

## Public Safety Committee 06/18/2020

District	Public Comment
8	As reforms and 8CantWait is discussed, please also understand that many of us are NOT calling or settling for simple reform, we bring up the inflated police budget and call for the police to be defunded because that is exactly what we want, not only reforms and baby steps that come with a fine print attached.
N/A	We support the police. In order to do their jobs, they need the backing of local government.
1	Policing and punitive punishment has had its chance to solve crime and poverty for hundreds of years in the United States. If it is any sign that the designated first responder for homelessness is armed police- not a medical professional - is a sign that the current way in which we address urban issues are not only unhelpful, but wholly counter productive. Divest from police, Invest in community. Defund the budget of SAPD and put the money in affordable Multifamily housing, healthcare, and essential community infrastructure like parks and sidewalks. The people who allegedly spoke in previous budget sessions in favor of 'public safety' spending are asking for further segregation against what they consider outsiders, and they are not the community that bears the brutal human cost of policing. SAPD does not need 'better training' or reactive oversight, that only responds AFTER a life has been tragically taken. San Antonio must not, as usual, be decades behind other cities, in this care in adapting to civil rights matters that are truly life or death. If we have to choose between a cycle of violence that has run its course for centuries or lifting up people, let's make the easy to choice to lift up community, not hold them down.
N/A	We need the police. We need them to keep us safe. Defunding the police will harm the poor and minorities, the elderly and children the most. That idea is insane. I won't live anywhere where there are no police.
N/A	Part of the rationale for defunding the police is that as a society we need to rely less on armed personnel to resolve social issues and invest more in social services. The SAPD's CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) is so underfunded that we can't count on their timely responses in urgent situations involving patrons with mental health issues at the library, so we resort to calling the police. When we tell the police that we feel threatened by an agitated patron, just imagine how they are trained to respond to that alleged threat. Should we consider the real risk of bodily harm to someone when we call the cops on them? We must find a better way going forward.
N/A	San Antonio Police helped me several times when my ex was harassing me, threatening me over custody issues, or vandalizing my property. I don't know what I would have done without them. I might not be here today without their protection. Please don't defund them or we will all see the evil they deal with each day. Everyone will take the law into their own hands and the city will become a very scary place. They do a tough job and they are not being respected either. Who is going to want to be a police officer after this? Do you know how many people they help and how many lives they save? Be sure - someone or some group will fill the void left by less
N/A	As you know Nearly 70% of San Antonio Police officers who were fired in the past 10 years were shortly re-instated (re-hired). Some of these police officers have been fired multiple times due to misconduct and yet still were reinstated. How is that acceptable? Police Unions are no longer serving the best interest of 'good' cops and citizens. They are abusing their power and have created a safety net for 'bad' cops to continue working without any accountability or repercussions. Reduce the police unions power, Repeal laws 143 and 174
2	I am for defunding the San Antonio Police Department and redirecting a significant amount of that spending toward community health, educational, and transportation initiatives. Investing in our community will bring down crime rates and make us safer and more prosperous.
9	I do not agree with defunding our San Antonio Police force. 99.9% of the force are outstanding and responsible individuals who take their jobs seriously and follow the code of conduct to the best of their ability. I do agree that additional training in force of use should be implemented and be on going. Thank you.
6	End nepotism. This cultivates a \"family\" and hence police are more hesitant to report on fellow officers. End arbitration once and for all and give the power back to the city leaders and the people. Require an associate degree in the arts to apply as a cop. Criminal justice, psychology, sociology. Institute CEUs and have a licensing board mandate ongoing learning and training.

District	Public Comment
5	<p>Salutations City Council, As a resident born and raised in the city of San Antonio, there are some concerns I have with our police department. We need professionals that properly know how to de-escalate situations without harming anyone, especially when they are unarmed. We cannot continue investing our tax dollars into more training/reforming a department that is harming it's own citizens and are not being held accountable for their actions. If an officer has committed criminal acts they should be held to the standard that they hold other criminals to. A police suit and badge is not an excuse to dismiss a criminal's actions. When the police fail to hold themselves unaccountable, that's where we see constant discrepancies in the policing system. Our police are ultimately granted too much power, they must be prohibited from enforcing a range of low-level/non-serious offenses including issuing fines, traffic stops, and making arrests for non-dangerous behaviors. These unnecessary confrontations have led to unfortunate deaths and police have escaped charges because of qualified immunity. Qualified Immunity must cease to exist. Our city must demand for deconstruction of police to separate their role into different jobs like having first responders that are unarmed social workers, mental health providers, and certified experts in responding to mental health crises or citizens with a disability. Possibly, even having a department that focuses on unarmed Safety/Transportation officers that are mandated to monitor and ensure safe driving to take on those non-serious offenses mentioned earlier. We need to reallocate funds away from police budgets and invest in creating community-based care in our Black, Brown, and poor communities that lack restorative service. It is alarming how much funds are being invested into police; health and housing combined are only 5.94% of that budget. We need change now, not later.</p>
N/A	<p>Police should be held to higher standard just like military and be more trained to defuse rather than be aggressive. Maybe more training on people skills as well as tactics used to suppress targets.</p>
9	<p>Cameras: How are we ensuring that officers cameras are 'on' at all encounters and why isn't the video of all arrest encounters made available to an independent party / commission for review to ensure adherence to policy and possible referral for discipline and prosecution? * all videos should be made available upon request to any public or civic org. * videos should be reviewed by independent party; * cameras used should be type that require no officer discretion; 'Professionalize' Dept.: * what steps are being taken to raise academic standards for entry/level officers? * what steps are being taken, or change yo regulations, to modify SAPD's Academy curriculum to enhance de-escalation, use of force, and ending the 'blue wall of silence' Citizen Police Commission: How is the oversight by the citizen's committee being enhanced to ensure transparency and independence (power to refer cases for discipline and prosecution)?</p>
N/A	<p>There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding the methodology used to classify patients who pass away whether their death was related to COVID-19. Could you please have an expert familiar with this please address this? I think some transparency into the process could help alleviate some of the skepticism and reluctance to take this pandemic seriously by many in our city.</p>

District	Public Comment
N/A	<p>In our discussions of police reform, we should really be taking into consideration the training program. How many hours are their training? Are officers required to have a college degree? What skills are they learning in their training, and are they properly demonstrating those skills before leaving the academy? As a teacher here in San Antonio, I am required to have a 4 year degree minimum with a 6 month to one year training period in a classroom before I am allowed to earn my certification with TEA. We have very specific procedures and trainings we have to go through and learn, and if ever an educator is not following the procedures and trainings, that gets reported, where we could lose our license to teach with little to no chance at appealing to get it back. Are officers in the city of San Antonio held to similar measures? Are they being properly reported if they are not upholding the oath they took in the academy? Are they being let back onto the force with little to no consequences if it was determined they did something that went against their rules and regulations? Officers of the law must be held to high standards and expected to keep those standards. It needs to be documented and reported if they are not doing the right thing, and they need to be held accountable for their actions if it has been determined that they did not follow the rules set out for them. If an officer of the law cannot uphold standards, they should not be able to keep their credentials as a police officer in San Antonio, Texas, or anywhere else in the United States. We do not need officers who will let things \"slide\"!</p>
10	<p>Being born and raised here, and I've heard stories of police malfeasance. I experienced it and I am still mad about it, 20 years later. A girl was street racing and crashed into my neighbors yard, my yard, crashed into my truck as well as my sons truck, ending up in my other neighbors yard. We had two witnesses volunteering the information that they witnessed her vehicle street racing another vehicle. She drove off from the scene. I gave chase and caught her, two blocks from my house, the scene of the accident. The policeman, Montrez Butler, said she would not be charged with street racing or any other offense. Why not? 'It's not hit and run, because I caught her. Two blocks from the scene! I complained to his supervising Sergeant, who found nothing wrong. I had a meeting with Assistant Chief Jerry Pittman and Chief Michael Burns, along with Northside Substation Commander, Captain Saucedo, and another Lieutenant. I got no satisfaction as to the merits of my complaints. Two months later a Officer with Internal Affairs said I would have to pick the girl out of a photo line up to pursue charges against the girl. What about my complaint? 'Oh, you have to come down and....'Yeah, yeah, yeah! The San Antonio Police needs real reform. A 'real' Citizens Review Board, that citizens can trust. From what I've seen Chief McMannus seems to be the exception. Just a fun fact as an addendum. The girls mother was a former Assistant District Attorney. And a former Assistant City Attorney. How's that for special treatment P.S. I am an 'Anglo' who was failed by SAPD.</p>
5	<p>My concern is with the police union and their power to get officers reinstated. If internal affairs and supervisor and decide to terminate an officer that should stand. The police union has to much power and promote the brotherhood of the blue making it a I got your back, don't tell association. They are very influential with elected officials because of its PAC. Disbanding the union would be a good start to better police department.</p>

District	Public Comment
8	<p>In 2018, SAPD Officer Steve Casanova shot and killed Charles Roundtree Jr., 18. A wrongful death lawsuit filed in October 2018 claimed Roundtree's death was due to excessive force (X). Casanova opened the door without a no-knock warrant and did not identify himself as an officer. In 2019, a grand jury did not indict the officer accused of killing Charles Roundtree Jr., and his family never got justice.” In 2016, Matthew Luckhurst, “Shit-Sandwich Cop” made headlines for giving a homeless man a feces-filled sandwich. Luckhurst is trying to overturn a 2nd suspension in an arbitration hearing which started in February, 2020 (X). The 2nd suspension is because he intimidated and degraded female officers with another poop-related prank. City Manager Erik Walsh in a statement to KSAT said, “I am hoping the police union will agree that these cases tarnish and impact the community’s confidence in our police department.” SAPD’s union contract disqualifies complaints, restricts/delays interrogation, gives officers unfair access to information, limits oversight/discipline, requires city pay for misconduct, and erases misconduct records. Examples that back up such claims from the contract include Section 29.2 C which delays interrogation of officers by 48 hours and Section 28.19 erases records of suspensions after 2 years, replacing them with written reprimands. Because of the reasons listed above, we are calling for a formal review of the SAPD Union Contract that expires next year on Sept 30, 2021. Please hold our officers accountable and do not let bad cops stay on or get reinstated with sapd.</p>
N/A	<p>Defunding the police is not just about abolishing a broken-system with nothing to replace it. Defunding the police is about divesting away from a flawed system and investing in services and programs that better serve communities of black and brown people. We, as a society, have an unhealthy relationship with relying on the police for minor criminal behavior, and non-criminal behavior. We have been conditioned to think that these carceral systems are natural and that they have always existed, which they haven't. We have to move away from our incessant need to over criminalize, which only subjects people to state violence, and that creates harm in our communities by throwing people in cages. We cannot address violence with more violence. We cannot address harm by inducing more harm. As elected city officials, and members of the Public Safety Committee, I urge you to reconsider the way we look at public safety and to be bold and brave in helping us transform the way we look at the role of police in our neighborhoods. A system that is inherently violent, and rejects the humanity of so many people, cannot be the solution to violence and harm.</p>
10	<p>Please do not defund SA police or cut their budget. SA police do an excellent job in keeping our city safe. This was not always the case in SA as there were active gangs here.</p>
7	<p>Having reviewed the recommendations from Campaign Zero and #8CantWait it is great to see that San Antonio has made progress on banning chokehold, and requiring de-escalation. However we cannot become complacent. Where does the city and SAPD stand on the remaining four policy recommendations? - Requiring Warning Before Shooting - Exhausting All Alternatives Before Shooting - Banning Shooting at Moving Vehicles - Require all force be reported. Specifically in relation to comprehensive reporting which includes any threat of use of force, pointing a firearm at someone, in addition to all other types of force. This last point seems particularly important. As we have learned, these situations are often under-reported and sadly not tracked by many agencies. Adopting a policy of reporting and tracking these situations will not only encourage officers to consider if force is truly necessary; it will also improve transparency by ensuring officers are evaluated and held accountable more accurately.</p>
1	<p>i think the police unions should be excluded from making policy at all levels. also if the police is a form of public service why are there records not part of the public arena? if a police offices is doing something wrong then that should be a part of the public information. why is the police force spending money on military hard ware, this is a waste of money.that money can be directed at social matters to benefit the community. last comment. what about the bexar county sheriffs. they have to be reined in also.they are to often more disruptive than the city police. they have no professionalism and have no idea of the law they are enforcing. all law enforcement should be trained to deescalate the problem and listen to the parties before rushing to judgement. my experience with the county officers has been lest than professional. thanks mike</p>

