
DATE: Monday, June 24, 2024
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop*, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

***PRESENT AFTER ROLL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Seok Hyun Cho, Dave Wesner, Kyle Kapper, Elizabeth Hannan, Bourema Ouedraogo, Demond Dade, Richard Surles, Larry Boone, Carol Mitten, Clint Weidert, Chase Jones, Stephan Birt, Zachary Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Muffitt, Youth Development Leader of The Well Experience; Dr. Stephanie Cockrell, Executive Director of The Well Experience; Iribiri, Youth Development Leader of The Well Experience

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 6:31p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Fire Department Promotions

Demond Dade, Fire Chief presented the promotions of Engineer Chase Jones, Engineer Stephan Birt, and Fire Fighter Zachary Brooks. Spoke on the 6 years of experience at the Urbana Fire Department held by Chase Jones and his experience as an Advanced EMT as well as his experience of being a member of the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) 28th Division Technical Rescue Team. Chase Jones was pinned by his mother, Monica Jones and sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

Introduced Stephan Birt and spoke on his 5 years of experience with the Urbana Fire Department where he is a paramedic, member of the EMS Service Officers, member of the Uniform Committee, and has recently received his Master's Degree in Fire Administration. Stephan Birt was pinned by his coach, Jim Grimley and sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

Introduced Zachary Brooks and shared that he has been with the Urbana Fire Department since last year and he has since completed his studies at the Fire Academy at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in addition to completing his probationary period before becoming a fully-fledged Fire Fighter. Zachary Brooks was pinned by his wife, Shelby Brooks and sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

b. Our Community, Our Voice: Well Kids Speak – CM Evans, Nicole Muffitt, and Dr. Stephanie Cockrell

Introduced by CM Evans. Presented by Nicole Muffitt, Youth Development Leader of The Well Experience; Dr. Stephanie Cockrell, Executive Director of The Well Experience; and Iribiri, Youth Development Leader of The Well Experience. Nicole Muffitt, on behalf of her students and the children who attend The Well Experience, requested City Council to approve a budget with limited increases to policing and without the Philo Road Substation funding. Provided a background on The Well Experience and stated the children who attend express fear toward policing and the prospect of increased surveillance in their communities. Shared audio testimonials from children voicing their fears and concerns on the potential for a police substation on Philo Road. Requested funding be put toward expanding community resources to heal trauma and reduce violence instead of toward policing.

c. Public Input

Barbara Jones shared personal experience as auxiliary police in New York City, member of Justice 20/20, as a volunteer for the Trauma and Resilience Initiative, and as a co-chair for the Race Relation Subcommittee for the Champaign County Community Coalition to support that police departments have evolved to work more closely with their communities. Shared an anecdote of working with an individual who had been shot multiple times by her stalker to demonstrate the necessity of police officers in addition to social services. Spoke in support of social services and realizing Chief Boone's plans for the Urbana Police Department. **Dr. Stephanie Cockrell** stated the decision to expand the police department's budget, in light of historic and systemic issues the community has faced from the police department, is deeply troubling. Stated the community has experienced countless cases of discrimination, violence, and harassment from the police department. Voiced the community and the youth consistently raise concerns regarding policing in their communities and their negative experiences with them. Requested further training for police officers and to better their connections to social services within the community to improve their ability to serve their communities. **Adam Nichols** stated not increasing the budget for the police department does not equate to fully eliminating the police department's budget. Expressed the budget remains unbalanced with \$47,000,000 in estimated revenues and \$56,000,000 in estimated expenditures. Shared disappointment in the approval for two officers to be hired for a Community Engagement Team without any concrete programming or metrics for success. Stated the backfilling of the additional Deputy Police Chief and Training Sergeant will increase the workload for patrol officers due to the cascading promotions and will result in an increase in overtime taken. Requested City Council balance the budget further, remove the additional Deputy Police Chief and Training Sergeant, address the issue of overtime, and implement alternatives to policing. **Jada Fulcher** requested City Council not increase the already large police budget until alternatives to police are further investigated through BerryDunn's study. Shared personal experience of a recent break-in and filing a police report, stating that the most aid was received from reaching out to neighbors and not from the police. Stated more could be divested from the police department and instead invested into community resources to better support people. **Mary Ellen Wuellner** spoke in support of the Urbana Police Department's budget proposal and Chief Boone's recommendations. Expressed the desire to provide Chief Boone with the tools to succeed. Voiced support for the Community Service Responder and increased staffing

