadena does not have some of the cases of extreme racial injustice as we are seeing in other parts of the country, self-examination, improvement and pro-active policy is needed here as much as anywhere. We love this community and we want to make sure that every single person living, visiting and working here recognizes this city as one that values racial equity and justice.

As we walk through the streets of South Pasadena we know that we are not alone—our community is crying out for this work. Our kids in local schools, the young people protesting on the corner of Fair Oaks, the yard signs popping on all over our neighborhoods (see photos below) all pleading for racial justice in our city. The urgency is here and the time to act is now. Let's be on the right side of history.

We would like to support Dr. Khubesrian's Agenda item #3 to create a subcommittee on the future of public safety in South Pasadena.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Phung Huynh, Professor, Los Angeles Valley College, resident of South Pasadena and mother
Elana Mann, Independent Artist, resident of South Pasadena and mother
Stefani Williams, Principal, Los Angeles Unified School District Rockdale Visual & Performing Arts Magnet, resident of South Pasadena and mother



