

## Public Safety Committee 06/15/2020

District	Public Comment
8	After a long day of peaceful protests on May 30 by a united, unarmed, multi-racial group, why did SAPD escalate the situation by showing up in riot gear? When placing themselves between these protesters and the armed counter-protesters who had sworn to use violence, why did SAPD, in Chief McManuss own words in an interview on TPR, determine that the threat was the unarmed protesters and face them with their backs to the armed group threatening violence? How does that show the community that they can count on SAPD to keep them safe?
9	How can city leadership build a proactive timeline to streamline an address to the next collective bargaining? The city should address the local police union, SAPD Internal Affairs, and the civil service appeal to improve the accountability within the the police officers and the unions themselves. Does the SAPD Internal Affairs provide annual reporting for public viewing? Are there any supervisors within Internal Affairs that are not police officers? For the Civilian Review Complaint and Administrative Review Board, how are participants selected? What are their requirements and how long do they sit on the review board?
1	Hi. As a resident of San Antonio, I would I like to express my concerns about how the city allocates its funds placing most of our tax payer dollars in the hands of SAPD. In reviewing the contract with the police union it is clear that the City of San Antonio is at a disadvantage in successfully holding police officers accountable for their actions. The contract San Antonio has with its police union is one of the most costly contracts in the country. I would like to see the funds that are allocated towards public safety be redirected towards community organizations committed to do the work with no imputative action. I dream of a community in which the most marginalized & underserved communities have access to resources to mental health, education and housing without being criminalized. Funding needs to go towards city workers that can check in on homeless people and find them a safe place to stay, calling 311 should give our residents access to a first responder that is trained in mental health to come to their door and ASSIST not instigate and take advantage of the situation, calling 311 should also give residents access to a crisis intervention team that has been trained in trauma informed care, funding for the arts is also a vital as art matters and it is engrained int he culture of San Antonio. Art heals all. I trust that our concerns will be taken seriously and action will be taken to meet our demands.
N/A	Here are my suggestions for what council can do in regards to policing. I know that SAPOA's collective bargaining agreement is a major hurdle we need to face first. If you recognize just how corrupt this contract is, the first thing you can do as our city representatives is publicly speak out against it. You don't need SAPOA to get you elected. You just need the people. There is evidence of this even now! An immediate item City Council can do is pass a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requiring anti racism training for all city officials and staff. A third-party independent audit should be done on the police budget. Where is this money going? How is it being spent? Where can cuts be made to go back into community led, non-police initiatives to prevent violence? There is no reason for the continued investment by police into military equipment. The 12 million dollar raise for police next year can be diverted back into the community. IF WE DECREASE FUNDING FOR POLICING, WE ARE ALSO DECREASING THE SCALE OF POLICING. Our police officers are covering too much of our daily lives. It is not good for our own safety and well-being, not their own well-being. Our civilian oversight committee laid out by the CBA is a joke. Why is there an even number of civilians and officers? Why must civilians be approved by the police chief or the union? Where is the independence in that? They don't even have any power to conduct their own independent investigations or true authority to dole out punishment. The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) is a great model that we can follow. Denver also has a great model for civilian oversight, including an independent audit of the police budget.
10	I SUPPORT SAPD! DO NOT DEFUND OR REDUCE FUNDS FROM OUR PUBLIC SAFETY. It is absolutely appalling that we are even having this discussion. The majority of San Antonio stand with our brave men & women! There has to be law & order. Your power is derived from the people. You are supposed to speak on my behalf not yours. Come election time we will remember. I call on you to stand up for our brave men & women. We have the best here in San Antonio for a reason. Defunding or reducing pay in benefits will not attract the best possible candidates that we are known for. I implore each one of you who has a security detail to look at the service & dedication those officers have provided you & your family. The caliber of our officers speaks for our great city. We are a tourist destination & the professionalism of our officers shines during our Fiesta celebrations. I am proud to Back The Blue.