additions. Spoke in support for funding social services. **Paul Debevec** read fiction of an alternate history where Councilmember Evans' did not have a police officer able to respond to his calls regarding domestic violence. **Janice Walker** read a letter from James "T.Y.G.A.R." Corbin III on his behalf. Stated two young men attempted to rob a resident at gunpoint and led to the arrest of the individuals by Urbana police officers. Commended the officers for their work, but stated if there were an alternative intervention program, violent crime would be reduced by identifying people suffering from financial hardship and directing them toward long-term solutions and opportunities. Stated First Followers has shared with Chief Boone that poverty and a lack of resources are major sources of community violence; and they had discussed initiatives for the police department to consider implementation through an alternative policing model. **Tammy Little** stated it is difficult for recently released individuals from prison to find housing due to discrimination from landlords and that makes it impossible for them to find employment due to lack of housing. Requested further resources be allocated to social services to assist with providing services to individuals who are searching for housing. Shared a success story of working with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission in securing housing for an individual who was in transitional housing. **James Kilgore** repeated the three-point platform Dr. Stephanie Cockrell had put forward: limiting the number of police, no police hub in southeast Urbana, and building relationships within the community. Requested the police receive the tools necessary in building peace within the community. Suggested that the remainder of the BerryDunn report be considered before allocating funds to the police department, research what creates a loved community, and research structural racism and structural poverty. **Brian Dolinar** shared an anecdote of visiting family in Kansas where a study was conducted on policing and the Chief of Police there subsequently requested a larger budget and increased policing, stating suspicion of similar patterns appearing across police departments and within prison administration. Stated police departments are suffering from a crisis of legitimacy and are searching for methods to increase their funding after calls for defunding police nationwide. Shared journalistic experience of writing on former Urbana police officer John Franquemont's brutalization of Urbana residents and questioned when the arbitration case will be concluded for him. Called for the City of Urbana to work with already existing community organizations instead of increasing funding for the police department. **Skylar** shared concern on the proposed increase in police officers and social workers that closely work with the police department, citing personal experiences of witnessing the harm police departments have caused to friends. Stated police are not a solution to every issue a community faces and is best suited for responding to calls such as in-progress violent crimes. Voiced that the local community is best at caring for itself. **Iri** shared a personal account of providing public input at the City of Elgin where they were considering the removal of 4-year degree requirements for the police department to expand the police department to address staffing issues. Stated police are scientifically proven to not eliminate crime, but poverty alleviation through community programs have demonstrably eliminated crime. Stated the City of Elgin has successfully expanded their police department, but has not addressed poverty within their community and has unsuccessfully addressed crime rates. **Evelyn Nettle** spoke in opposition to all proposed increases to the police department's budget and increases in staffing. Stated alternative response options need to be completely removed from the Urbana Police Department or else they are not truly alternative options. Expressed residents are nearly unanimously against increases to the police department's budget. Questioned the effectiveness of public input's ability to convey the interests of the constituents to City Councilmembers. **Kanitha Fay** shared personal experience of serving University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students in connecting them with resources and also calling the police to assist students in violent situations. Shared appreciation for the presentation earlier within the meeting. Expressed fear and distrust that she had formerly felt toward police officers until having personally seen high school students positively interact with Urbana School Resource Officers. **Steven MacGuire** spoke on the need and necessity of social services to address homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, and mental health. Stated the police department already

have the funding they require to continue operations and the funding should instead go toward social services. Requested City Council match social services funding to police department funding. **Martell Williams** apologized to Councilmember Evans for having to listen to earlier input directed toward him specifically. Stated the City of Urbana requires a shelter or a women's shelter to relieve the City of Champaign's shelter. Stated funding needs to be prioritized for social services as much as it is currently prioritized for the police department. Stated arrests are not able to solve poverty. Shared personal experience of witnessing the police department act as an occupying force within the Urbana community in 1990 after a bill on drugs and crimes was passed. Voiced that black people had lost their freedom of movement due to the rampant policing in the community. Stated the former Chief of Police, Mike Bily, had success due to his methods of listening to the community to identify their needs instead of stopping cars. Voiced Black people suffer discrimination and are overpoliced due to the color of their skin, sharing personal experiences of having been stopped by the police in public spaces. **Chris Zelle** stated the expansion of the police budget does not address any root causes to crime. Stated a community committee should be deciding whether the police department's budget will be increased. Urged City Council to investigate where the power is held and divest the power from themselves and move it to a committee of community stakeholders instead. Stated calls for general policing are speaking in favor of minimal amounts of police necessary to function rather than budgetary expansions. Requested City Council match social services funding to the amount that the police department will receive rather than approving a substation. **Brian** shared account of his car being recently stolen and recovered where snacks and toys were found in the car, noting that the children responsible should not be arrested and require better activities to be available to them. Stated funding should not be going toward increased policing and it should rather be going toward programs to benefit children. **Paul Mewth** stated that a Community Engagement Officer does not equate to a Community Responder. Stated the Urbana Police Department's budget has risen by 77% in the past 6 years despite crime rates and violent crime rates having gone down. Stated City Council should have the authority to make the decision on whether or not to increase the UPD's budget, but they should consider public input more. Asked where the Urbana Community Policing Program had gone as it seems defunct. Echoed calls for a public meeting on the BerryDunn report's conclusions once they are released. Stated alternative response should not be housed within the police department. **Sarah Nixon** spoke in support of a Family Justice Center for the City of Urbana. Gathered testimonials from residents of South Philo Road who were not able to attend City Council meetings. Spoke in support of decreasing the amount of police, demilitarizing the police, and not adopting automated license plate readers. Requested City Council to match Social Services funding to the funding for the Urbana Police Department. **Ben Joselyn** shared appreciation for City Council's budget discussions and efforts to implement an alternative response model. Urged City Council to not expand the police department and to prioritize voices of already existing community stakeholders and leaders when developing an alternative response model. Stated the funding of Chief Boone's proposals is an insult to the wisdom of the community leaders and organizations that have been consistently requesting further funding to provide social services. **Sana Saboowala** shared appreciation for the reductions in the budget proposals for the Urbana Police Department, but stated the increases are still larger than desired. Urged City Council to match Social Services funding to the budget of the Urbana Police Department. Hoped for City Council to demonstrate the meaningfulness of community input when making decisions on the budget. Stated accountability is key in improving aspects of the community. **Alexandria Stone** quoted Chief Boone's comments on crime and it being motivated by poverty. Stated crime should not be generalized as they do not all share the same motive and are all not equally as bad as another. Agreed that crime is generally driven by poverty. Stated severe crimes could be prevented through access to mental healthcare. Shared the difficulties of receiving healthcare from personal experiences of attempting to enroll in Medicaid in the summer of 2023, noting that the application has yet to be approved or denied. Stated it is still uncertain if they would be able to access mental healthcare if approved as virtually no therapists