District	Public Comment
7	Training. Accountability. Support for those who come forward. Zero Tolerance for racist and sexist ~humor'. Support for leadership in making these changes. Redirecting social and medical to those agencies. Joe and Ernie are on the right track with the mental health unit. De-escalation should be the standard, not ticketing and arrest.
6	Mr. Mayor and City Council Members: We have been San Antonio Residents since 1985 and would like to take exception to a couple of items in the Petition for Peace and Justice given to you by Pharaoh Clark. First, the document continually refers to 'we the people (of San Antonio)' as if this group represents ALL the residents of San Antonio. There are over 2 million people in Bexar County and this group is just a small minority of the overall citizenry. They do NOT represent us and we respectfully wish to point out that the wording is presumptive and offensive. Second, in the introductory paragraph it states they wish you to, 'review and accept the following reforms and put them into effect immediately so the peace in San Antonio may be restored as soon as possible' This to us is a not so subtle form of coercion. In 18 US Code 2331 Domestic Terrorism is defined by statute as any act dangerous to human life that violates U.S. criminal laws and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. We understand these are trying times but before you make any sweeping changes to our beloved City, please remember there is always more than one side to every question and just because someone can yell louder does not make them 100% right.
3	Sir/Ms, I do NOT have a problem the way the San Antonio Police Departments or the Bexar County Sheriff Departments are conducting their serve and protect abilities. That is my opinion.
N/A	I have seen SAPD officers do great things in their community. For example Officer Tim Bowen who saved the lives of 4 children in an apartment fire in 2016. There are FAR more good officers than bad but the media only spotlights the bad over and over, same stories, especially during these times. When disciplinary action is needed there is a process and board (with civilians) that decides the fate of these officers. Then they hire a lawyer to get their job back THEN the arbitration board decides to give them their job back! So maybe look there and MAKE changes! Don't punish ALL our police for the actions of a few or because people are mad. It's really sad cory council and our mayor are anti-police. Maybe they shouldn't have had ANY Law enforcement protect our city during the riots and looting if all they were going to do is criticize them and their tactics! It's ridiculous and sad.
9	None of this is necessary. Bring back the SAPD of the early 90s! Problem solved. God bless SAPD and BCSO.
N/A	Our K9 officers should have unmarked patrol vehicles. Their lives are at risk more than ever right now because of the actions of 4 individuals. With take home cars they are subject to being targeted at their homes. Additionally those vehicles need a release door for their dogs. This will help increase response time with their dog and could potentially be used as a tactic to have a criminal surrender as opposed to using deadly force. Increase funding for our Officers who put their life on the line everyday so you can live in safety!
N/A	Thank you for offering this publicly.
1	I'm anxious to view the session.
9	Police violence is the leading cause of death of young men in the united states. Black men and women are disproportionately targeted and killed by the police. Increased police spending and increased police presence in our neighborhoods DOES NOT equal increased safety. We need to reallocate SAPD funds to community-led, non-police initiatives to prevent violence, and nurture black and brown communities.

District	Public Comment
1	I am begging that you please divest from SAPD in order to reinvest. Right now our city is suffering immensely from COVID, homelessness, massive healthcare disparities mainly due to a lack of Medicaid expansion and a gross majority of citizens suffering from an inability to obtain insurance. Additionally, you have a law enforcement who acts without regard to their citizens, who continue to target Black and Brown citizens without consequence and continue to remain on the force. Marquise Jones and Charles 'Chop' Roundtree have been murdered at the hands of law enforcement and their officers remain on the force as murderers in these streets. You further reward SAPD during a global pandemic as homelessness rates rise drastically with absolutely no plans to offer permanent housing. Divest from SAPD and invest in community-led non police initiatives that will prevent violence and reduce the risk of fatal encounters. Expand investments in public health, education and housing that will protect our citizens especially during COVID-19 which Bexar county appears to be experiencing a massive growth in recent days. By divesting, we can protect our citizens from unnecessary evictions and offer rent support, childcare and other services needed as well as community trainings and homeless prevention. I am also asking that you suspend paid administrative leave for police under investigation, without pensions and stop rehiring police that are involved in excessive force. Prosecute and hold those accountable instead of just firing them as they can be rehired in other states. Repeal laws that criminalize survival. Demilitarize communities and the police, remove the police from schools, and eventually I am hoping you defund and abolish the police as we have seen reforms don't work.
N/A	Pursue investments in community-led, non-police initiatives to prevent violence, reducing the risk of fatal or violent encounters.
N/A	Spad is awesome. Dont change a thing
N/A	We are in agreement on required body worn camera usage and disclosure of footage by local departments along with a ban on chokeholds, and the ability to sue officers directly for their conduct.
7	As other citizens have undoubtedly commented, SAPD has one of the highest rates of reinstatement for dismissed police officers. This amounts to a dereliction of any possible mandate for "public safety" imputed to the SAPD. It is clear that the SAPOA cares only for the right of police officers to violate civil liberties and human dignity with impunity, and that the well-being of San Antonians writ large is not of concern to the police union or to the majority of San Antonio police officers. Throughout the last few weeks, police forces across the nation have rendered undeniable their utter lack of respect for the people they ostensibly "serve and protect." There is no going back to the complacency of a pre-2020 world--the illusion of functioning civil society grows weaker and weaker each day. I, and no small number of other Americans, would see the police become history. I understand that not every San Antonian feels this way, so I suggest that the City take serious steps towards a "reform" that would actually circumscribe the virtually unchecked power of the SAPD: commencing attempts to repeal Chapters 143 and 174. If the status quo continues unabated, those who believe that defunding or even abolishing the police would be "going too far" may wake up one morning to discover that the window for "reform" has closed, and that the unrest we've seen over the past month was but a prelude to the years to come.
9	I think it's extremely important that we stop the over-policing of many of our neighborhoods and instead ensure our schools and neighborhoods have adequate funding for social services. I'm equally concerned that SAPD is involved in the discipline of our students beginning in MS due to the discipline code. Is the city council considering "defunding" the police whereby some of monies allocated to SAPD would be allocated to social services in the city?
N/A	Knowing that covid is on the rise, possibly linked to memorial day gatherings, and reopening to soon. With July 4th coming up, and knowing its going to be another spike due to gathering. And people ignoring safety guidelines. Did anyone learn that memorial day was a bad idea, and do something about 4th of July. Like insist that firework stands be closed so it will discourage gathering of many people partying. For instance, in my area my neighbors will hold a huge party with many fireworks, with no kind of consequence. I believe with no fireworks, parties will still happen, but will be subdued.

District	Public Comment
2	In the interest of public safety for our citizens, especially our black and brown citizens who do not feel safe with our current practices, I recommend reallocation of police funding toward services such as health care, counseling, housing, employment, beautifying public spaces, and other services that would improve public safety and quality of life. Reallocation of funding could even help to address the longstanding issue of extreme income inequality in San Antonio. Not all police need to be outfitted like soldiers. We do not need so many police in general. It should be much easier to fire a police officer after misconduct. I am furious that it took so long to terminate Officer Luckhurst's employment with SAPD after several instances that demonstrated he was not a civil servant but a cruel person. What an embarrassment to our wonderful city! We need a system that emphasizes safety and well-being of our community and not militarization of the police.
N/A	There is no good reason to defund your police force, our police force. They're good people, and not everyone shall be treated the same as bad cops. The ones who do wrong shall lose their pensions and any other benefit given to the police force.
9	I think it would be a big help if all officers were required to meet and get to know the people who live in their patrol area. That would make the feeling more an 'us' instead of 'us and them.' Not all civilians would participate, of course, but the better the officers actually know their people, the better they could judge a situation. Every officer couldn't possibly know every resident" just divide the area up depending on the number of officers. Also, more emphasis needs to be put on de-escalation vs taking control of a situation. Most people are NOT thugs. Thank you.
8	As an educator, I have learned that investing time, resources, and care on the front end can prevent a great deal of classroom conflict on the back end. Similarly, by diverting funds from the police and to mental health, healthcare, trauma, community, and employment services, we can invest in our city in ways that diminish the need for police involvement. And when we diminish the need for police involvement, we diminish the occurrence of needless brutality, conflict, and racial discrimination. These changes to our budget would make our communities more peaceful and prosperous. Meanwhile, addressing issues with the police contract could make our government more accountable and transparent. I hope you will do everything you can to fight for line-item spending descriptions, and to address arbitration and the 180 day rule. These changes will make for a better city--and they'll make it clear that Black lives matter in San Antonio.
9	I support our police and am in favor of keeping their funding.
2	Thanks to law enforcement for all they do. Let's provide funding, and hold officers accountable for their actions.
9	I personally support the police. Defunding police would create an unsafe environment for us all.
N/A	Do not change to satisfy the criminals. Police should be respected and trusted to serve and protect. Ignore the fascist idiots.
7	I am endorsing all the demands of the Poor People's Campaign to end systematic racism. Police reform will not make a difference--the abolition of the police as they are currently configured will. In my neighborhood, the crimes are crimes of poverty, despair, mental illness, drug addiction. None of these can be fixed by more policing, but are made worse by them. Stop signing idiotic contracts with the police. Real unions promote solidarity with their communities; police unions shield their members from accountability to that same community. Everyone else in this regressive state has to work under so-called "right to work" laws. Why a special category for police where this does not apply? Have their jobs fall under the same civil service criteria as everyone else who works for the city and county.
1	It's become clear that the police union is not a real collective bargaining group anymore. It only serves to protect its members from the consequences of their actions in the event that police officers break the law. All of the other proposed reforms will be fruitless if we don't engage in union busting first and foremost.