6	Do not reroute the funds for SAPD. They do an awesome job. Our officers, have already had to sensitivity training, etc.. they put their lives on the line everyday, and they do it with respect for every one. We have a diverse city, and police force, and no one, needs to mess with it. We do not need to follow in Austins footsteps. Step up and do the right thing for once. Leave SAPD alone. You want new areas incorporated into the city, how do you plan to provide services to these newly incorporated areas without additional police officers? Cut the budget for the police, and the crime is going to skyrocket, and no company will want to move their business here. Think about that.
7	Why are law enforcement officers so careless with human lives? They shoot when they do not know what is behind the wall, in the car and in the back of a fleeing victim. They should not be able to use any deadly force against anyone unless they are being shot at or attacked. When someone has a gun, they do not need to immediately shoot cause they saw a gun—Take cover and evaluate what the person is doing. Protect and serve does not mean shoot, choke and beat people over a rolling stop. They need to loose their immunity for murders committed in the line of duty.
N/A	Many people are calling for defunding the police; the police don't want that, which is understandable. If funds aren't reallocated fo other departments, how can we help address the fears and insecurities the public feels? What training can be offered to officers to help them deal with strange situations? What improvements could be made? Denying a plan means you should state a new one if you want continued support from the community.

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N/A	I have worked for public health or clinical research programs for most of the last 20 years, including substance abuse research, HIV prevention, homelessness, and mental health. I have been reflecting lately on how threadbare the offices and clinics where I have worked usually looked, on how they struggle perpetually with shoestring budgets, on how their staff accept low salaries and danger. I compare that to the seemingly endless supply of tear gas, "less lethal" weapons, shields, helmets, vehicles, guns, and even tanks that police budgets can afford. We are told that this is because policing is dangerous work, but the people who pick up our trash and maintain our sewers have riskier jobs than police, and are paid less. The people providing our social services, emergency medical services, homeless services, and firefighting have risky jobs too, and they are trained to handle it in the ways that are least harmful to the violent person. And they do it without guns, helmets, shields, or vests. It's time to radically re-think our public safety and public health services. We already know that we need different kinds of professionals for public safety -- police, firefighters, EMTs -- so why not expand the types of professionals we employ while reducing the number of police? We don't need armed police to give out parking or speeding tickets, or to address homelessness or drug use. Instead of sending out police, let's send out mental health professionals, social workers, and conflict resolution specialists. It is far easier to train them to manage violent situations than it is to train police in their specialties. Let's take this moment to re-imagine public safety to include an array of professionals besides police; instead of sending police to situations they aren't trained to handle, let's reserve police for violent crime.
N/A	Defund and abolish the police.
8	i wish to speak at either the June 15 or June 20 meetings on policing or both. If 3 minutes is the limit, then i request one 3 minute input at both. I wish to speak about 2 police death cases and the city\s failure to deal with both and the need to substantial reform of police oversight by civilians in San Antonio. I will speak with specific direct knowledge as both a physician and an attorney and as a resident of this city since 1976.
3	Spoke in favor of defunding the police and ensuring that police budgets were transparent
9	Police in San Antonio have been doing a great job. Officers need to be able to continue to keep themselves and their community safe with the proper training and tools to do so. Big kudos to SAPD's academy for investing in their new officers and giving them almost double the amount of state required hours in training. I would like to see training after the academy to last longer with the field training officers, allowing for the new officer to gain more experience while working with a veteran training officer. As well as, I would like to see more officers at each sub station for each shift allowing for two or more officers to respond to calls for service thus increasing safety and accountability.
6	The rationale for existence of a police department would be diminished by reducing the budget. The city is growing in population and increasing in the number of businesses. We as citizens expect the city to provide a police department which will enforce laws, ensure our safety, our health, and our possessions and prevent crime, and civil disorder. The police department budget does not provide for each citizen to have a personal security guard by the police and any city employee and elected official which has a police security guard must relinquish that amenity now. Transparency and accountability of the police department budget will ensure that financial resources are properly allocated. Thank you.
