

COUNCIL BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

AFTER PUBLISHED AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

THE HAWYARD COMMUNITY COALITION

EMAIL FROM RESIDENT

April 26, 2021

RE: Findings and Recommendations from the Policy Innovation Workshop & Update on Community Public Safety Work

Dear Mayor Halliday, Councilmember Wahab, and Councilmember Lamnin,

First things first, the Hayward Community Coalition (“HayCoCoa”) acknowledges and gives our thanks to everyone for their time and effort throughout this process.

Last week, we submitted a comment letter with reactions to some specific policy proposals, which appears as an attachment. We prepared this feedback before we had the opportunity to review the entire final product as presented in the staff report. We now provide additional comments after having reviewed the final product in its entirety.

Final Product Lacks Substantial Policy and Innovation

Given the serious and urgent nature of the problems this process was intended to address, it is extremely alarming that the final product, as presented, in the staff report is the foundation for our community to attempt to reduce the harm of structural racism and racist violence in policing. The policy concepts as presented are poorly fleshed out, provide little detail, and there are many included that on their face contradict the stated goals of this lengthy process. For example, as noted by The Hayward Collective the recommendation to “*Establish a process for people to voluntarily provide behavioral/mental health information pre-crisis*”, which the Collective correctly identifies as a de facto registry, strays alarmingly far from the principles of reimaging community safety. Having a mental illness already causes so many barriers, forcing someone with a mental illness to take extra steps to protect themselves is counterproductive. Other recommendations such as creating a social media internship program to tackle structural racism are frankly out of touch and asinine. **It is difficult to believe that this is the result of an eleven month process, \$75,000 consultation fee, considerable staff time, and 2,000 collective participant hours.**

No Subject Matter Expertise

Similar to the above point, we have not been able to identify the incorporation of any subject matter expertise. We understand the immense value of interviewing service providers, such as city employees and County employees, to understand the systems we have in place, but subject matter expertise is something else altogether and it is missing here. Subject matter experts refer to public health experts, equity experts, disability justice experts, and others whose profession is dedicated to the study and implementation of solutions to these extremely complex and nuanced issues. In fact, the absence of such experts is likely why problematic policy concepts with the potential to violate human rights made it through the process and into the final product. Moving forward, adequate subject matter experts must be consulted.

A Major Failing: The Elevation of Law Enforcement’s Voice over the Impacted Community’s Voice

The policy outcomes and the concerns of the community member participants demonstrates that the structures of these committees elevated the voices of law enforcement and quieted the voices of community members. This is a perfect inversion of equity concepts. Not only were community members voices quieted within the workshops, impacted community member’s voices were practically silenced. In an official city survey, the majority of respondents supported the inclusion of everyday people in the budgeting process. Instead, the city hosted exclusive policy workshops made up of staff, appointed

commissioners, and police representatives to come up with their own recommendations. This structure must be remedied if you all want to continue to use a similar process moving forward.

This final product is extremely disheartening after a year of inaction in the face of ongoing police violence and a growing sense of injustice from impacted community members who feel unheard. We urge you all to take into account the shortcomings of the process you elected to use and the shortcomings of the final policy concepts you are being presented with. We urge you to reflect on the principles of reimagining public safety.

We wearily remind you that reimagining public safety in its most basic form means growing alternatives to police response for community safety issues, not expanding police response and passing a budget that reflects this new compassionate value system rather than doubling down on the status quo. This is at the heart of the four demands we presented you with in our attachment letter (*please see the agenda attachment for more info*):

- 1. Fund a Mental Health Crisis Response Team.**
- 2. Move Hayward's 911 call-center away from the Police Department.**
- 3. Double the Funds Addressing Homelessness and Housing Affordability.**
- 4. Create a Hayward Social Services Department.**

We will be releasing more detailed guidelines soon to demonstrate how our demands can be implemented to reimagine community safety in Hayward.

Sincerely,

Lacei Amodei
Organizer
The Hayward Community Coalition

Crissy Mello

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Crissy Mello
Subject: Fw: Policy Innovation Workshop on Policing and Public Safety (Hearing today at 5pm)

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 4:13 PM
To: community@hayward-ca.gov <community@hayward-ca.gov>
Subject: Policy Innovation Workshop on Policing and Public Safety (Hearing today at 5pm)

I recently received an email from the City of Hayward, about a committee hearing later this afternoon at 5pm. I intend to see if I can remotely join this meeting and be heard, however if I don't, of if there isn't time, here is a current matter that I would be bringing forward:

I have been a victim of a series of crimes, which ultimately resulted in police misconduct against me.

To sum it up very shortly, while I was away with the Marines, serving my country, the woman that I lived with, while she was home alone, would call the police and report a 'Domestic Dispute' against me. During these incidents, I had been away for weeks or months at a time. These are "Falsified Police Reports", are illegal, and are also an abuse and waste of police time and tax dollars. The policy issue here is that the police never followed up with me, or even informed me that there was a report against me. There was over 20 calls against me that I didn't know of, until I had paid a lawyer to pull as much information as he could. At any point in time the police could have followed up with me, learned that I was on orders, and I could have proved that I was hundreds or thousands of miles away while I was wrongfully reported to be in these "domestic disputes", and this issued could have been stopped before it got out of hand - even if it required pressing criminal charges for making 'Falsified Police Reports'.

This came to a boiling point when on October 17th, 2016, while I was home alone studying on MarineNet to get promoted, said woman called the police from her work in San Lorenzo (at 3:02PM, and she works until 5PM), and falsely accused me of domestic violence - resulting in the police barricading the street, removing me from the house, conducting a raid without a warrant, and confiscating hundreds of thousands of dollars of my property. To this date, I still do NOT have my property back, I have not been provided with an accurate inventory of my property, and I have not had my property returned. I have made dozens of phone calls and emails which have been ignored, even by Internal Affairs. I have been through 6 lawyers so far, and the police have been served with 7 subpoenas, yet they still have not released the requested body camera footage or requested documents.

On top of a long string of police misconduct, the police department should not be denying requests for body camera footage and related documents. And they should not be ignoring subpoenas.

I am requesting that all documents and body camera footage that I have subpoena'ed be released to me, and that I be put in contact with all of the members of the 'City of Hayward's Policy Innovation Workshop on Policing and Public Safety'.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]