accept Medicaid for insurance. Requested the funds for UPD's proposed increases go toward eliminating poverty within Urbana by funding community efforts instead. **Faith Ryan** stated the country is a police state and questioned why further funding is required to expand the police department. Questioned why the funds are not being spent toward pre-existing social services within the community instead of expanding the police department. **Gwyneth Crepsio** asked why Councilmember Bishop was unable to attend the previous week's meeting. Expressed disappointment and frustration with the multiple motions that had tied votes in the previous week's meeting. Stated there appears to be bias when Chief Boone is allowed to provide direct input in the budget discussions when other community organizations do not have the same platform. Emphasized that the community responders be housed outside of the police department and research on alternate response models be done outside of the police department as well to avoid biased research. **Elizabeth Sotiropoulos** shared personal experiences of growing up unhoused and in poverty. Stated funding the police department when existing community organizations are requesting for funding to continue operations is actively harming the community instead of aiding it. Stated targeting the abundance of liquor and smoke shops within the South Philo Road area would better reduce crime and improve quality of life within the neighborhood instead of expanding the police department. Requested the proposed police substation in Philo Road be changed to a mental health and substance abuse center instead. Proposed funding toward the Urbana Police Department be put toward funding community organizations. **Maya Novic** expressed frustrations, as a prospective social worker, for how underfunded social services are in comparison to police departments. Spoke against the expansion of the UPD's budget and in favor of funding social services. Shared an anecdote of the uncertainty and hesitance to call emergency services for a person of color suffering a medical crisis due to the potential for the responders to potentially kill the person of color, questioning why it has to be this way at all. **Maxwell Haynes** spoke against any increases to the UPD's budget. Voiced that the emotions expressed by residents during public input should not discount their requests in any form at all. Stated the police do not best serve the community and fail to keep people safe as they are unable to prevent crime due to the nature of police response being reactive. Spoke in support of preventative care measures being implemented to prevent crime and loss of life. Provided suggestions for preventative care capable of being implemented within the community and urged City Council to listen to demands from the community. **Matt** stated there are better ways to spend the proposed funding for the police department and it would be better spent within the community instead. Urged City Council to not expand the UPD's budget. **Darleen Bailey** spoke in support of Chief Boone. Questioned how the expansions in police and the new fire stations will be funded. Voiced opposition to any increases in property tax. Shared personal experiences of racism and being unhoused have taught her that change comes from the individual themselves rather than from the police. **Reverend Dr. Evelyn Underwood** thanked the community for their civic engagement and holding their elected officials accountable. Expressed the initiatives for School Resource Officers should have been handled differently by creating a security department for schools rather than inserting police officers. Requested City Council not spend the savings that have accrued over the years all at once. **Pastor Melinda Carr** stated the community continue to hold each other accountable and hold the police department accountable despite whatever occurs regarding the budget decisions tonight. Requested there be structures in place to challenge the decisions of police officers and hold them accountable to assuage community fears and distrust. Hoped for more funding for existing community services to allow for better cooperation between community organizations and the police department. **Caite** spoke in opposition to the expansion of the UPD's budget. Asked City Council if they care about the community as a whole and if they believe all members of the community deserve to have their basic needs met, if they do not, they do not deserve to be a Councilmember. Requested City Council prove their dedication to their communities by funding social services directly assist their communities instead of investing in policing. **Marina Minetti** stated the world is trending toward more militarization and concentration of wealth to small groups, causing more pain to

communities worldwide. Stated the United States has the most armed and incarcerated population in the world and further weaponry is not required. Questioned why City Council is considering expanding the UPD's budget when people are suffering and require shelter, food, education, community, and healthcare. **Natalie Martinez** stated the UPD does not require increases in funding or staffing when they can have such a large, militarized presence at peaceful protests for Palestine. Stated the UPD's militarized presence causes more harm than it does good, as displayed by community comments made during public input. Requested City Council invest into community resources rather than the UPD. **Miriam Larson** expressed frustration that despite the technological advances to improve accessibility to healthcare, they have yet to be used in a manner that allows for universal access to healthcare. Stated the organization of resources is the main barrier in providing wider access to healthcare. Stated tools developed for policing have inherent biases that harm communities, but tools developed in other sectors such as healthcare have the potential to greatly benefit communities. Urged City Council to hold public meetings on alternative response models and on the conclusions from the BerryDunn report.

Written Public Input from the following individuals regarding the proposed UPD budget increases were read by Mayor Marlin: Derek Briles, Julie Watkins, Carol Leff, Donald Owen, Hanan Jaber, Hadjer, Alison Colgrove, DeShawn Williams. Written Public Input from the following individuals regarding the proposed UPD budget increases were read by CM Kolisetty: David Cisneros, Danielle Chynoweth, Donald Uchtmann, Jane McClintock. Written Public Input from the following individuals regarding the proposed UPD budget increases, but were not read: Lilah Leopold, Kanittha Fay, Julia and David Guth.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans thanked the public for their engagement in the past few months and asked if any changes to the decisions on the budget from the previous meeting need to be raised by the Councilmembers who intends to change their vote from the majority. **CM Wu** thanked the public for speaking and sharing their personal accounts of traumatic events. Encouraged the public to present their ideas regarding mental health to the Mental Health Board of Champaign County to access their \$6,000,000 in funding available through grants if interested. **CM Quisenberry** asked CM Evans if he was asking if someone was seeking to make a motion for something they did not intend to vote for, or if he was asking if the people who voted against a motion in the previous Committee of the Whole meeting would be able to make a motion now. **CM Evans** clarified that the question was to address if the motion were to be made to vote to reconsider a previously voted upon matter, the Councilmember would have to intend to change their vote. **CM Quisenberry** noted that when an item is forwarded to City Council for consideration, amendments are still able to be made. **CM Kolisetty** thanked the public for their engagement throughout the budget discussion from all perspectives. Voiced that democracy is being challenged across the country and it is meaningful to see people engage in the democratic process. Stated community conversations are unable to occur if there are no spaces for them to speak and ask questions. Stated there will have to be compromises made, but they should be based on the input heard from the communities that they represent and serve. Expressed commitment to best representing her constituents and prioritizing serving the interests of the community. **Mayor Marlin passed the chair to CM Wu.** **Mayor Marlin** stated the passage of the budget ordinance is a first step in the development of the alternate response model and the first portion of the BerryDunn study was researching the calls for service received. Stated in the next phase, a collaborative community stakeholder task force will be formed to examine and explore alternative response models which will involve community members, organizations, and representatives from emergency responders. Agreed that resources within the community need to be better organized to form a better response system to meet the community's needs. Assured the community that the budget is balanced despite expenditures seeming to exceed revenues. **Chair Wu returned the Chair to Mayor Marlin.**

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-021:** An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (A 2,625-square-foot strip of land adjacent to 710 Cunningham Avenue / Plan Case No. 2490-M-24) – CD

This item seeks to rezone a 15-foot by 175-foot strip of land under purchase by contract by Mark Allen from Eastlawn Burial Park to change the zoning district from AG (Agriculture) to B-3 (General Business). The rezoning would allow for the expansion of the existing vehicle service facility (Speed Lube #6) at 710 Cunningham Avenue.