District	Public Comment
7	On last meeting it was mentioned that over 1000 mental health calls and check ins are made monthly. Police should not be the ones to answer. Please re allocate some funds to Community Health Workers who have the training and experience to connect individuals with resources that they need. I support defunding the police and re allocating money to housing, education, recovery and mental health.
2	Be sides needing more police visibility the police want to be the arrestor, the judge and the prosecutor. Could it be that the police are under staff and they look the other way when reinstating an officer. Also the academy is 7 or 8 months the rookie rights with an experience officer for 3 months after that they have a rookie to throw in the car qualified or not. Maris always says 60% on calls 40% on neighborhood patrol is not true because you never see them in the neighborhood unless they are call.
7	I support the police. I think if anything, retraining police but NOT defunding ! This would only hurt the citizens of San Antonio so much more than they know - all lot of people are just jumping on the bandwagon against police yet who will they call when they really need them during a family violence or shooting? Rubber bullets and tear gas were used because the protestors were attacking SAPD, looting local businesses, slashing police tires & throwing glass bottles and bricks at SAPD, NOT peaceful at all. DO NOT DEFUND POLICE!
9	From a black man. We do not need to defund the police and we do not have the level of intentional egregious policing crimes going on throughout other places. We need more citizens to stop yapping and get in the fight to support the police within their communities. Their are programs as such as the Citizens Police Academy and Volunteers in Policing which can help people see and shed light from the inside of what it is to be a police officer. If you defund the police who do we think will respond to a violent domestic violence call, rape or murder in progress.
N/A	The police spending in this city isnfar to much and those funds should be reallocated to things that protect and expand investments in public health and non-police safety strategies to direct assistance to those that need it most due to COVID-19. We should also significantly decrease the police department budget in subsequent years as our city builds out robust and well-funded alternatives to policing as we know it.
7	I'd like to thank ALL THE OFFICERS OF SAPD! YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB, acted professionally with the peaceful protestors and when they later attacked you, the tear gas was absolutely necessary. I thank God none of them was seriously hurt. All of San Antonio should be proud and thankful that you were able to return to your families. The REAL human rights violation is when the looters attacked our police with bricks and glass bottles- these looters should be accountable for their actions not our officers for defending themselves.
10	There is a systemic issue when training our law enforcement officers today. I believe part of it is due to the short amount of time in the academy. I feel the academy should have another month add which trainees can be put in more stressful situations requiring them to respond appropriately. I mean having actors come in and put them in actual situations to work through. The hierarchy of the current force should adopt policies and enforce them properly.
1	Some other jurisdictions have created a separate, public entity to be dispatched to situations that don't obviously require armed public safety officers. These folks work through the police dispatch system but aren't part of the police force. Eugene, OR has such a system. The result is far fewer violent confrontations over what started out as petty offenses or misunderstandings. It also allows them to reduce the size of the armed police force. And they're not getting hurt, so it must work, there at least. A place like San Antonio, big as we are, could do this.
N/A	Is there a surplus of PPE supplies to handle another surge or continued increase of spread? It is still very hard to get gloves, Lysol, thermometers, bleach even!



District	Public Comment
7	<p>I would like to suggest that members of this committee, please consider a decrease in the police budget for FY2021. It is clear that San Antonio PD is unable or unwilling to hold officers accountable for their actions against the public they are sworn to protect. It is simply unacceptable for over 50% of the Public Safety budget to be devoted to a police department that operates with an incredible degree of impunity, while our libraries receive less than ten percent of that amount. As reported in the city's midyear financial report, the police department has received over \$150,000,000 more dollars in the FY 2020 adopted budget than the fire department received. A divestment of that amount could more than double the city's public works budget, helping to provide better infrastructure and access to the people of our great city. Moreover, only \$15,779,071 was devoted to \"Health\" services in the adopted budget, and it is clear that this amount will not be sufficient to combat the current pandemic that we are experiencing. Additionally, the divestment of \$150 million would be capable of nearly tripling the combined budget of \$58,639,886 put towards the San Antonio Public Library and Health services in our community, allowing the creation of new education and public health programs and the expansion of the great services that are already currently offered in these areas. I implore the members of this committee and City Council to consider the consequences of past budgetary commitments and look forward to a future where we may be able to better educate, care for, and provide a more secure and equitable future for all of the citizens in our community. Thank you for your time, and your service to our community. Please stay safe and healthy.</p>
4	<p>Our communities deserve safety, which the SAPD simply cannot provide. Residents of San Antonio need fair access to healthcare, housing, transportation, and work. As of right now the funding to these departments is abysmal. SAPD should receive a significant cut in funding and the money should be redirected to uplift communities. Our police department murders, sexually harasses and assaults, and ultimately terrorizes people in east, west, and south sides of town. City money should not be directed towards a department that does more harm than good. It is not enough to reform the department because other cities have tried to ban moves like the chokehold but officers continue to use it anyways. Officers get away with using illegal moves because there is zero accountability. San Antonio is not much different because we consistently hire back officers who were fired. A department with no accountability and that creates more harm than good does not deserve the hefty funding that it receives. The community is begging the city to provide us safety in ways that do not include policing. The concerns of our citizens must be prioritized.</p>
N/A	<p>Please do not de-fund the police. I don't want anarchy to exist. I don't want to have to do my own police work. The crime rate will go up with less policing. Less than 1% of police are bad. Don't let what happened in Minneapolis cause a knee jerk, unfounded, reaction to what is not a problem in the lone star state.</p>
10	<p>I am the mother of a SAPD police officer. Six months after he started he had to draw his weapon and fire at a person who had just killed a police officer. Most officers don't ever have to draw their weapon but my son was trained well. He has consistently been promoted and works for hard to keep SA safe. Even better he was well vetted by the department to be a good officer. I understand that most officers are good. Please institute reforms that allow bad officers to be fired and not reinstated on technicalities. Our SAPD is a great department that does a good job. Our officers do not deserve to be targeted just because they are police officers. Our city government needs to support them. All lives matter to include those of good officers like my son.</p>
N/A	<p>The city of San Antonio would be a laughingstock of the country if they defund the police. I'm all for reform but totally against defunding the police. I'm sick and tired of all these sissy democratic being puppets to the democratic in Washington. Wake San Antonio and take a stand set an example for the rest of the country to follow. Be a leader not a dam Democrat puppet</p>

District	Public Comment
N/A	I do not support defunding the police department. This is not a safe move and I will not be comfortable visiting the city. I currently travel to San Antonio for dr appointments, over night get always, day trips to entertainment venues, to dine at restaurants, shopping, concerts, and many other reasons. The city will lose so much revenue from tourists that no longer feel safe visiting. Also, I have a brother in the fire department. I worry for him and the safety of his job without full support from a stable police department. I have many friends that are members of the SAPD. They are wonderful people who set out to be positive influences in the community and to keep the community safe. They deserve better than what is happening right now. Defunding the police is an awful decision for so many reasons. Please take these all into consideration. Majority of citizens do not support this at all.
4	First, I'd like to clarify what is meant by the phrase "Defund the police". No, this does not mean to disband law enforcement. We need law enforcement. We also need accountability for violent members of the police force. This means more than a slap on the wrist for SAPD officers who use lethal chemical weapons and deadly force on civilians unprovoked. We must reallocate a portion of the \$794.3 M (FY 2019) police budget into our communities in need. The very communities that are over-policed, are the same ones that don't have equal access to community-based educational, health, and housing programs. Our leaders should invest in these preventative measures against crime to weaken the school-to-prison pipeline for members of communities of color. This is a call to action and we hope to see change. Thank you.
N/A	Keep our police department. No changes. I believe they should be better armed then the criminals. They are bad seeds in all areas and need to be dealt with official law enforcement.
N/A	I can't believe San Antonio City Council wants to defund SAPD. We need our officers and everyone who is a part of the police department to make it successful. This would be the biggest mistake City Council could possibly make. Do they not understand what they would be choosing if they make this a reality? I love SAPD. I lived in San Antonio my whole life. I've just recently moved to Floresville for more space for the kids. I've known officers my whole life and they were good. I've been pulled over by officers for speeding and they were nice. I've been helped by officers. In one case I had some guys tailing me on the highway making obscene gestures when I was younger and an officer pulled me over for speeding (was trying to get away) and then went after the guys who were terrorizing me. That's only part of what it's about. Just because there are bad apples in some police departments doesn't mean all officers or departments are bad or corrupt. People will need police officers when there is madness and mayhem and who will come to help? No one. You people really need to pray about what damage you could possibly do here. Don't be a follower, be a leader. You answer to God, not man. Get it together for humanities sake, please. Thank you.
N/A	Have you lost your minds? Defund the police? Research history Hitler did the same and look what happened. Wake up and stop being sheep. This is unthinkable and unacceptable. Do better!
N/A	We need our San Antonio Police Officers, only an idiot would consider defunding the Police Force.
10	What a colossal stupid idea to 'Defund' police. Why not get out in front of the negative media driven rhetoric and tout the initiatives which have been the gold standard for citizen involvement in policing, policy and procedure! Community oriented policing, Citizen Advisory Action Board, Citizen Police Academy, Police Volunteers, cellular on patrol, Good Neighbor Program, Weed and Seed, DARE, GREAT, Bike Patrol, Foot Patrol, Park and Walk etc. SAPD invites public input at all levels! GET OUT IN FRONT OF THIS LEADERSHIP! Back this group of public servants and stop cowering and pandering to the radical rioters fueled by the media narrative!

District	Public Comment
N/A	I live in Helotes Tx, but work in San Antonio so I believe my input is just as important. This wave of abolishing police and defund them is a movement of law violators and opportunist to throw a tantrum to get what they want. I hear a lot about what happened in other cities but the focus is San Antonio. SAPD requires more training than many other departments nationwide. They have been training officers in the training these opportunist are screaming for, LGBTQ, mental health, racism, and others. City Council members need to look at SAPD training curriculum and see this, instead of listening to a bunch of cry babies. All professions have bad apples, to include city councils, but that that doesn't make the entire city council corrupt. If city council decides to take money away from SAPD, start with eliminating the mayor's driver and security at city hall, then the SAFFE officers. Put more officers on Traffic because the roadways in San Antonio are dangerous due to lack of enforcement and DWI's. The racers have taken control of the highways late at night. Eliminating the CB Agreement will only cause officers to leave, retire, and your precious triple A city bond rating will plummet. The watch USAA, Valero, Rackspace, Toyota, and other large companies leave. Council will pay the price by caving in to these anarchist and when SA becomes pure lawlessness, it will be too late. Council needs to educate themselves before making knee jerk reactions based on politically charged groups and protests.
9	If you defund SAPD, I'm selling my house and never returning to SA again. City Council has lost their minds if you think taking away from the police is the answer. I cannot believe you all are entertaining this idea. I have lost all faith in our government and cannot wait until your re-elections!
N/A	Fund the police. Contract external accounting firms to audit the police for compliance to procedure at year end. We do this for publicly traded companies on a yearly basis. We should do this to the police force as the stakeholders include the entire city and what's at risk could be lives.
6	We do not need to remove any money from SAPD Budget if anything it needs to increase
N/A	Our SAPD needs more funding to recruit better people and to get them better training. We are understaffed in the police department. We need more police so that our overworked policemen and women can get some deserved time off. This will help with job fatigue which leads to sloppy policing. Also, open up the playgrounds. Our kids need to play outside again!
6	Rather than defund police, changes to the current police union contract need to be made to stop allowing police who are fired from being rehired. If they have complaints for making racist remarks, for using unnecessary force when arresting a perpetrator, etc. It would be better if the city management, ie the mayor would support our police instead of throwing them under the bus at the first hint of bad behavior without doing an investigation.
N/A	Do not weaken the Police Department. Allow them to follow protocol. PROTECT CITIZENS AND PROPERTY.
N/A	Please know that we back the blue. There's no way our city should do anything to hinder our police force. We need to do everything we can to encourage them. They are not racist just because they punish WHOMEVER is breaking the law. Our country is taking his way too far and to disarm the police force in ANY WAY is to make San Antonio unsafe. Please back the blue. Blue Lives Matter.
N/A	Reform in police training is required including: emphasis on de escalation and flexible tactics, using force, gun, taser, baton, etc. as last resorts, emphasis on relying on tactics and communication rather than weaponry and force, emphasis on preserving the community lives they are sworn to protect and not just preserving themselves and fellow officers, rebuild community trust and partnership, do away with 'us vs them' mentality, sophisticated and ongoing conscious and unconscious racial bias training, commitment to cooperative policing and community engagement Other ideas: require college degree, raise pay, mandatory certification exams and licensure, loss of license for misconduct, make it harder to become and stay an officer, outside review of officers and departments, community reviews, mandatory body cams, mandatory release of body cam footage within 14 days, no tolerance policy

