

**COUNCIL BUDGET AND FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020**

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED  
AFTER PUBLISHED AGENDA**

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## Crissy Mello

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**From:** Hayward CoCoa <haycocoa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** Crissy Mello  
**Subject:** Agenda item 3  
**Attachments:** Budget meeting committee.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Attached you will find an email from the Hayward Community Coalition in regards to today's budget meeting. We request that this letter is read aloud during the meeting.

In Solidarity,  
Haywar

To the Budget Committee,

We are writing on behalf of The Hayward Community Coalition, a collective of over 60 community members--not the "same 30 people." The voices you hear are the voices who speak for our loved ones who stay at home to care for families, we speak for essential workers working night shifts to make ends meet, and we speak for those who simply cannot or refuse to partake in a system that has routinely shut them out. The stories you hear of fear and injustice are the stories of a community who is too often overlooked.

As a community, we are concerned about the decision to bring in an outside consultant to DO WHAT (?). We ask that you consult with us, the community--*your* community--not an outside consultant who views the Heart of the Bay as figures and numbers. The residents who have direct interactions with law enforcement know best on how to best allocate money to make our community and schools safe. We ask that you listen to the voices of the community who call into City Council meetings pleading to defund the police; listen to the voices chanting in our streets to abolish the police; listen to the stories of students who have felt intimidated by the SROs on their campuses. No outside consulting firm can make an assessment that speaks to these lived experiences.

When we ask that 10% of the police budget be reallocated to fund other needed community services such as counselors, mental health first teams, therapists and other services that help the community. In regards to the 10% we feel we are being generous; We have seen neighboring cities like San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, San Leandro, and more take swift action in response to the calls of the community. Some of these cities are committing to redirecting up 50% of their policing budget. Too much money is going toward funding a system that continues to terrorize our Black and Brown community while simultaneously depriving them of basic human needs and other forms of safety precautions. The police do NOT keep us safe. The police do NOT prevent crime. Investing in community services and opportunities will help prevent crime. The police act as under-trained first responders to situations that should be addressed by professionals well-versed in best practices to de-escalate situations that include mental health crises, domestic violence, homelessness and substance abuse. Investing in these professionals is an investment in the actual safety and well-being of the community you have been elected to represent.

For nearly two months now, the Hayward community has organized several marches and rallies to speak out against police brutality, racism, and injustice. The community is calling for justice for Augie Gonzalez, Nate Greer, Roy Nelson, Stony Ramirez and those before them whose lives were taken too soon at the hands of Hayward Police. We feel that the City Council has brushed us aside--in response, the community came together in front of Mayor Halliday's house to ensure she listened to our demands to defund the police. History shows that Hayward is not immune to the issues of police brutality, misconduct, and racism. You have seen the reports and recordings and you have been complicit in the injustice. The community will no longer be idle or compliant with the injustices that members of our community continue to endure.

The Hayward community knows what is best for us. *Consult with us* to make budget and policing decisions. We are the ones who bear the burden of their mistreatment. We ask that you establish a city-wide participatory committee for all residents to have input on how to reallocate 10% of the police budget to non-police, community-based services.

In community, in solidarity,

Hayward Community Coalition