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-022:** An Ordinance Redistricting the Wards of the City of Urbana, Illinois (2024) – Exec

The item seeks to redraw Ward boundaries to reflect the Census 2020 count and to rebalance the population among the seven City Council Wards.

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

PRESENT: Wilken

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-023:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #9 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Estimates) – HRF

This Ordinance amends the FY2024 budget to conform to the estimates provided in the proposed budget.

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Marlin

NAY: None.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-06-024:** An Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget – HRF

This Ordinance approves the Annual Budget.

Motion to approve with revised exhibit and as amended by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry, Marlin

NAY: Kolisetty, Wilken

- i. Motion to amend the Annual Budget to remove the \$45,000 of recurring funds for the Community Engagement Team's Building Lease by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken

NAY: Wu, Hursey, Bishop, Quisenberry, Marlin

- ii. Motion to amend Section 1 of the Annual Budget to add \$300,000 of recurring and \$150,000 of one-time funds for development of an alternate response program which must be advised by a task force with expenditures over \$100 coming to City Council for approval as well as being managed within the Community Development department by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Marlin

NAY: None.

- iii. Motion to amend the Annual budget to increase Social Services funding through a one-time increase of \$200,000 to a total of \$400,000 by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

PRESENT: Hursey

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

None.

10. New Business

None.

11. Mayoral Appointments

a. Mayoral Reappointments to Boards and Commissions

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

– Nancy Westcott (term ending June 30, 2027)

Building Safety Code Board of Appeals

– Scott Kunkel (term ending June 30, 2027)

Community Development Commission

– Anne Heinze Silvas (term ending June 30, 2027)

– Patricia Jones (term ending June 30, 2027)

Design Review Board

– Matt Cho (term ending June 30, 2027)

Historic Preservation Commission

– Laura O'Donnell (term ending June 30, 2027)

– Angela Urban (term ending June 30, 2027)

Plan Commission

– Andrew Fell (term ending June 30, 2027)

– Karen Simms (term ending June 30, 2027)

Zoning Board of Appeals

– Joanne Chester (term ending June 30, 2027)

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Quisenberry. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:10p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 8/5/24

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Derek Briles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:28 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Comment June 24, 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Please read my comments aloud during the meeting.

City Council and Mayor Marlin: My name is Derek Briles and I live in Urbana Ward 4. Thank you for listening to the voice of the people and not pushing through a budget that did not address the needs of the people. This is a huge first step. There are, however, still a few issues to address.

First, there is simply no documented need for community outreach officers. Chief Boone has provided no public information clearly outlining the duties of these proposed positions nor have any specific goals or benchmarks been communicated. In my job, I cannot simply demand new positions be created without providing clear data on the need for those positions, what specific functions those positions would perform, how those functions would return value, and how to measure the success of implementing those positions. Until this information is provided, I find this to be an absurd and irresponsible proposition.

Second, why do we, in a city as small as Urbana, need to rent a second police facility on Philo road? All my statements above apply to this proposal as well. We should not expand the footprint or presence of police in Urbana until the BerryDunn review is complete and we have a concrete plan in place for alternative response.

Finally, please do not suddenly become concerned about fiscal responsibility when it comes to alternative response. You all seemed fairly well prepared to hand over an extra \$2.7 million to the police. Any "savings" that remain from not capitulating to Boone's demands should be set aside in a fund for alternative response development. Additionally, the use of these funds must require a majority vote of City Council to be used. That is the only way to ensure that city administration acts in accordance with the needs of the people.

Be brave. Be bold. Demand that Boone and the UPD provide real data to support their requests and success metrics for any proposed new positions. So, please, follow through on not adding the three new patrol officers and do not add the community outreach officers. Let's slow this process down and do what's right.

Thank you.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Julie Watkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:43 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT, 24 June 2024 - Please read during public input part of meeting

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: Urbana City Council
From: Julie Watkins, Urbana resident

Please read during Public Input, thank you.

These words are in response to Public and Council comment and the budget discussion last week.

Patrol officers. Before the number of UPD patrol positions are increased I think that the data referred to last week that UPD time per call is longer than average should be looked at and addressed. There were observations that questioned the number of back-up that show up, which would increase the amount of police time per call. For example, noise calls or when no visible weapon & the man was only wearing sport shorts, and other observed instances.

Calls for Service. I also don't think "number of calls" by itself is sufficient to prove "understaffed", if police are sent out for a call they can't help with. Some people call the police on other people they don't like or for other agendas. There were examples given of people needing or wanting help such as for drug addiction or were homeless or other social need. If the call isn't something that is inherently about a police matter, we don't need to have more UPD positions so UPD can be the gatekeepers.

Alternatives to policing. In discussion, Maryalice Wu predicted that implementing such a system was probably a two year process ... the council started this three years ago. However the BerryDunn process did it backwards, as much public input has described. Even if staff said they did the process logically, it wasn't what many public and some councilmembers were understood would happen.

Taking that example and Grace Wilkin's reply on how public engagement was insufficient about the **Community Engagement trial program**, and comments about how much community expertise already exists. I believe there should be meaningful opportunities of community to describe what help would be most useful before the new positions are filled to know what skills are needed. It's a three year trial. Take time to ask what people need. Otherwise UPD risks looking like a gatekeeper that is deciding itself what is best rather than working with the community and respecting the existing expertise that is already there.