District	Public Comment
6	When in HISTORY have we as a nation, even in the WORLD - when was there NOT CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS? When! We have had law enforcement since the beginning of CIVILIZATION. WHAT is your REASON, ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS OF SAN ANTONIO, your MOTIVE for even CONTEMPLATING defunding the police department, aside from just following the rest of the deep state cities trying to push this agenda? WHAT DATA, STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS DO YOU HAVE that can prove this notion is even close to being a success?? What is the ratio of police brutality compared to actual committed CRIMES in San Antonio in any given YEAR? This idea of ANY city defunding a police department is one of absolute LUNACY, LOSS OF INTEGRITY, LAWLESSNESS AND DOWNRIGHT A CONSPIRACY TO CAUSE EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO FAIL! ALL TOO PUSH A DEEP STATE AGENDA TO OUST A SITTING PRESIDENT! THIS WILL NOT BE PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FAULT IF THIS IDEA EVEN REMOTELY IS ATTEMPTED BECAUSE IT WILL FAIL. THIS WILL BE YOUR FAULT WHEN IT FAILS. YOU ALL ARE THE MOST STUPEDEST BUNCH OF ASS HATS THAT EVER SAT IN CITY SEATS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CLAYTON PERRY, THE ONLY ONE OF SOUND MIND IN CITY HALL! EVERY CRIME COMMITTED AND ALLOWED BECAUSE THERE ARE NO POLICE WILL, EVERY CRIME WILL BE COMMITTED BY YOU WHO ALLOWED IT.
N/A	My opinion is that our Mayor and Chief of Police are 2 fine and respected individuals, but unfortunately, sometimes BAD APPLES slipped through the vetted procedure and are hired by SAPD. It does not matter how many years of experience they (applicants) have, check their previous employment records and behaviours. If they have complaints and grievances on their records, DON'T hire them. Remind your officers that their salaries come from us the CITY TAXPAYERS, and not to forget the OATH
9	I am not a fan of Chief McManus, his politics and his thoughts on collective bargaining, but to begin a conversation about "cutting" his budget is a non-starter for me and my voting family. Any council person or Mayor that thinks that is a good idea would not receive support or a vote from my household.
N/A	Do not defund any part of the SAPD. SAPD may not be perfect but they are not the issue. Targeting them will only make our communities unsafe and result in increased crime.
8	Please consider removing protections for police officers regarding their history of reprimands for ongoing investigations. I absolutely love SAPD, but I feel that the community needs to see efforts of accountability reflected in the new contract.
N/A	Don't defund my sapd this our city and we stand with the sapd I personally would like tighter rules and stuff on the stuff going on downtown. If I see a person harassing a officer I am 150% helping the officers they are paid to serve and protect and they do a fantastic job. If any defunding should be going on it should be some pay cuts from the top at city and given more money to sapd
6	Do not defund our officers! we need them. They are Texas proud and serve to protect us civilians.
8	We should look into redirecting (all or part of) the police budget into community services that could replace police activity, such as: - Mental health responders to attend mental health crisis in place of armed police - Street outreach teams, more shelters and affordable housing to help solve homelessness and stop the homeless from being criminalized -Community members to attend domestic violence calls, to help intervene and establish long-term safety for the individuals -Specialized physical and emotional support for victims of sexual violence
7	My family has included 3 police officers [grandfather, uncle, nephew]. I believe reform is not just needed but absolutely necessary. The police do not need military equipment. Any force used should be appropriate. Killing someone for going to sleep/passing out in a fast food drive thru, passing a \$20 counterfeit bill or a host of other examples is excessive use of force by any measure. Training officers to use military type combat tactics like choke holds is wrong. A reallocation of police funds is needed. Officers aren't social workers or mental health professionals. We shouldn't expect them to be. The City should allocate some police funds towards those professions so that when an officer encounters situations he/she can call on a professional to handle it. The officer can handle the law enforcement and the other professions can handle their areas of specialization.

District	Public Comment
6	<p>Please reroute most, if not all, police funding to more preventative measures that benefit the whole community (e.g., education, SAFD's Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Metro Health, Human Services). Proper housing and health services, for example, would eliminate many of the issues seen in our community. In addition, the American policing system is broken and has too many pitfalls to effectively serve. San Antonio should accept this fact and not take it personally, but rather, be better. If we can not guarantee, without doubt, that our black and brown San Antonio residents can be safe in the presence of, served, and protected by police then we have a problem that must be immediately remedied. Enough is enough. Humans should not be at mortal risk or permanently traumatized due to police with weapons and unbridled power. Actions may include: -Reject any proposed expansion to police budgets. -Demand immediate budget cuts for the police. -Immediately fire police officers who have any excessive force complaints. Do not hire new officers or replace fired or resigned officers. Suspend the use of paid administrative leave for officers under investigation. -Require police, not the City of San Antonio, to be liable for misconduct and violence settlements. Ban police contracting for nonprofits and institutions. -Until the police are fully defunded, make police union contract negotiations public. -Prohibit city candidates taking money from police unions and stop accepting union funds. -Withhold pensions and do not rehire officers involved in use of excessive force. Please be on the right side of history, even if it requires the shifting of paradigms. The 'good' officers can be reallocated for true service work for the betterment of the whole community. San Antonio is a progressive city that typically prioritizes their citizens and this is a step in the morally superior direction.</p>
8	<p>Our city needs to refocus funding from our police force to community programs like education, health care, mental health services, affordable housing, and job training. This is what we mean when we say defund the police. Our city will be better served by a police department that is available in cases of emergency, not one that patrols the streets looking for petty crime or one that is militarized against its citizens. While there are absolutely situations in which police are needed and appreciated, these situations don't out number or out weigh the many instances of unnecessary over policing in our city, especially in our communities of color. Our city budget could benefit our community in such a greater capacity if more of it was used to build up the people of our city, not hold us down. By defunding the police, we have an opportunity to replace our current broken system with an emergency management department that is staffed by men and women with extensive training, who know how to approach and deescalate individuals who are experiencing distress and get them the help they need. We would also then have the funds for those truly essential services. I want to end my comment by saying we know that there are many good people who work for the police department and calls like my to defund the police are not a personal attack. Police reform has been given many chances, and the system of policing in our country and city remain oppressive to the majority of our population because they were designed to be that way from the outset. The only way to truly make a change is to start again. Justice for some is justice for none. We can do better, and we must.</p>

District	Public Comment
1	<p>We MUST significantly reduce the \$479 million currently allocated to the San Antonio Police Department in the upcoming budget proposal for the fiscal year 2021. There needs to be a formal review of the San Antonio Police Department Union Contract that expires in 2021. We need to redirect these funds to strengthen, grow, and educate our community. By reducing police funding, we can improve community efforts and organizations that target issues currently dealt with by police more directly, and by changing the SAPD union contract, we can prevent future police brutality and violence. SAPD's union contract disqualifies complaints, restricts and delays interrogation, limits oversight and discipline for 'bad apples', requires the city to pay for misconduct, and erases records. Examples that back up such claims from the contract include Section 29.2 C which delays interrogation of officers by 48 hours and Section 28.19 erases records of suspensions after 2 years, replacing them with written reprimands. Because of the reasons listed above, we are calling for a formal review of the SAPD Union Contract that expires next year on Sept 30, 2021. The city of San Antonio needs and deserves better policing alternatives and investments in mental health and trauma services, education and after-school care, adequate housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities. How can we have a school lunch deficit for our young and vulnerable while our worst representatives are repeatedly allowed to return to work and receive pay from the people they harm? Tim Garcia? Matthew Belver? Matthew Luckhurst? This is how we represent San Antonio? We reinstate more bad cops into positions of power than any other city in this country and WE NEED TO DO BETTER!</p>
N/A	<p>I am a life long San Antonio resident and have personally witnessed police racist and bias actions against people of color. I want to see police replaced with unarmed officials to respond to all non-violent community concerns such as homelessness, mental health, neighbor disputes, and routine traffic stops. I love San Antonio and want to see all our citizens treated with equity and for public safety solutions that actually create a safe public. The funding of our social services that actually cut down on crime is pitiful. We have only 1 million marked to reduce homelessness in our budget. There is no mention from what I can see on the budget documents for community programs addressing mental health or drug addiction. I know as an educator in San Antonio that true safety starts with every citizen having the resources they need to feel secure in food, housing, mental health and education. What message do we send when we do not spend the money to adequately support these causes and instead continue to grow our already very large police force and equip them with military grade weapons? What kind of community can we build when there is little accountability and officers can be rehired time and time again after betraying public trust, breaking the law, murdering our neighbors and harassing community members with impunity? What other public servant would be allowed to continue being paid by taxpayer dollars after committing some of the acts told and untold that SAPD officers get away with? We need a community review board with power over sapd and community control of our budget!</p>
2	<p>The end goal of any reforms should not be to create better, friendlier, or more community-oriented police or prisons. Instead, I hope to see us build toward a society without police or prisons, where communities are equipped to provide for their safety and wellbeing. Let's invest in housing, education, social services, and mental health instead. Reduce the police department budget. Do not hire additional officers. Areas with more officers are less safe than neighborhoods with fewer officers. Further, prohibit city candidates from taking money from police unions. I would like the City of San Antonio to renegotiate police contracts, reducing the power of SAPOA. Make it so we immediately fire police officers who have any excessive force complaints. Suspend the use of paid administrative leave for cops under investigation. Withhold pensions and don't rehire cops involved in use of excessive force. Require police, not cities, to be liable for misconduct and violence settlements. Thank you for making our citizens safer and working toward healthy communities.</p>
N/A	<p>When will playgrounds open again? This is so ridiculous. Open the city back up.</p>

District	Public Comment
9	I support divesting from policing and investing more into the community. I support policies and budget proposals that value prevention over punitive measures. We are a city that takes pride in innovation. We need to take advantage the national momentum to defund the police and be a leader in the movement to be a better city for all San Antonians.
N/A	please don't completely get rid of the police force but redistribution of funds to lower income areas is important to improve quality of life and reduce crime
N/A	Protect our police too. Why aren't there more requirements of the public when stopped by police? Why aren't there requirements that people pulled over must keep their hand visible at all times? On the steering wheel or on the dash board until an officer says otherwise. - If someone getting pulled over can't keep their hands visible as mention then why can't police have the discretion to place someone in cuffs as a investigation is conducted. Especially if they aren't complying from the beginning. Protect our police too!!
N/A	As a tax paying citizen of San Antonio, do not defund the police department. Tell me the benefits. You are scared & bowing to your liberal influences that are wanting no one matters, but BLM. Yes there are bad apples in every industry in the world, our city council. Don't be a copy cat. Stand your grounds & defend, not defund our police force. God bless each & everyone of you, we y'all all need it!
N/A	Do not defund the police. Provide more funding for hiring and training for equal equality of enforcement and people.
N/A	We do not support defunding the Police or the removal from our schools. Our police officers deserve to be respected and protected from people who are trying to intimidate and cause them harm. They have served our community and continue to do so with honor, integrity and without bias. I am very grateful for the kindness, help and the professionalism they have shown our city. They put their lives on the line constantly and should not be afraid to enforce the law as needed.
8	I would appreciate my entire comment being read. On Monday, I noticed that many people submitting comments lack a fundamental understanding of what it means to defund the police. Claims that defunding would undermine the capacity for training is nonsense when their budget of \$480M is nearly 10 times more than the budgets for Housing, Health, and Community Development and they're still incapable of implementing reform and holding officers accountable. This is another reason the conversation needs to move away from the "8 Can't Wait" rhetoric. If reform was a viable path, it would have worked by now. Stop pumping money into the bloated SAPD for them to further militarize and finger-wag when they obliterate citizens. Defund the police.
6	You cannot maintain economic prosperity without maintaining law and order. You cannot protect civil liberties without maintaining law and order. You cannot help the weak and poor without maintaining law and order. Police are essential, and if you don't offer a good benefit package, you will never have quality people join. Defund the police and you will give citizens no choice than to vote you out of office.
N/A	Do not defund our police department. We need them period! Not all cops are bad, why punish the ones that are good. Eventually the bad will be weeded it. Just like not all white people or black people are bad you cannot punish an entire group based on what has happened.
8	I am deeply concerned about the lethal defunding of SAPD. Due to San Antonio directly being on a busy corridor for drugs and human trafficking in South Texas, any decrease in police funding would seriously jeopardize the law and order in our city. Residents must be able to feel safe in their homes. In tying the hands of the police, u would put the health and the welfare of our city at a huge and unnecessary risk. A whole police department should NOT be held accountable for the irresponsible actions of a very slim percentage of bad police officers.
6	Defund (reallocate funds) in favor of the expansion of civil services that would assist with what police shouldn't be doing e.g. homelessness, mental health (aggressive individuals should have police to assist, not lead), cannabis drug crimes, etc. Education, public health, public transportation are also big items in need of funding. Possibly support keeping funds in place for police if and only if some rather drastic reforms are made to the department.