N/A	OPINION Anyone wishing to abolish the Police must first successfully complete Police academy training and be fully qualified to be hired as an active duty Police officer to be allowed that opinion. Existing officers wanting to abolish the Police (are basically spies, and) should be pulled from active duty; have to undergo an immediate psych eval .Id like to propose a required-credit high school course: "How to Interact With the Police." This should include detailed instructions on how to follow lawful orders, how to properly communicate to the Police if you are not able to follow said orders for any reason, i.e. a physical handicap, and what to do in the (hopefully) hypothetical circumstance that you are given an unlawful order. People, especially young people, need to understand what Police go through.Id like to suggest that blaming all Police everywhere for the sins of the few is a kind of neo-racism. Imagine thinking that all "blue people" look alike, think alike, speak alike, have the same values... What happens when you replace the word "blue" with "black" or "white" or "brown"? Do you see how racist that supposition sounds? Do you see how horrible that is? Hatespeech against Police is still hatespeech. We must judge people by their actions, not by the color of their skin, and not by the badge they wear. Police officers guilty of crimes or misconduct should be punished appropriately. Likewise, Police officers who do their job correctly and faithfully should be recognized. Finally, San Antonio is big enough to be able to set up Counseling programs for those people who were traumatized from watching the murder of George Floyd. I fear that the damage to mental health caused by this is fueling the actions of many an "activist."
N/A	We need police reform, and we need it now. Incidents of wanton police brutality across the country, recently and historically, make that clear, and San Antonio is not exempt. Im no expert on what the best police reform would include. Id look to the science on that. Project Zero seems to have some good ideas. But whatever is done needs to be DRASTIC. Not purely lip service. Protections against police accountability must be stripped away. We need to look up to our police, not fear them.
N/A	Good Afternoon, I'm a volunteer with the Grassroots Law Project. We are working to end police brutality and mass incarceration, and reform policing for a more just society. I'm writing to ask you to take the Path to Justice Pledge. By taking this pledge, you are committing to policies that end police brutality and killings by restricting the use of force, creating non-lethal response teams, and demilitarizing police forces. You're also committing to hold law enforcement accountable by creating committees for oversight with subpoena powers, and eliminating exceptions for law enforcement such as qualified immunity. In order to take the pledge, just go to <a href="https://grassrootslaw.org/pledge">grassrootslaw.org/pledge</a> and fill out the form. If you'd like to discuss this effort with me further, please email me back. Too many people have lost their lives to police brutality, and we need everyone in public office to stand up for justice.
6	I was born and raised here, lived here most of my life, retired here. The police do need to keep track of complaints and the outcome of the investigation into them. The Majority of police are doing an outstanding job and need to be recognized as such.
N/A	Stated that San Antonio was 10 years behind when it came to culture, the arts, and civil rights. He noted that it was time to step it up.
N/A	My concern is that these listening sessions will not lead to real structural change. I do not mean to sound like a conspiracy theorist, but this kind of feels like something the city is doing to placate those of us who want change while actually changing little to nothing. Is the city of San Antonio seriously willing to consider disbanding the SAPD? I have a feeling the answer is no & if the answer no then I fear I am right in thinking that this is to give the appearance of doing something that ultimately maintains the status quo.
N/A	Myself and a few of my fellow colleagues of the grassroots law project would like for our pledge to be reviewed and signed. Pledge for justice is a plan for change. We would like your support in improving the city and becoming part of the movement for change and a better tomorrow

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N/A	I'm emailing to ask that you pledge to enact the #8CantWait Use of Force policies. I know San Antonio would benefit from these policies - if you'd like more information and/or studies showing that these policies reduce excessive force, you can learn more at 8cantwait.org. The #8CantWait policies are simple, common-sense and would make our community safer. SAN ANTONIO, TX has 4 policies that are part of the #8CantWait pledge. Can you commit to enacting these additional policies? Requires Warning Before Shooting Requires Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles Requires Comprehensive Reporting I look forward to hearing what our representatives are doing to speak up for all voices in our city.