Protecting the funds for Police alternatives. I hope there is a way to prevent a repeat of how council votes were disrespected and the harm done when a program was established using funds that, by council vote, could not be established without council agreement. Because the relevant phrases were put in the so-called "non-binding" part of the ordinance, on staff advice or because staff got direction and wrote the final draft that way. I forget which.

That was ugly to watch when it happened and it's still causing harm through lack of trust. Even if the

people involved thought it was the easiest or fastest way to get a program started that UPD wanted. The harm caused by not respecting a clear vote has tainted the good done. There's no way to prove that it would have been worse to respect the council's clear vote and take the time to negotiate a compromise that would have addressed the council's concerns which could have resulted in a better program.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Julie Watkins
Urbana resident

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 12:47 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: Public Comment 6.24.2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear Members of the Urbana City Council and Mayor Marlin,

I write regarding this evening's vote on the upcoming budget vote for Urbana to add my voice to those calling for no new policing decisions added until the completion of the Berry Dunn report. I also deeply thank and applaud the compromising efforts made at the previous meeting, especially those aimed at envisioning future alternative response development.

Sincere and continued thanks for your service!
Lilah Leopold, Ward 4

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Carol Leff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:33 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input ACLU Illinois and Champaign County

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Please read into the record

On behalf of ACLU Champaign County and Illinois ACLU, we would urge you to await the full Berry Dunn report that includes alternative approaches to police response before making the budgetary commitment to additional police hiring rather than social services. Police of course are essential for response to violent crimes. But in fact most responses might better deal with mental illness or other inadequate social support systems. Social services are underfunded here and nationally.

So before budgeting for the earlier Berry Dunn findings, please consider waiting for the data in the full Berry Dunn report.

Thank you for dealing with this complicated issue

Sincerely

Carol Leff

Co-president Champaign County ACLU

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Donald Owen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:37 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - June 24, 2024 -PLEASE READ AT MEETING

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor and Members of Urbana City Council,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting of the City Council, and I ask that you read this letter into the public record.

I want to begin by thanking members of the Council for listening to community input. Listening is an important part of governing and decision making. As I stated in my June 10 message to City Council, budgets are moral documents, and your decisions have lasting implications.

I applaud you for reducing the number of police staff positions in the budget under discussion, and I ask again why you are adding any police positions when the data that you have reviewed indicates that there is a decrease in crime, and less than half of the calls to METCAD from Urbana are for criminal offenses.

Alternative response models gain more support from community members when they are not directly tied to police departments. I strongly urge you to revise your current budget resolution to further reduce the number of police positions, and place those funds, in addition to the funds you set aside last week into a separate line that is not under the purview of the police department. The council can decide how best to spend those funds AFTER a comprehensive study of alternative response models has been completed.

Thank you for your service,
Don

Don Owen, Ed.D.
Educational Equity, Excellence, Engagement, and Leadership
[REDACTED]

Follow me in Instagram: [@ddo_photo](#)
Connect on LinkedIn: [Donald Owen](#)

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Hanan Jaber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:34 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC Comment 6.24 - No to more police

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Hanan Jaber and I am a UC community member. I urge the City Council to not fund any more police positions, keep all alternative response funding outside of the police department, and vote no to funding a community engagement police station on South Philo Road.

Thank you
Hanan Jaber

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: H B <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:17 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC Comment 6.24 - No to more police

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Hadjer and I am a UC community member. I urge the City Council to not fund any more police positions, keep all alternative response funding outside of the police department, and vote no to funding a community engagement police station on South Philo Road.

Thank you

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Alison Colgrove <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:52 PM
To: !City Council
Cc: Boone, Larry
Subject: Public Input from Ward 5 resident ~ Please Read

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Members of the Urbana City Council,

I am emailing in support of Chief Boone's plan for implementing the 21st Century Policing outreach programs to improve community relations, and therefore I support providing the needed additional resources to be made available to the Urbana Police Department including for hiring additional staff as needed. To me it seems obvious that a failure to address the current inadequate staffing of police officers could inevitably compromise the potential success of the community outreach program that could benefit our community in so many ways.

I support community outreach being a top priority in the budget, including funding social workers and other outreach personnel. The mental health of citizens in crisis needs attention and a social worker/police partnership is a much needed positive step. But implementing these programs shouldn't mean reducing our police force, police staffing needs to be adequate for the safety of our community and to provide support to social workers to best address the needs of our community with a greater chance of success. Ideally, this relationship could go beyond the public interaction and be a source of officer support to better deal with situations with citizens in crisis, and source of understanding for social workers who witness police interactions with citizens in crises to best provide support to citizens. But at the same time, officer involvement with outreach should not lead to a reduction of officer presence in other areas. Inadequate police staffing already has impacts, for example, local citizens are fully aware daily of things such as citizens ignoring traffic laws, officers unavailable for assistance, etc.

If the council does provide adequate police staffing, they will provide the tools needed for cops to be able to be the best community servants they can be. Not having enough officers means increased concerns about their own welfare and potentially reduced chances for positive interactions with citizens, and could reduce the amount of time as well as mental energy for effective community outreach, and compromise interactions.

So if the council truly wants better police-citizen interactions, their decisions should focus on ways that officers can feel supported and valued to create the space for them to be the kind of cops that we all want, including the cops themselves, ones that seek more positive interactions with the public and at the same time handle difficult situations as professionally as possible. We all need backup in life, but police officers that are facing unknown situations everyday need it more than most.

Last year, when Montrell Emory was killed by another Urbana student, the painful grief began for many and continues today. Chief Boone's plans for community engagement by police officers could perhaps be an effective means to help prevent incidents like this. I believe that adequate staffing for community outreach programs that involve both police and social workers can begin to create the relationships and atmosphere to address the needs and concerns that are currently unmet in our community, save lives and lead to a better future for many citizens.

Please consider these thoughts as you cast your vote tonight.

Thank you,

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: DeShawn Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:07 PM
To: Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'
Subject: Fwd: Public Input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi there,

Good morning evening. Please read my comment aloud.