District	Public Comment
2	<p>For the safety of the public AND the police, it is time to defund and invest. Our communities would be much better served if funds were invested in social services and programs that improve them and prevent crime. Mental Health services in particular. As someone that lives with PTSD, I have had interactions with SAPD. Had my family been able to call 911 for a social worker, I would have been treated as someone in need of help. Instead, uniformed officers immediately treated me as a potential threat, exacerbating an already bad situation and setting my treatment back months, maybe years. I person suffering from anxiety and depression should not be handcuffed in their own home, paraded past neighbors, and driven through rush hour traffic on display for the whole city. A wife shouldn't have to wonder if her husband is even alive after SAPD fails to follow up with her about where he has been taken. A suicidal man should not have an officer incorrectly tell hospital staff he's homicidal, thereby having him treated as violent and dangerous rather than just sad. Our interactions with SAPD have left my family hurt and scared that there are no real resources for us the next time I have a PTSD episode. We can change that...by defunding the SAPD and creating real resources that help the most vulnerable in our community. Police are necessary to addressing the symptoms of a troubled society, but investing in social programs and mental health can reduce/prevent those before they get bad. Defund the police. Invest in social programs and healthcare.</p>
4	<p>The past events have made it very evident that change needs to happen in our police department, but de-funding the police department is NOT the answer. Instead, more money should be spent to select and train the best candidates for the job. More training and a more thorough evaluation of candidates is what is needed so that our police force will know how to deal wisely with the public. Thank you.</p>
3	<p>Several years ago I was struck down by a San Antonio Police Department officer in a City of San Antonio City Council meeting. Then-Mayor Ed Garza called me to the microphone to speak as part of a public hearing on a proposed ordinance restricting smoking in public spaces. A San Antonio Police Department officer stepped abruptly toward me and violently struck me in the back, forcing me face-down onto the front row of chairs. Because I had a pre-existing spinal injury from a 1997 motor vehicle collision, the blow could have left me permanently paralyzed. I struggled to get away and move up as the mayor again called my name. The Council just soectated. San Antonio Police Department Internal Affairs refused to fire the officer, citing the officer's obedience to a direct command from then-City Manager Terry Brechtel. The city manager had me assaulted by SAPD in apparent retaliation for filing a civil rights complaint and being represented by attorneys of Advocacy, Inc. (now Disability Rights Texas). Then-City Manager Terry Brechtel had ordered the only accessible doors to city hall to be kept locked, and then ordered San Antonio Police Department to arrest me when I repeatedly tried to get into City Hall. I had applied and been awarded a grant for our neighborhood association. The City of San Antonio refused to release the check until I signed for it in person in the City Clerk's office but would neither let me in the building nor bring the check downstairs to me. Someone directed me to Judy Babbitt. She returned my call and explained the city manager was keeping the doors licked to prevent her from doing any work in the Disability Access Office. City of San Antonio needs to stop discriminating against people with disabilities and diversify workforce.</p>
7	<p>Please decrease SAPD Budget and invest in community based programs, mental health, housing, education, and healthcare.</p>



District	Public Comment
N/A	San Antonio currently spends \$479 million on policing " more than a third of the city's \$1.3 billion operating budget. I am requesting a transparent, line-item budget for SAPD to be released to the public. I am also requesting that the City of San Antonio reinvest in public safety by defunding the police and redirecting those funds to housing, health and human services. Police are being asked to do too much. With SO many problems impacting our communities, police should not be the only answer. If San Antonio invests in housing, treatment/rehabilitation, education, mental health professionals, etc., police no longer will be the only response to these problems they are unqualified to address. The solution is not more training or simple reform, the solution is to reinvest police funding into areas that will actually help keep people safe. Finally, I am also requesting that the cases of Marquise Jones, Charles Roundtree, and Antroine Scott are reopened to bring charges against their killers and justice for their families.
9	1) Clinical social works on staff full time or per diem. 2) De-militarize, no firearms. 3) Emphasis on de-escalation techniques 4) No more "internal affairs" department, all internal issues should be addressed by neutral third party. 5) NO MORE POLICE UNION WITH INSANE NEGOTIATING POWER. They should not have the right to walk away from negotiations and enforce an old contract for 8 years unless the city bows to them. 6) Get rid of the police union all together. 7) Require all officers to purchase their own liability insurance. 8) Legal observers on random ride alongs. 9) Body cams turned on at all times when interacting with civilians 10) Do better. 11) Be better.
5	The city needs to revise its collective bargaining agreement with sapd. we are seeing all over the country how easy it is for corrupt police two extrajudiciously execute people without due process. And then it is impossible to remove them, and impossible to hold them accountable under the law. I am a fan of unions, but in cases like this we need to absolutely give authorities the power to hold bad cops accountable. My brother is a cop himself, and he is a good one. I am very upset with what is going on in this country, because his life is in danger and it is because we are not holding the bad apples accountable. I don't know how big the police budget is in San Antonio. I am seeing the news about different municipalities seeking to defund Police department's to push that money to other programs that might be more qualified to handle some types of interventions that are not specifically criminal. I don't know the feasibility of that in San Antonio, but if that money would be better served with different programs, I hope you will consider it.
N/A	I don't think public servants should be able to unionize, and I have trouble understanding why someone fired more than once can be rehired. End public unions, and just make government smaller in general.
10	if we address policing you have to also address the cause of the policing in the first place. Poverty, mental illness, and addiction. Give the homeless a place to live, a job contact tracing covid-19 cases, food bank, animal care services etc. and skills for mindful living. Redistribution of funding to these kinds of services. We have been too business friendly and need to be people friendly when making hard choices in funding. None of us were put here for money but to give and receive love and kindness where ever we are. The city should provide basic needs to ALL it's citizens. Then you won't need so much policing.
N/A	San Antonio needs to utilize the resources available to it. There is an army of mental health professionals who are qualified to help in crisis situations. People who have put in the hours necessary to learn how to listen effectively to the cries of the ignored and unseen people of this beautiful city. The police need to stop showing up to every call looking for a battle. Most situations are not what they seem. I recognize they need to be prepared for anything but now is the time for a different approach. Lets work together!! Reallocate funds to provide more and well rounded training to current law enforcement, create an ongoing curriculum of trainings and allow mental health professionals to step in. Allow the community to care for one another as we were created to do. There is enough room for ALL OF US because we ALL MATTER. The people have a voice and they must be heard. Now is the time for change. It is time for law enforcement to listen. And not listen to debate but listen to be compassionate, to validate others, to demonstrate the humanity behind the badge. Learn how to hold space for someone else's thoughts, feelings and experiences. Just because it is not yours does not mean it is wrong. LISTEN.

District	Public Comment
10	I support our local police department. Defunding of the police department should never be discussed! Our police department is a treasured department in Bexar county.
N/A	Police departments are a pillar of National Security. If you seek to abolish the Police, you threaten National Security.
10	It is time to begin the process of reallocating money from SAPD to the many social programs that are underfunded. As our homeless population and the displacement of low-income residents increases significantly, due to gentrification encouraged by the city with tax breaks to large developers, we should be allocating more money to homeless services and to low-income housing programs. While the amount of money coming into the city decreases, due to COVID-19 and SB2, we should not be moving money from one social program to another. This presents an opportunity for the city to begin defunding SAPD by reallocating the \$96 million that is not tied to the police union contract. Reform is not enough. We have been shown many times that police officers in San Antonio do not follow policies put in place by SAPD. Too many times this leads to police brutality and the death of Black people. We have been shown that even when these officers are fired that they are then rehired due to the arbitration process, with San Antonio having one of the highest rates across the country. We have been shown that when Black people are murdered by police they are not treated the same as civilians by our criminal justice system. If we truly believe that Black Lives Matter we must follow the lead and honor the demands of those most affected by police violence. This includes Black women, Black trans individuals, Black youth, and the families who have lost someone due to police violence. We must also follow the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement, which is to defund police departments across the country. We are paying attention to the votes and decisions that each of you make. We will continue to hold you accountable.
8	I recall during the 90's the gun violence occurring on San Antonio streets. The Federal Government enacted laws that incarcerated law breakers. Today, 25-30 years later- Policing has diverged from public safety for all in the community. Police procedures, training and interacting with community have veered to Control The Situation, Assert Authority. Law enforcement officers are Human Beings, meaning they are fallible, have faults/ weaknesses. RE: the Bad Apples that Lie on official documents and use uncalled excessive force. First Step is municipalities to have authority to pass local ordinances to allow a Police Chief to terminate Bad Actors- current police arbitration clauses make this difficult. Hence, reinstatement. Second, State legislature and law enforcement regulatory agency need to pass governance for New Policing Standards to remove Bad Actors and revoke peace officer licenses. Include, that pension plan while your at it. Also, benefits coverage ONLY while on official duty for your employer.
N/A	Please review and modify the collective bargaining agreement with the SAPD. There are great officers within the ranks, but we need more direct action to terminate the officers who display the systemic racism going on. Please give the chief more power, and accountability to discipline and terminate those officers as he sees fit
4	Redo the Collective Bargaining Agreement with SAPD. The police chief needs to have increased authority to be able to discipline and fire his officers. About 2/3 of SAPD officers who are fired end up keeping their jobs because of their collective bargaining agreement.
1	The "broken windows" theory that more serious crime can be prevented by heavily policing low-level offenses has been shown to be incorrect. This type of policing does not deter crime, but it does lead to unjust treatment of disenfranchised communities. Stop funding the criminalization of homelessness, mental illness and addiction in favor of funding community resources to address them more effectively.