9	So much has to change in the criminal system and the broader society to prevent more killings of civilians at the hands of police. But we can start with the arrests. Police should be required to issue citations in minor offenses because arrests too often escalate into tragedy. And, every officer-involved death should be reviewed by an independent agency, rather than local district attorneys who often have conflicts of interest because they work with the cops every day. The cornerstone of equal justice is treating all citizens alike. If the criminal system treated African Americans at the arrest-decision point the way it treats police suspects â€” such as Chauvin and his three colleagues â€” George Floyd would still be alive. Thank you for your time and efforts on policy change to end police brutality.
7	I am endorsing all the demands of the Poor Peoples 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.
3	My priorities and expectation concerning public safety procedures is that we continue to have law and order and a police force that is allowed and funded to serve and protect the citizens and property of San Antonio and Bexar county. There is always room for improvement in any institution and even though I am not aware of the police department policies; I offer some suggestion for improvement. This will actually create a need for more funding. 1. Invite a workgroup of community members on all sides of town working with their local police substation to review police policies. We need to know what is in place before we can know what to change. 2. Provide cultural sensitivity training for police officers. Training needs to be conducted by people who represent the cultural groups. 3. Employ mental health and substance abuse professionals and other professionals to work alongside police on calls to address the issues that plague people heavily involved in situations needing police intervention. All the professionals need to be on the same page and hold a united front in serving the public and not a personal agenda. 4. Training and role play in current deescalation techniques on a 6 month basis. 5. Training on how to use the least amount of lethal force when dealing with aggressive individuals. Tasers do not seem to be effective on strong/aggressive individuals so what other types of techniques are available? 6. Supports for supervisors to properly evaluate police office performance. 7. Zero tolerance of excessive force used on the public. 8. Mental health support for police officers who may be experiencing PTSD.
3	Stated that she wanted the City's commitment to ridding the police force of racist and abusive officers. She asked that a facilitator be hired to provide city staff and board appointees with anti-racism training.
8	As you are summarizing our dialogue, let me make this abundantly clear: I want the SAPD DEFUNDED and the funds reallocated back into the community. Listening to y'all spout copoganda and deflect from the issues for 3 hours last Wednesday was infuriating and exhausting. When confronted about how to move forward, instead of offering concessions, McManus stated that he believed that the SAPD already aligns with the values of Can't Wait. Ironically, this proved our point that what Can't Wait lays out isn't good enough as this is the same police department that reinstated an officer that fed a homeless man a feces sandwich. When confronted about the use of force during the protests, McManus justified it by saying â€œthey were throwing bottles and bricksâ€Is tear-gas, rubber, and wooden bullets being fired into unarmed protesters faces a reasonable response to this? Where was the de-escalation? There wasn't any. You know why? Because McManus lied. They shot first. They're the ones who instigated the violence as they always do. They come into our communities and terrorize us and we are sick of it. The self-congratulation and deflection of issues is exactly why we are done with the conversation about reform; it isn't enforced, it doesn't work, and the cops have no interest in implementing it. We're done being held hostage by a terrorist police force. We are demanding the following: Defund the Police Demilitarize Communities Remove Police from Schools Free People from Jails and Prisons Repeal Laws that Criminalize Survival Invest in Community Self-Governance Provide Safe Housing for Everyone Invest in Care, Not Cops We demand action. And we demand it NOW.
N/A	Masks should be mandatory for customers and staff for businesses since we are still having cases. My brother and my dad both have asthma and they still wear the masks. Have outside watch parties or people in cars for the future SPURS games or virtual events like concerts in the Alamodome or AT&T Center like the people in Miami Dolphin Stadium are doing. Thanks and Gig'em!!!
2	I would just like to say that I do not wish for a defunding of the police. If there needs to be changes done, then so be it. But I oppose that other departments (firefighters, paramedics, etc.) in the city should have to do any investigative work for criminal activities. Other departments have neither the time, money, manpower, or knowledge to do criminal investigations. Please do not give radicals a chance to interfere in a civilized society. If they want to live in anarchy, then send them all to go live in a lawless land by themselves. I do not support this ignorant idea of defunding the police department. Thanks.