I'm certain the decisions about the Urbana budget for the coming fiscal year weigh heavy on the council. While these discussions and deliberations continue, let's remember we're all coming from the same foundational belief: that all Urbana residents deserve a safe and secure city to live in.

How we get to that safety and security is where the opinions diverge. I hope that we can find compromise and maintain respect as we move forward with a response task force model that reflects our community and provides an opportunity to build a bridge between the police and the community. I support our community's plan for alternative responses to crime; preventing it wherever possible, treating social problems with the investment and care necessary to make people less likely to turn to crime.

Best Regards,

DeShawn Williams

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Kanittha Fay <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:11 PM
To: !City Council; Boone, Larry
Subject: Public Input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Kanittha Fay, and I am a resident of Urbana. I realized that I did not properly introduce myself last week. I have been working on the Uofl campus for 25 years, assisting students, which has given me a deep understanding of and appreciation for community resources. Throughout my career, I have also collaborated closely with the police. Based on my firsthand experience, I strongly believe in the need for both police and community resources.

Outside of work, I volunteer extensively in Urbana and Champaign County. I am eager to collaborate with you or anyone who will help better our community in an inclusive way, and I have some positive news to share.

Yesterday, When We All Vote, a national nonpartisan non-profit organization, recognized the MLK Jetti Rhodes initiative for their efforts during Juneteenth Voter Registration Week. This initiative was a joint effort involving the MLK Jetti Rhode Neighborhood Day Committee, the Champaign County Clerk and Recorder Office, the League of Women Voters of Champaign County, Divine 9, and When We All Vote of Champaign County.

If you are on social media, please look up When We All Vote. I want to give a special shout-out to Dr. Lashaunda Cunningham and BOE Tori Exum for their outstanding leadership. The event was well-organized and truly fantastic. I had the opportunity to engage with many neighbors and community groups, and it was inspiring to see so many community leaders in attendance. I believe that Mayor Marlin, Chief Boone, and several council members were there. I was particularly moved by how much we accomplished when we came together as neighbors, rather than competitors.

Finally, **I am passionate about the success of this council.** Urbana is home to 38,000 people, many of whom are unable to attend meetings but are nonetheless impacted by the decisions made here. I work closely with small business owners who contribute significantly to our city's revenue. These hours are their busiest times. They rely on the council to collaborate with the Chief to ensure the safety and well-being of our town. I understand the fear and mistrust because I did not think highly of police until I moved to Urbana.

I would like to end my public input with a quote from Dr. King: *"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

Please provide support to the Urbana Police Department, so our personnel will not be placed in a dangerous and poor working condition.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Kanittha Fay

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Jane McClintock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:27 PM
To: !City Council; !City Clerk
Subject: Public Input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening City Council and Clerk,

Please read my input into the public record.

653 people have now signed the [petition](#) stating "We do not support hiring more police officers at this time." 385 signers live in Urbana.

However, despite the fact that the outcome of Tuesday's meeting did not fully respond to that call, I want to thank you all for your hard work forging a compromise.

Two item still seem to be left unresolved:

1.) I do not see language yet in the ordinance or the exhibit that codifies the intend of the Alternative Response Fund the council communicated last week. It makes a lot of sense to set these funds aside as we figure out next steps to implementing this vital program. And it is crucial that, as described last Tuesday, use of these funds be dictated by the council (and only the council) without requiring staff intervention. This is necessary to restore confidence after the Berry Dunn study scope was altered without public or council involvement.

2.) It was apparent last week that the Community Outreach Officer program has yet to be fully designed and neighborhood/stakeholder input has not been sufficient. As Ms. Mitten pointed out, it seems likely that when staff is assigned to these positions they will be able to better assess needs and design the program. However, it is unclear at this point why a physical office might be needed especially at this lower staffing and when the program aims primarily to deliver services in the community. I urge you to hold off on that part of the budget and put those funds in the aforementioned fund so that you can vote later on how best to invest them.

THank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Jane McClintock

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Danielle Chynoweth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 7:40 PM
To: !City Clerk; !City Council
Subject: REVISION Please read: Public input on budget

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

After hearing the moving public input from the Well Experience I wanted to submit this public input to be read today.

Thank you, Council for your careful and thoughtful deliberation about next year's budget and your clear commitment to building an alternative response for 911 and other calls for help. Everyone stands to benefit from our doing this.

We do not need a second Deputy Chief for a city our size (Berry Dunn's data supports me in this).

I want to thank the youth of Well Experience for sharing their perspective and concerns and I urge the council to listen to them and the neighborhood and halt the hiring of Community Engagement Officers.

As Township Supervisor I want to collaborate with the City and Police Department to build Alternative Response.

I appreciate the council pausing on building alternative response within the police department as there is a whole body of research that needs to be consulted about where to locate alternative response to be effective.

Organizations working in public health, homeless services, reentry, mental health, domestic violence, rape crisis, developmental services, emergency response, and more – all have valuable input to give to make a strong proposal.

I call on the city council, who initiated this conversation in the wake of the biggest protests in US History, to continue to lead on this project – setting aside funds for Alternative Response and the council creating a task force that advises it on policy and funding recommendations, ultimately to be made by the council.

Thank you,
Danielle Chynoweth
Cunningham Township Supervisor
Board chair, CUPHD

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Danielle Chynoweth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:29 PM
To: !City Clerk; !City Council
Subject: Please read: Public input on budget

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Thank you, Council for your careful and thoughtful deliberation about next year's budget and your clear commitment to building an alternative response for 911 and other calls for help. Everyone stands to benefit from our doing this.

Although I do not agree we need a second Deputy Chief for a city our size (Berry Dunn's data supports me in this), nor do I think Community Engagement officers is the best use of funds, I am willing to stand aside on these as my focus as Township Supervisor is to collaborate with the City and Police Department to build Alternative Response.

I appreciate the council pausing on building alternative response within the police department as there is a whole body of research that needs to be consulted about where to locate alternative response to be effective.

Organizations working in public health, homeless services, reentry, mental health, domestic violence, rape crisis, developmental services, emergency response, and more – all have valuable input to give to make a strong proposal.