District	Public Comment
1	Recent events have brought to light the excessive amount of funding there is for Police, much of which has been spent on unnecessarily costly and aggressive forms of "defense." Studies have shown the correlation between quality of life and crime rates. One such study, "Global Study on Homicide" conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime conveys that, as a "first world" country, we are extremely behind in terms of equality in crime rates and quality of life. I urge you to reevaluate the amount of funding that is going towards law enforcement, versus the amount of funding that is going towards education, creating jobs, and recreation, all of which will prevent crime from happening in the first place. I also urge you to take a closer look at how funding for law enforcement is truly being spent. For all purposes, the quality and not quantity of funding should be better evaluated.
1	It has become very evident that we need a complete overhaul of police culture and training. Even "good" officers feel the pressure to look the other way or cover for their colleagues, if not actively participate in unnecessary violence against POC. We have seen this play out across our country and in our home city over and over again. Police should not be first responders, and defunding the police force is an important first step. Please fund initiatives that address poverty and mental health. I await your action with great anticipation. Our black and brown community members depend on you. Show us that black lives matter to San Antonio. Thank you.
3	To whom this may concern, I am an active and educated community member of district 3. I have was born and raised on this side of town and have seen so much change in my lifetime in regards to community growth & activity on all levels. I have had the misfortune of having to call SAPD for various reasons on my block & have never felt threatened nor disrespected - but I am also not black or male so I can never speak to the experience of my fellow community members. I write in this form to say that I have read and heard from local media outlets (print and virtual) about officers being fired, yet still retaining their job in the long run. What is the reason behind that? As an educator, if I am fired - I'm fired, end of story. It is told to me that there is also a person who has been fired a total of SIX times, yet they still retain their job. Why? Clearly six independent issues had to have arisen to warrant termination, yet this individual still receives a paycheck. Unacceptable.
N/A	We need our police. There will always be bad cops and we need to be able to identify them and remove them from our forces. We also need to establish a relationship between police and our communities. Like Play 360 in the NFL we should have police mix with kids and families and we can all understand we are humans. We are all people. Even police officers. Even criminals. I have been in trouble and been arrested. I did not fight the police. I was wrong in what I did and I did my time. We also need to teach our kids to comply with the police and fight through the court if need be. We do not try and fight them in the street. Nobody wins in that scenario. Thank you for the forum. San Antonio marches to the beat of our own drum. We are a special city filled with special people. We can be better and be an example for the nation.
7	I think it's time to Defund the police and invest that excessive amount of money into The communities, into preventative and deescalating measures. It's time for a change, to move forward from antiquated military tactics and force used by police who have not been trained in these proven alternative methods used by healthcare workers and mental health workers daily to deescalate situation without lethal force. Unarmed people should not be dying at the hands of police
N/A	It has become very evident that we need a complete overhaul of police culture and training. Even \"good\" officers feel the pressure to look the other way or cover for their colleagues, if not actively participate in unnecessary violence against POC. We have seen this play out across our country and in our home city over and over again. Police should not be first responders, and defunding the police force is an important first step. Please fund initiatives that address poverty and mental health. I await your action with great anticipation. Our black and brown community members depend on you. Show us that black lives matter to San Antonio. Thank you.

District	Public Comment
7	I am writing to ask city officials to consider introducing and supporting a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis and commit to action. I've lived in San Antonio for 17 years and I'm a District 7 resident. As a population health researcher, I can attest to San Antonio's growing health disparities and social inequities. These disparities are well-documented between whites, Blacks, Latinos, people of color, and the poor. For example, Latinos are nearly one-and-a-half times more likely to die from diabetes or liver disease compared to whites, African Americans are twice as likely to die from heart disease compared to whites and in San Antonio, the average life spans as much as 10 to 20 years apart depending on where you live. Blacks, Latinos, and people of color in San Antonio are not facing higher death rates because of their race and/or ethnicity. Rather, the problem can be attributed to racism. Racism is a public health crisis. Blacks, Latinos, and other people of color are dying at higher rates because systemic racial and ethnic injustices created social inequities in housing, transportation, education, healthcare, and public safety. These injustices are entrenched in the departments, policies, and practices overseen by the city. That's why I am asking city officials to consider a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis and commit to specific actions to dismantle it. A rising number of cities across the country have already made this declaration and commitment for action, and dozens more are discussing it. I urge one or more city officials to sponsor a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis in San Antonio.
N/A	Training is an essential part of every job, however, when it comes to law enforcement, it's 100% necessary! The SAPD is doing an amazing job, but there's always room for improvement! Staying on top of your officers mental health for example is a key to how they will behave or misbehave while on duty. These types of tests shouldn't only be given for hiring purposes. Health exams both physical and mental are equally important! How we think is how we will behave. God bless and stay safe! Every life matters.
N/A	The police chief needs to have increased authority to be able to discipline and fire his officers. About 2/3 of SAPD officers who are fired end up keeping their jobs because of their collective bargaining agreement. We have a lieutenant that has been fired 6 times and still works there. This needs to end.
7	I favor police reforms like community oversight, limit use of force, community representation, end for profit policing, end broken window policing, use body cams, demilitarization, fair union contracts, more training.
10	Police officers need training in responding to the challenges of the mentally ill. Non violent mentally ill people do not need to be taken in to custody. Officers should not be responsible for making such a decision on their own. Listening to the mentally ill person and those who care for them is critical. JUST LISTEN. Having a mental health professional respond to such calls with a police officer would be a good policy.
N/A	I would like to see our city open safely. In order to do that, we should be doing contact tracing and isolating with all covid cases across the board. Our city needs to be wearing masks in all businesses in order to stop the spread and I believe this should be mandated by city government since the citizens do not seem to be doing this on their own. Thank you

District	Public Comment
7	I work for a public entity involved in public safety and accordingly wish to remain anonymous. I have spent years in this sector and try to speak from a perspective of experience instead of just opinion. It is refreshing to hear that Council is willing to invest in services that comprehensively address social problems such as homelessness and mental health. SAPD HOPE and Mental Health Units are incredible, but cannot solve these structural problems. However, cuts to the SAPD budget alone will not fix these problems either. I have yet to hear a comprehensive plan beyond giving the money to social services; even though structural social problems are complex. E.g. funding non-police mental health outreach workers does not address the lack of mental health hospital beds, access to pharmacies, or chronically-high failure rates for drug treatment programs. Further, many social services themselves struggle to address these problems. For example, reentry employment programs have minimal/no effect on community violence and Batterers Intervention and Prevention counseling, offered by a local organization, is shown to be ineffective. Similarly, neither My Brothers Keeper nor Standup SA actually help victims of violence or meaningfully impact root causes of crime despite years of public funding. Standup and MBK existed before and during the 2016 increase in violence, and did not prevent that uptick nor reduce violence afterwards (SAPD enacted a Task Force, which Council endorsed). Diverting funds from SAPD without a comprehensive plan backed by best practices/effective programs would just result in SAPD responding to the same problems with fewer resources and possibly harm SAPD innovative initiatives/community policing efforts...not a recipe for success. Council should not just bend to public pressure and make rash decisions; root causes and non-enforcement solutions absolutely need to be prioritized, however they must be done so in a thoughtful and effective manner.
N/A	Should have community oversight when grievances are filed against police men or women. Community & fellow officers should have a transparent process in place to report grievances against officers. Process should also include reporting unethical, racist or bias behavior. The report should be made public similar to the broker check system in the investment industry. The process should record, track, & remediate the situation. Once a report is filed against an officer the officer should be immediately taken off active duty until completing all necessary remediation (therapy, community service, anger management, etc) At conclusion, officer should be brought forth to the Community committee for a determination if going back to active policing duty is in the community's best interest.
N/A	As a resident of San Antonio and active voter, I am requesting we have the chance to vote on the two laws pertaining to disciplinary action of police officers and the right for them to collectively bargain. I believe 2021 budget needs to include reallocation of funds to community services and away from police department, while working to start reducing police interference on nonviolent issues and crimes. In the meantime, there must be reforms around police interactions with the public, including the remaining four of the eight action items according to Enact 8 campaign.
1	PLEASE REOPEN THE CASES FOR MARQUIS JONES AND CHARLES ROUNDTREE
N/A	This is a beautiful city and the law enforcement always tries to do what's right concerning the people of San Antonio. As far as defunding this is counter intuitive and harmful to the entire city. If anything there should be more funding, more training and more support for those that risk their lives and sacrifice so much everyday for us!!! I say if it's not broken don't fix it. Our city needs to stay strong and stay away from ideologies that are not helpful to the people or have their best interests at heart. Please do not defund the law enforcement or punish those that have only done everything they can to serve and protect!!
N/A	Defund police
N/A	There should be a committee in each city council district that looks at police misconduct. That committee should be made up of district residents that should be able to review incident and recommend whether it should continue to the review board. Many times the local residents are not even aware of situations happening because it is kept under wraps. This should stop.

District	Public Comment
9	<p>Funding for SAPD in the 2020 budget totals out to \$479 million, the largest allocated amount for a single department in the budget. Hasn't this pandemic alone proven that we need to boost the \$15 million amount budgeted for health services, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the people of San Antonio? Have we as a country not seen enough of militarized police forces while people, especially Black people, are battling poverty, sickness, and homelessness, all created and enforced by systemic racism? San Antonio is not immune to these problems, and we need to take responsibility for the ways we have and are endangering our people. Reallocating the money from San Antonians' pockets to ensure everyone's wellbeing and safety - REAL wellbeing, TRUE safety - surely means more than a police force having the newest \"nonlethal\" toys that they can and will turn on our citizens. Why do our public programs suffer while police are overfunded? Why do we continue to ignore our neighbors' suffering in the midst of a health crisis that predominately affects Black and Latino communities? The answer is in front of our faces, but we refuse to accept it. Please, San Antonio City Council, begin defunding the SAPD in favor of a system that supports and helps rather than punishes.</p>
N/A	<p>Our country is at the point of a defining moment in history. San Antonio should be a leader in advancing forward and making needed changes to protect all our citizens and eradicating the fears minorities face every day. The Constitution states that one of the government's purpose is to provide justice, and when groups of people are not provided that justice the government fails. San Antonio can provide that justice by training de-escalation, defunding militarization of police force, and holding those accountable who are supposed to serve and protect but instead abuse their power. Let's make San Antonio a leader in showing understanding and compassion for all its citizens.</p>
10	<p>9 KEY POINTS: 1. I AM A VICTIM OF CRIME. A SOPHISTICATED WHITE-COLLAR CRIME COMMITTED BY MULTIPLE ATTORNEYS. 2. THOSE ATTORNEYS 'SET UP' FEDERAL JUDGES TO COMMIT THE SAME CRIME. 3. THE CRIME IS THE THEFT OF MY HAZARD INSURANCE MONEY THROUGH CONCEALMENT OF THAT FACT. THEY CONCEALED THEIR CLIENTS' THEFT OF MY HAZARD INSURANCE MONEY. THAT IS THEFT. 4. THE THEFT OF MY HAZARD INSURANCE MONEY MORPHED INTO AN UNLAWFUL DEBT COLLECTION OF \$1.1 MILLION. THUS, THOSE ATTORNEYS STOLE MY HAZARD INSURANCE MONEY AND EMBEZZLED \$1.1 MILLION FROM ME AND CAUSED FEDERAL JUDGES TO DO THE SAME BY CONCEALING THE THEFT AND EMBEZZLMENT OF MY HAZARD INSURANCE MONEY AND THE FACT OF A LOST NOTE. 5. THE ATTORNEYS GOT A FRAUDULENT CONFIRMED BANKRUPTCY PLAN AMOUNT ON MARCH 28, 2017 UNDER OBJECTION. IN JUNE 2017 THEY CONDUCTED A SHAM CLAIMS OBJECTION TRIAL. THE TRIAL OCCURRED BECAUSE I OBJECTED TO THE FRAUDULENT \$940,000 CONFIRMED PLAN AMOUNT. THERE WAS FRAUD UPON THE COURT. 6. THE FRAUDULENT CONFIRMED PLAN AMOUNT WAS USED TO COLLECT, IN STAGES, STARTING ON JUNE 16, 2017 A \$1.1 MILLION UNLAWFUL AMOUNT. THEY TIED ME UP IN UNNECESSARY LITIGATION FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. IM TRYING TO PROTECT MY PROPERTY FROM THESE thuggish ATTORNEYS. THEY ACT LIKE A DEREK CHAVIN. THEY ARE EVIL INCARNATE. 7. I REPORTED THE THEFT TO THE SAPD WHITE COLLAR CRIMES UNIT ON MARCH 13, 2020 AS CASE NUMBER SAPD #####. THAT REPORTING SEEMS TO HAVE GONE INTO A BLACK HOLE. I GET NO RESPONSE. JUST SILENCE. 8. THUS, BASED ON MY LIMITED EXPERIENCE, I BELIEVE THE SAPD IS NOT SET UP WELL TO ADDRESS THIS TYPE OF SYSTEMIC AND PERNICIOUS CRIME. MY CIVIL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. 9. THIS TYPE OF CRIME COULD GET WORSE, IF NOT ADDRESSED, DUE TO COVID-19.</p>
N/A	<p>I don't believe in defunding the police. I agree that there should be better screenings for officers in training. If training needs to be longer then I suggest you do that. I fully support our police. Do what needs to be done to fix these problems. Don't defund. I guarantee if someone's life is in trouble they won't hesitate to call 911.</p>

