



Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: Vice Mayor Jones

**SUBJECT: MAYOR'S JUNE BUDGET
MESSAGE FY 2020-21**

DATE: June 16, 2020

APPROVED: *Chappie Jones*

DATE: June 16, 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept the Mayor's June Budget, the proposed recommendations of Councilmember Peralez's memorandum dated 6/15/20 amending the Budget by up to \$1,765,000 to allow for the restoration of the Community Service Officers Budget, additional funding for the Office of Racial Equity, and mechanisms to improve reporting transparency, and the following amendment:

1. Allocate an additional \$100,000 to create a Public Safety Community Process tasked with evaluating and recommending new ways in which our police department intervenes with social issues and reduces social conflicts that are noncriminal in nature. (Source: Police Overtime Budget).

DISCUSSION

As a nation we are in an unprecedented moment after witnessing weeks of protests, and decades of racism. We must work together to dismantle the systemic racism that continues to plague our nation – repeating history over and over again. We have all heard the communities calls for change over the past two weeks, and it is time that we take action.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, we have to ask ourselves if police are being asked to do jobs they were never intended to do; responding to drug overdoses, mental health crises, and homelessness. Many of the calls that sworn officers respond to should be addressed with social services, county services, and other government agencies. The City of San Jose needs a fundamental redefinition of what we want to see as our police force.

I agree with my council colleague, Councilmember Raul Peralez, when saying Community Service Officers (CSOs) have been an integral part of the San Jose Police Department since the position was created in 2014. CSOs are deployed throughout San Jose to help police officers by responding to and investigating lower priority calls for service. This has the effect of providing quicker response times to citizen requests for higher priority police services, as well as increasing the amount of calls that a sworn officer can respond to, and increasing community presence. CSOs are a valuable asset to the department, aiding our thinly staffed police department, by

complimenting the work of our SJPD officers with their professional services. It is critical to our current climate that we take some of the burden off of our officers so that they may focus on proactive policing, and restoring trust in their relationship with the community.

Each of us have received calls and emails from concerned residents calling on us to change policing in San Jose; this is our opportunity to move forward, bring people together, and give the community a positive change. Councilmember Peralez made reference to “reimagining policing and investing in our community” in his June 12 memorandum on Agenda Item 3.6. In speaking with Councilmember Peralez and Mayor Liccardo, the funding prioritization for social programs needs to be addressed in respect to police budgets, and how officers are utilized in respect to the calls they respond to. The proposed Public Safety Community Process would create the opportunity for an open dialogue on the future of policing in San Jose. The Public Safety Community Process shall be managed by the Office of Racial Equity, with a body comprised of a hired consultant, subject matter experts, Santa Clara County representatives (specialized in housing, county mediation, mental health), the San Jose Police Department, the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), and relative nonprofit organizations dedicated to social justice reform. The Public Safety Community Process shall meet within a determined timeline (August 2020 – April 2021) and include community engagement. At the end of the 2020 calendar year the Public Safety Community Process shall present their progress to City Council and bring back recommendations by end of April 2021 to be considered for adoption.

The operation of the Public Safety Community Process shall be funded from the Police Overtime Budget, allowing for the Chief’s discretion in identifying and utilizing a source of Department funds in consultation with the City Manager. I am confident that moving forward we will begin to finally address and change the issues reinforcing systemic racism in our society, and that we will emerge stronger and more ready to serve the San Jose community with the policing they deserve.