I call on the city council, who initiated this conversation in the wake of the biggest protests in US History, to continue to lead on this project – setting aside funds for Alternative Response and the council creating a task force that advises it on policy and funding recommendations, ultimately to be made by the council.

Thank you,
Danielle Chynoweth
Cunningham Township Supervisor
Board chair, CUPHD

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Josue David Cisneros <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 6:58 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input for June 24

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

This is public input for June 24. Please read out loud.

My name is David Cisneros, and I live in Ward 4. I want to speak in support of the compromise resolution on the police budget that will be considered today. To be honest, I was not originally in support of this. I was one of the over 600 people who signed the petition in opposition to any increased police funding or new positions at this time. The petition and a lot of the speakers have already made this rationale clear. Crime in Urbana is down; the police budget is out of proportion to social spending in the city; we are in the middle of a huge report on community policing that the city has paid for and we haven't gotten the results yet; there hasn't been enough community buy in on this; and the way to create safety is through funding the social services and community organizations that are already building jobs, education, and community programs not unnecessarily duplicating those efforts through the UPD

But all of that said, I recognize that the Council has worked hard to come to this compromise. I think this compromise is a lot better than where you started. Thank you for your hard work to get here and for your commitment to bringing public input and community needs into decisions about policing. I hope you continue to listen to the community on how it imagines safety and alternative models of community response.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Don Uchtmann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 11:44 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Budgeting for Adequate Staffing of Police

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council:

I urge you to fund adequate staffing levels for the Urbana Police. The safety of Urbana residents depends, in large part, on adequate staffing and training of our Police Department.

I believe that Chief Boone has the vision to move our police department forward but that vision must have adequate budget support.

Please include this email in the public comment record for the June 24 City Council Meeting.

Donald Uchtmann

[REDACTED] Urbana

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Julia and David Guth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:22 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT June 24 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members,

As 20-year-residents of Urbana and Ward 6, we are writing to encourage you to support Chief Boone's current proposal to implement a community engagement team in the City of Urbana. We have both worked and volunteered in community service positions for several decades and have seen firsthand the positive impact that community engagement and inclusive community resources can have on improving community-wide mental health and well being.

In addition, over the years, we have sent multiple communications to our Ward 6 representative, Grace Wilkin, which documented the experiences of our own children as well as those of our neighbors both in Urbana School District #116 and throughout the City of Urbana. We are deeply appreciative of those Council Members who took the time to hear the voices our diverse youth at Urbana High School over the past few years. Those youth have underscored that the positive relationships established with the Community Resource Officers in Urbana Schools have provided a sense of belonging and connection on our school campus. Along those same lines, as shared by our students, those relationships helped provide connection to much needed social services and mental health resources.

We view the current community engagement proposal as an expansion of the successful model currently used in Urbana Schools. **Please vote yes to implement a community engagement team in the City of Urbana.**

Thank you for your service to our community.

With appreciation,

Julia and David Guth

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: SN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:55 AM
To: ! Quisenberry James
Cc: !City Council
Subject: Comments from residents of Ward 7 concerning proposed satellite police station

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello Mr Quisenberry and City Council,

As promised, this is a follow-up to the comment I made during public input at yesterday evening's City Council meeting, with apologies for the delay in sending it. Miniature horse care and chores take several hours some evenings.

I would like to bring to your attention some informal public input, from members of Urbana's South Philo Rd community (in ward seven) from late last week, with their permission, concerning the proposal by Chief Boone to establish a satellite police station in that community. I posed, out of simple curiosity, with no knowledge nor expectation of the answers I would receive, the following question:

Our new chief of police wants to set up a small satellite police station in this neighborhood. If that were to happen, would you feel overpoliced, or, would you feel safer?

The answers below come from individuals who represent a random sample of neighborhood demographics, but the majority of respondents have the following in common:

- They live within one mile (most within half a mile) of the intersection of South Philo Road and East Colorado Street
- They experience economic insecurity, which in many cases, directly impacts their ability to purchase their groceries
- They gave permission for me to relay their words to you, the Urbana City Council

As much as I dislike "boxes" that are used to sort respondents according to gender, race, age, income, etc., I can appreciate that even with informal data collection, demographics may be very helpful in some circumstances, including perhaps this one, and so I decided to note that information, and I provide it here.

Answers from residents:

An area police station is "A very good idea. We have to duck [to avoid] gunshots just walking down the street to the gas station." (*Couple, inter-racial, 20s*)

"Can't even go outside no more." (*Me: Why?*) Shootings, and all kinds of stuff." (*Man, African-American, 50s*)

"Yes! [would feel safer]. This used to be such a good area. I've lived here twenty-five years. You wouldn't believe how it's changed. There's a police call every hour. And it's [all] happening within a one-block [radius]." (*Man, Caucasian, 60s*)

"We've already got enough police." (*Lady, African-American, sixties*)

"This community is not safe anymore. I've had to quit two jobs in order to stay home and protect my wife who, as you know, uses a walker. She's gotten threats. There are seven crack dealers just in our building, on East Colorado. There are seniors suffering in the heat, but afraid to come outside. I'm the residents' advocate." (*Man, African-American, 60s*).

"It's like night and day from when I first moved out here. Yes, that [satellite police station] would be a good thing. More police will hopefully stop the crazy things."*

"It used to be different here. We used to hold neighborhood game nights! Now, I keep two rusty darts on hand [for self defense]. (*Man, African-American. 60s*)

"Nahh [we would not feel overpoliced]. I'm moving to Champaign, [but I] think it's a good idea." (*Man, African-American, 30s*)

"I'd feel safer. I stay down at Philo and Silver. If they [crack dealers] see enough patrol cops, they might stop. But there's no [policing] - maybe once in a blue moon." *Me: Are they coming from Chicago?* Him: Yes! (*Man, African-American, 50s*)

"I'm a teacher. Yes, truthfully, we need more cops. I see the direct [effect] in the classroom of not enough policing." (*Lady, Caucasian, 30s*).