District	Public Comment
N/A	<p>I don't feel comfortable living in this city knowing they hire cops who feed homeless people feces sandwiches. I don't feel comfortable living in this city with policemen like Steve Cassanova, who murder teenagers in their own home. I don't feel comfortable knowing you have a police captain by the name of Rackham D Silva who posted threats to murder protesters on Facebook and he was suspended instead of fired. This city has a long history of corrupt policemen getting away with misconduct and it disgusts me. I do not feel safe in this city knowing cops get away with breaking laws that would grant me life in prison if I broke those same laws. Defund the police drastically and remove police immunity. Hold officers accountable when they break the law, like you would hold any other citizen.</p>
8	<p>The San Antonio Police Department does an amazing job protecting our community. In 2019, there were only 12 instances of officer-involved injury or death (SAPD/COSA Open Data Initiative). Of those 12, only one was an unarmed shooting (suspect was white). 4 of the 12 suspects were white, 7 were Hispanic and one was Asian. I do not think not think the cries to defund and abolish SAPD based on an incident that occurred in Minneapolis are called for. I believe that we need to condemn and take action on instances of police brutality and racism when there is evidence, as well as make it easier to terminate an officer who has citations. That being said, I also believe more resources need to be allocated to mental health services for officers, relationship building between officers and the communities they serve, and training for officers related to high-stress situations. Defunding the police will disproportionately effect at-risk communities, as these are the individuals and families who cannot afford private security and rely on SAPD to keep them safe. Coupled with this, businesses are not likely to move into areas with significant crimes rates which takes opportunities away from the very people you're trying to help. Tuesday night saw another shooting on the east side (of a 19-year-old leaving a gas station), and Monday night saw the murder of a young man on the north side. I implore you to consider the myriad of problems that will arise without police. The individuals who prey on women and children and place no value on the life of young men will not go away when the police do. As long as there are evil people out there, we have to have good officers willing to serve and protect our fellow community members.</p>
9	<p>I am a former state and federal prosecutor and I have had the pleasure of working with some outstanding peace officers. However, throughout my career and particularly of late I have seen local officers use force when it was not necessary or prudent or even in compliance with well recognized police procedures and protocols. Sadly, I have also seen the evidence of these violent acts and other transgressions be either lost, destroyed, or become mysteriously unavailable. Specifically, I have seen body cam videos as well as the audio of dashcams be either turned off or somehow lost. This lost evidence is very suspicious because it invariably occurs at a critical moment when the police officer is engaging in the very conduct that is being called into question. I then see the officer conveniently suffer a lapse of memory for the time period for which there just happens to be no video or audio evidence. I have also seen SAPD officers intentionally falsify reports to conceal wrongdoing only to come to realize that there is video evidence to contradict the facts alleged in their reports. Nothing is done to these officers who violate protocol and cause deaths or violate the constitutional rights of our citizens. We need immediate reform or these atrocities will continue. I cannot emphasize enough the need for better police training and accountability. Officers are able to engage in wrongdoing with impunity. They enjoy the protection of their chief, their union, qualified immunity, and prosecutors who refuse to take action against their own witnesses. The only way we can avoid unnecessary harm and unnecessary deaths is for our elected officials to recognize the need to remove these protections. We need officers to appreciate that mistakes can and will be forgiven but wrongdoing will result in serious consequences.</p>

District	Public Comment
9	What role do we want the police to have? What if we move away from a narrow conception of public safety that relies on policing and punishment, and instead invest in the community's actual safety net that includes stable housing, mental health services and community organizations. Then the role of police can significantly shrink because they won't be responding to so many situations where the best solution is not to show up with a gun. Please follow the link below to watch \"Police: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)\" for more ideas, especially how Camden reformed its police department. Watch through to the end... <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wf4cea5oObY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wf4cea5oObY</a>
N/A	I believe there are good cops and bad cops sir. I remember back then I went through situations where cops were crooked and didn't protect when I was beat up and jumped by a gang years ago so I think they should just fire all the crooked cops and ones that abuse their power and authority and make sure every cop goes through a training for people with autism and other disabilities as well as have them be trained to not show racism towards any body period. The first time they mess up suspend them and make them go through that training again.
N/A	Hello, excuse me, what are you gonna do to repeal 143 and 172?!
N/A	What are you going to do to repeal 172 and 143?
N/A	What are you going to repeal chapter 143 and 174
N/A	What are you doing to help repeal 172 & 143?
N/A	What is going to be done in regard to repealing chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code? These laws have been established years ago and I believe it is time for governmental change. We need to have a way to rebuild our police department. Rebuild it for justice. Rebuild it for fairness, for each and every one of us.
N/A	What are you going to do about repealing chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas local government code
N/A	What is going to be done in regard to repealing chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code? These laws have been established years ago and I believe it is time for governmental change. We need to have a way to rebuild our police department. Rebuild it for justice. Rebuild it for fairness, for each and every one of us.
N/A	What is going to be done in regard to repealing chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code? These laws have been established years ago and I believe it is time for governmental change. We need to have a way to rebuild our police department. Rebuild it for justice. Rebuild it for fairness, for each and every one of us.
1	I ask that the city make cuts to the police department's budget, shifting these funds into social services that prevent crime, such as education, healthcare, and housing. Professionals other than police can respond to minor offenses that do not require police intervention, such as cases of addiction, mental health, homelessness, and domestic violence. Smaller policy reforms have proven ineffective and have failed to prevent police from killing people around the country. Our traditional law enforcement model has always been inherently violence and racist regardless of good intentions of local leaders. I ask that the city provide the public with a disaggregated line item police budget from the current fiscal year as a first step towards considering defunding. I also ask that city council pass a council consideration request requiring ant-racism training for all city officials and staff as an interim measure, although this is not a sufficient solution. Finally, I ask that the city reduce the power of the San Antonio Police Officers Association through the upcoming contract negotiations, by making negotiations public, ensuring maximum protections to prevent all officers who use excessive force from staying on or returning to the police force here in San Antonio or anywhere else, and banning campaign contributions from the association. 70% of fired SAPD officers are returning to their job, including those who have committed severe domestic violence, given a feces sandwich to a man experiencing homelessness, and killed unarmed members of our community. We continue to pour more money into policing according to a false narrative that more money means a safer community. But the community is only safe right now for people are white like me. Our Black community members and other San Antonians of color live their lives in more and more fear as law enforcement budgets increase.



District	Public Comment
9	We urge the city to rethink its allotment of funds to public safety in efforts to redistribute the wealth. We call for defunding the SAPD in order to put more funding into our schools, our parks, and in helping to alleviate the dire need for food, water, and shelter for those experiencing homelessness in our city and those affected by income loss in the wake of COVID.
2	<p>Police violence across the United States against Black/African Americans, in particular, is patterned and systematic; it's false to entertain the notion that the violence and murders committed by police officers are isolated incidences or the result of 'a few bad cops.'" Consequently, San Antonio needs system-level change to seriously address this issue. The City of San Antonio should adopt the remaining measures set forth by Campaign Zero, to include requiring comprehensive reporting for all uses of force, banning shooting at moving vehicles, requiring a warning before shooting, and exhausting all alternatives before shooting. The City of San Antonio needs to acknowledge that the presence of police officers often escalates situations due to historical and ongoing injustices against people of color. More funding for police departments and more police officers will only exacerbate the problem. The City of San Antonio should significantly reduce the SAPD's budget and divert funding to public services and a broad array of social workers who are equipped and trained to practice trauma-informed care, de-escalate, and respond to a variety of needs and crisis situations. There is a demonstrated need for more mental health resources, affordable housing, and improved public transportation, among others. Diverting funds to any of these areas would prove beneficial for so many of our community members and enrich our city as a whole. Providing training to police officers on de-escalation and crisis intervention is necessary but not sufficient, as such trainings do not adequately prepare officers for crisis situations. In addition, more of SAPD's current budget should be further dedicated to the homelessness outreach and mental health units. Some of these changes may seem radical, but small revisions will not end police violence against Black/African Americans, in particular, and more broadly against communities of color.</p>
6	<p>When I see a police car in the rearview mirror when I'm driving down the street, the highway or in a parking lot I ALWAYS think to myself. "Do I look suspicious? ... does my vehicle look suspicious?" Why is fear what I feel when I see people in uniform? These thugs in uniform are here to harass the people of the city, not protect us. These police make me feel like a criminal even though I've done nothing wrong. Do you know what it feels like to be followed for miles by cop waiting for you to do something wrong. Which by the way, if you follow ANYONE long enough they will make a moving violation. To then be told you were stopped because you "didn't put your blinker on on that last turn." And then subsequently be asked, "where are you headed? do you have any firearms? Do you have any drugs in the car?" And then be given two options. 1. Give permission to search your car or 2. Wait and get a k9 unit called to search your car anyway. They didn't find anything because I am a law abiding citizen. But because of how I look they think I am a criminal. Police are not here to protect me. There should not be an option to stop someone for a SAFETY concern and then search them for something else. Leave me alone. Honestly, I would feel safer with no police on the roads. Doesn't it tell you there is something wrong when you see a police officer or police car and feel scared for your life? Reduce the police force on the streets, allocate funds to community programs such as libraries, parks, afterschool programs, community outreach, infrastructure, transportation, and education. Thank you for your time.</p>

District	Public Comment
10	<p>What ALL police departments need more than anything else is training. They do a ridiculously miniscule amount of training for what their job is. Navy SEALS train for 18 months for a 6 month deployment. Most cops have 2 - 4 hours of combative training a YEAR. Complete insanity. Cops should train 1/5 of the time. Whether its 2 hours a day or one full day a week where they go through scenarios, they do combatives, learn jiu-jitsu, de-escalation drills. Being a cop is the hardest job in the world. They should do scenario driven training. Over and over again because you DO GET BETTER at it. You learn how to mentally detach. And not get emotional. And realize that there are other things that are happening. Regular jiu-jitsu sparring. If someone is trained they don't even have to think about what to do when someone puts hands on them. If you're a jiu-jitsu guy and someone puts hands on you, you're NOT SCARED. You can remain calm. Imagine being a cop who hasn't had anyone put hands on you for a year or two because most people are compliant. Then one surprises you. Your emotions and adrenaline spike. You have a gun so every fight is a potential fight for your life. The ONLY way to overcome that is CONSISTANT training. Not just a few times. We need to pull them from the field to train and DECOMPRESS. It's a high stress job. We also need to train the public on how to conduct themselves when stopped. AND stop making brutality instances about RACE when there is ZERO evidence of such. FACT: Far more whites are killed by cops than blacks. Last year 9 unarmed blacks killed, 19 unarmed whites. Stop spreading propaganda. Race isn't the issue.</p>
6	<p>Many of my relatives have been officers with the San Antonio Police Department. Throughout my life I've seen the struggles that come with being an officer, but also the pride that comes with wanting to protect our most vulnerable community members. I want it to be easier to punish bad cops, but do not think \"defunding the police\" is the right solution. The best way forward is to look at the policies that allow bad officers to return to the force and amend those. As an older woman who spends many nights on my own, I don't want you to take away my protection if someone were to break into my house.</p>
N/A	<p>Diversity training and increasing the diversity of the police force will not be sufficient. We need a complete overhaul of our public safety system as well as increased police accountability. Police should also have a significantly longer and more rigorous training. The militarization of the police needs to end immediately. San Antonio also needs to immediately ban the use of all tear gas. I have lost all faith in the SAPD and in San Antonio's approach to public safety. Earning my trust will take massive changes. We should decrease the role and funding of policing and increase the funding and use of community based alternatives.</p>
1	<p>Our city is not immune to the systemic racism that plagues this country that has been demonstrated by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Toyin Salau, and unfortunately many many many others. The city has a responsibility to equitable distribute our collective resources. The safest communities are not the ones with the most police, they are the ones with the most recourses. Think of what you describe as a \"bad neighborhood\" and ask yourself why there are more police there. Of course they have higher rates of crime, there are more opportunities for them to be caught. I cant tell you have many drunk drivers, people doing donuts in the middle of McCoullough, and recreational drug users I have seen in MY neighborhood, but I also cant tell you how few cop cars I've seen in my neighborhood. And this is not to say, bring more cops to Monte Vista- it's to say stop pretending that police presence solves those issues. Police's main role is to interrupt crime, but that does not address the underlying issues. Address the issues- don't just push the people who are affected by them out of our communities and our lives. And those who are pushed to the edges of ur society are disproportionately black, brown, poor, disabled, etc. Those people make our communities beautiful and deserve care. Providing that care is possible. We have the resources to make that happen and you, our council members, have the power to make that happen. Please make the choices that represent the collective concerns of your constituents.</p>

District	Public Comment
N/A	It is my firm belief that we need to stop the mass incarceration of black and brown youth, contribute more to schools and community centers, and empower children to live their best lives. Defunding the police does not necessarily mean getting rid of the police altogether. Rather, it would mean reducing police budgets and reallocating those funds to crucial and oft-neglected areas. Please take the time to understand that the way police have been trained and conditioned is not conducive to civilians security, especially the security of minorities. Now is the time to re-evaluate, re-train, and re-organize. Defund the Police.
2	Police in San Antonio need to have their funding re-allocated to support organizations that are actually able to support our community. According to the ACLU, \"Out of the 10.3 million arrests made per year, only 5 percent are for the most serious offenses, including murder, rape, and aggravated assault. These are the ones that truly threaten public safety. The other 95 percent of arrests are for things like traffic violations, marijuana possession, unlawful assembly, and even removing a shopping cart from store premises. That means that police spend the most resources going after minor incidents that actually don't threaten everyday life but do lead to mass criminalization and incarceration.\" Some of the places that this funding could obviously be sent to include community outreach programs, social workers, rehab programs, and education. Please consider better spending our community's budget in order to help the community grow.
6	The first huge step for San Antonio to be an example to the nation of police abolition. If the city stopped training/ hiring new police cadets by mandating the dismantling of all police academies in the city both private and publicly funded by the end of 2021. Adjust the budgets use the money that is put into training new cadets toward increasing the training and awareness of the current police officers. Use the police academy to train healthcare workers, social workers and mental health professionals how to respond to emergency calls in a safe non threatening way that the public is demanding. This is not an overnight process, it's a long process that must run parallel to police reform. Over the next 15 to 20 years San Antonio could become a city that is a model of community policing. The first step could be as easy as 'let's stop the training and hiring of new police cadets/officers and invest in the commitment to police abolition.
7	Below is a full list of a START to addressing police brutality and systemic racism found within our own law enforcement agencies here and the city of San Antonio itself. The mayor and city council have a chance to make a huge statement about the need for reform in our city by coming out to state they support the ballot initiatives to remove Chapters 174 and 143 so that the city can have more power to truly reform our policing in San Antonio. Council has openly pushed to defeat or support initiatives like this before. Stop Policing Our Schools: There is a considerable body of research showing that black and Latino students are more likely to be suspended, arrested, and disciplined in school. Adding more police to this dynamic makes things more difficult for students from marginalized groups who are already more likely to interact with police in their daily lives. Require SAPD to participate in the EPIC (ethical policing is courageous) program which is already implemented by the Sheriff's department. EPIC educates, empowers, and supports the officers on the streets to play a meaningful role in 'policing' one another. Where can we reallocate funds within 18% wiggle room in public safety budget: Sobering Units: Increase the program (The program already runs under \$1 million, so another \$1-\$2 million would double or triple the amount of units that can be out. This also saves taxpayers on costs to jail people.) The City already funds a sobering unit downtown. (The Restoration Center) If a person is intoxicated in public, officers can do a 15-minute drop-off at a 24-hour unit staffed by EMT's and mental health specialists. The intoxicant then sobers up safely, off the streets, and is linked into treatment. If we funded additional satellite locations, we could expand this program.

District	Public Comment
7	<p>The answer is to move funding away from policing and back into our community. A common argument against this is that our police are already understaffed. A response is that our police are understaffed, because we have given them too many jobs to do. By distributing out the responsibilities to community workers, social workers, medical staff, etc. it will help lighten the load that our police force already has. Another argument is that our crime is high. Many studies have shown that issues of high unemployment and concentrated poverty are some of the largest contributors to crime rates, meaning there are other areas we need to address for safety other than policing. Another factor to consider is that often when crime rises, cities hire more police in response, making it extremely tricky to isolate the effect of police on crime from the effect of crime on police. We also can't address the issue of mass incarceration without reducing the size and scope of the police. The Government Accountability Office concluded that while there was a 26 percent decline in overall crime from 1993 to 2000, only 1.3 percent of the decline could be attributed to additional police officers. The majority of that decrease, the office said, came from other, unspecified factors; smaller studies have found that everything from preschool to job programs for young people decreases crime rates. So invest in the community!!! When someone calls 911, different kinds of professionals respond depending on the problem -- firefighters for fires, EMTs for injury or illness, police for everything else. We should expand the number of professionals we have available for public safety to include domestic violence specialists, conflict resolutions specialists, mental health professionals, etc.</p>
6	<p>Use of Force Continuum Needs To Be Updated- We can achieve this through city ordinance. I believe this is permissible under Article 7 Section 1(F) and (L) of the CBA, though the Chief could potentially amend some of them later. Require Warning Before Shooting: Language is non-existent currently in police manual Restrict Shooting At Moving Vehicles: Except as the ultimate measure of self-defense or defense of another. Officers should employ all reasonable means available to move to an area of safety if the vehicle becomes a threat, including retreating from the threat, if practical. Require Exhausting Of All Means Before Shooting: This applies to all forms of deadly force (even physical), regardless of the type of instrument or weapon used. The use of deadly force is authorized only to protect an officer or another person from what is reasonably believed to be an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury. The use of deadly force against one who is fleeing from custody, or who is fleeing immediately after committing an offense, is prohibited unless the officer has probable cause to believe the suspect poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or a third party.\" Ban No-Knock Warrants: No specific language listed regarding no-knock warrants under Procedure 504. Could name this Charles' Law, or Chop's Law, or the Roundtree Law after Charles Roundtree. Strengthen Duty To Intervene: Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. Officers shall immediately report these observations to a supervisor.\" (San Antonio Police Department: General Manual, Procedure 501- Use of Force Section.05 Application of Force A-G)</p>
7	<p>I am writing today to demand that the proposed 2021 budget for the SAPD is cut and those funds are redistributed to social and public health services. \$490 million is an unacceptable budgetary amount, considering it is nearly eleven times as much as the budget for Public Health and almost four times the budget for Social Services. To make our communities safer, we must ensure access to resources that help curb the systemic oppression of marginalized groups. Spending more money on police presence, police training, and police militarization will not only make our communities more dangerous, but it will rob communities of color and the Black community of the funds to address their needs. Housing security, food security, education security, health and mental health security should be the priority. We need trained (and appropriately paid) social workers and mental health professionals to deal with the bulk of the calls that police currently intercept. Our city is better than this.</p>

District	Public Comment
9	<p>Two years ago, I stood in front of a City Council board and cried as I spoke about changes I knew needed to be addressed and considered. Today I write in hoping my words bring the same passion, conviction and change my tears did that day. To quote the SAPD website “ 'Be the Change! Now is the time to figure out what 'change' the website speaks of is and how to go about making reform/reallocation/defunding possible. That we use COSA CORE Values and come together with Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation and Professionalism to make our city, our community, our home a better place for all. That instead of saying excellence in all we do; we would say excellence in begin transparent and vulnerable. That as city leaders we would own up to the fact that there is a huge injustice taking place and we would ask for forgiveness and work together on correcting these injustices that has gone on far to long. There is a major fracture and disconnect between the SAPDs philosophy and their action. Patrolling, watching and training in firearms are given more importance then serving, compassion and family. Which DO NOT hold true to the city's core values or SAPDs values of Compassion, Integrity, Fairness, and Respect. I'm asking that we end that. That we work together to leave a legacy that holds true to COSAs and SAPDs values. We are in a time of conflict, on the precipice of change and have as the Chief of Police William McManus states, 'an opportunity to provide a service to the community' and a 'chance to make the world a better place' I'm asking that those words be given weight. Be made alive and ring out. We must be change.</p>
1	<p>I am appalled by the blatant imbalance of power for Police Associations in the current contracts with the city. The way our current system works allows police officers to get away with misconduct without any fair consequences. Our own Police Chief cannot even act on the disciplinary measures that he wants to enforce upon police officers who have acted in horrendous ways (i.e. the poop sandwich fed to a homeless by a police officer person in our city). I am asking that my specific district representative and all city council members commit to repeal Chapter 143 and Chapter 174 that have set the current situation for Police Administrations to have limited oversight and make it impossible for disciplinary measures to be taken. If you do not sign the petition to end Chapter 143 and Chapter 174, I will not be voting for you in the next election. We need to reimagine policing in our communities and stop pitting the police against the community as if they were not employees on an equal basis as every other citizen. The current system, instead gives police administrations the power to set their own terms and act in ways that no other citizen unions do. The culture of policing has to change, and to start this, we need to dismantle the current laws that make it impossible to enact practical reforms. I hope that you will listen to your community and commit to signing the petition to end Chapter 143 and Chapter 174.</p>
N/A	<p>Please Do Not defund our police department! This city needs law and order and as a Private citizen and Native San Antonian I stand with the Men And Women of the SAPD and all other Law Enforcment entity's</p>
1	<p>Dear Council People, After becoming aware of a couple Chapter laws that would serve the people better if they were repealed, I would like to formally request their repeal. That will be Chapter 143 &amp; Chapter 174, two items in consideration by the people at large. They happen to take things too far in concerning the interests of the police over the public. While it is a natural happenstance to consider ones own needs and that of your immediate circle first and foremost, the creation of and adherence to laws is an instance that necessitates taking a righteous step back to understand the affects on the people. And the people are speaking back saying that Chapter 143 and Chapter 174 are to be repealed, please. Chapter 143 because it can, and has, and will continue to be used to shield those in the position of serving our city police from a genuine accountability that we, the people, yearn for so strongly. Chapter 174 because it sets the judicial game steps ahead for officers when an individual has been witness to or suffered from an abuse of power. Abuses of power which unfortunately arise too often in this very tough position that officers have chosen as their life pursuit. For the people, and for them to feel safe, repealing these two chapters would offer a breath of relief. It would be a moment where we feel heard, that hope remains that our specific interests as citizens and those of the institutions at large may find a sturdy bridge for crossing. Thanks for listening to the outcries.</p>