"Lots of seniors scared now to leave their home" [due to the neighborhood crime / shootings]. (*Man, African-American, older.*)

"Either way, it don't matter to me." (*Man, African-American, 30s*).

"That would be nice!" (*Lady, Caucasian, 50s*).

"We need it. We tried to get a police station here a few years ago, but the City said no, they can't afford it." (*Lady, Caucasian, 60s*)

"Is so many crimes going on. And they not getting caught. There be so many police going around but not stopping anybody." (*Two boys, maybe brothers, African-American, around twelve years old*)

"Well, why do they need to be here? They ride up and down the street every day but don't do anything to stop what [crime] is going on here. This neighborhood used to be really nice. What the area needs is jobs. There's lots of land [commercial / business property]." (*Lady, African-American, 30s; I urged her to consider attending and giving input in person at a City Council meeting.*)

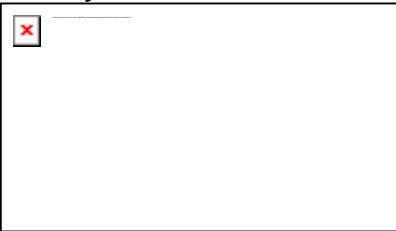
* The "crazy things" referred to are crack dealers and shootings (reportedly daily).

I was not able to notate everyone's answers, but there were many along the same lines: these Urbana constituents are mourning the pleasant and safe neighborhood they once had, stoically living amid a scary, escalating, volume of crack dealers and gun fire in the area, and they want the City to know that they believe a satellite police station right in the neighborhood is needed.

I hope this is helpful. In my observation and experience, the discourse during public input at City Council meetings can become dominated by ideologies actually dissonant from the everyday reality of many of the city's most economically and socially marginalized residents, who are usually absent and unrepresented, and so I hope that the comments that I have been able to collect and relay here, coming from people who literally live within the lines of fire, can be taken into account by Council and given the weight that they, too, deserve.

Sarah Nixon

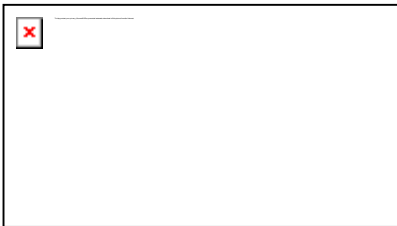
Family Court Reform Advocate



2022 Invited Presenter

[Battered Mothers Custody Conference](#)

Co-Organizer | 2022 Mothers Pilgrimage to The White House



Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: SN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 7:22 AM
To: ! Quisenberry James; !City Council
Subject: Part 2 of 2 - Comments from residents of Ward 7 concerning proposed satellite police station

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello All --

Just as an addendum, here is additional input from ward seven constituents who are directly impacted, in their day to day lives, by crime in the neighborhood, and the related decision to establish a police post therein. These conversations took place two days ago from two days ago (June 25). This concludes my informal conversations with community members on this topic. Hope these additional notes are also helpful.

"I can't answer that right off. I don't know nothing about [Chief Boone] yet. We do need to be safer." (Lady, African-American, 60s)

"What does it matter? World's going to hell in a handbasket." (Gender: Fluid (Cantankerous yet endearing crossdresser), Caucasian, 70s)

"They [police] are always over there anyway. They only stay for a few minutes. They're always at our building anyway. I heard it's Chicago gangs that are behind that." (Man, Caucasian, 70s.)

"So long as they're protecting us." (Man, African American, 20s.)

"I think so [would make us feel safer]." (Man, African American, 80s)

"There was a shootout just last night [June 24], at the carwash. And I was about to go there, but turned around and went back. That was God. I'm from Chicago, and I thought this would be quieter !" (Lady, African American, 20s.)

"As long as they ain't profiling and locking up the wrong people." (Man, African American, 20s)

"We need it! There be a lot of seniors here. They don't know who gonna try to stick you up." (Man, African-American, 80s) *Note: From a different source last week, there was a*

detailed disclosure of a theft of \$7,000 cash (his life savings) stolen from an elderly man residing in apartment on E. Colorado).

"We would feel safer! I seen in the newspaper that the board [sic] is [discussing] this [establishing satellite station]. Why not? You know what be going on in the neighborhood. So I hope they voted yes." (Lady living with disability, in a wheelchair, African-American, 70s)

"Safer. The hallways in our building used to smell of pine sol. Now, the dope dealers are there, selling right under your nose." (Man, African-American, 70s)

"But they [criminals] will do what they want. They [police] can do what they want. But will it work?" (Lady, African-American, 70s)

"I would only feel overpoliced if it was unnecessary for them to stop someone. I live one block for the gas station. I been living here three, four, years. We don't get a day without hearing gun shots in the neighborhood. But don't just pick on anybody!" (Lady, African-American, 30s)

Girl: "Safer." (Me: *What makes you say that?*) Girl: "Intruders." (Three children, African-American, between ten and twelve years old.)

"Yes! IF they can get anyone hired. Nobody wants to work at the police department." (Couple, African-American, 70s)

"Everybody needs to be safe, but especially the kids. Most bad things happen on Vawter Street. The people who don't like [the plan for the new station] are the people doing the bad stuff." (Girl, African American, around 13.)

"Well I don't know. Have we voted on it yet? I seen a sign in my neighbor's yard to vote against it." (Man, African-American, 60s)

"They need re-training. Lawyers and Judges, too." (Lady, African-American, 30s)

"No, it's not over-policing. Their hands are tied. They can't do nothing no more." (Lady, African-American, 60s)

"No, [that would] not [be] overpolicing. They need all the help they can get." (Lady, African-American, 60s)

"Overpoliced. I work at The Well Experience. We gave a presentation last night!" (Lady, African-American, 30s. *Note: It is my understanding that this respondent does not reside in the neighborhood.*)

"Oui, c'est une bonne idée." (Lady, Congolese, 40s)

"We would feel safer." (Lady, African-American, 70s, with grandchildren)

Sarah Nixon

Family Court Reform Advocate



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