N/A	We recently moved into the city from Spring Branch. I have already seen posts on my Nextdoor app about 3 stolen vehicles and several about hearing gunshots. We are currently renting while saving for a down payment to purchase a home. I guarantee you that if the police department and sheriffs office are disbanded, we WILL NOT be staying in this area. We will move away to someplace that is safe. It is already like the wild west around here. I can't imagine what these thugs and criminals will do when there is NO LAW TO WORRY ABOUT. I think y'all need to put on your big boy pants and get this mess under control. Otherwise, most good people will leave and you'll have nothing but criminals left to run everything.
9	Do not defund the police or reduce their budget.

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6	What do protestors mean when they say Defund the police? Do they mean to completely eliminate the police force or reduce funding it to the point there are not enough qualified policemen to handle the crime in San Antonio? Policing is a very dangerous job. Yes, there are policemen who do not handle situations with the appropriate amount of force. That does not mean ALL police are bad and should be punished or abolished. We need more training for police in handling situations with minimal violence and in how to act to reduce, not escalate, tension. Cuts in budgets leave no funds for training, lower the caliber of candidates applying due to lower salaries and benefits, and cause increased stress from too small police forces. Violence begets violence. When protestors start throwing rocks or shooting at police or endangering them, you have to expect the police to protect themselves so they can go home to their families at the end of the day, not die on the job or end up in the hospital. If we don't have adequate police, we will certainly have more guns as citizens will buy them to protect themselves because they feel unsafe. The Mayor and City Council should be commending the police force for handling the looting and thefts in downtown San Antonio following the protests last week, not criticizing them for trying to control it, even if they have to draw a gun to do so.
N/A	I would like to know what is proposed to promote equality and hold police officers accountable for misconduct. There are natural groups that can help with proposals if assistance is required.
N/A	I am calling on the local government to take the Path to Justice pledge ( <a href="https://grassrootslaw.org/pledge">grassrootslaw.org/pledge</a> ). By taking this pledge, you are committing to policies that end police brutality and killings by restricting the use of force, creating non-lethal response teams, and demilitarizing police forces. By taking this pledge you also commit to hold law enforcement accountable by creating committees for oversight with subpoena powers, and eliminating exceptions for law enforcement such as qualified immunity. This is our city. No one in San Antonio should be afraid of the people charged with protecting them. I want to know that I can safely request help from law enforcement when needed and the recent events have given me, and many others a mistrust of police officers. I work in psychology and recognize that many police stations seem to exhibit a group bias which is incredibly dangerous given their significant role in serving and protecting the city. It seems many officers have an "us vs them" mentality which is simply unacceptable. They should be here to protect this city and it's inhabitants. NOT to harm us. The government has failed its people by providing far more funds to militarize the police than it does to better our community. It is unacceptable.
2	When officers do horrible and unspeakable things in their community the disciplinary Process needs to stand. So when the arbitration process starts they need to be neutral but lawyers who are arbitrators are not neutral. They try to please both sides by handing out a fine or a suspension and then back on the job. It is not a judicial process for the public rather a private process that lacks transparency and accountability to the public. I say this because you can't police yourself no one can I suggest a community oversight committee to change policy and procedures which can be changed and to look at the department over all and design a program for our community one that works for all people
N/A	BLM is a racist and terrorist organization that operates with antifa that is also a terrorist organization. No changes should be made to the police dept. Putting any race over another is by definition racism.
N/A	In 2016 my then pregnant wife was having mental distress I was encouraged by a helpline to call the police to help. My wife was not listening to the police when asked to get out of her car but she was NOT being violent. The officer lost his patience and decided to pull my wife out of the car twisting her arm painfully behind her and pinned her down and handcuffed her. She screamed in pain. I pleaded with the officer to stop hurting her reminding him that she was PREGNANT. Then his partner put his finger in my face and said if you don't get back inside I'm arresting you as well. Our 8 yr old daughter was inside so I obeyed not wanting both of her parents to be arrested and taken away. I continued to ask them to let her go and I would take care of her but they wouldn't listen. I called them for help but instead they caused years of trauma and honestly no one in my family trusts police anymore. I think there is a serious problem with how and when some officers choose to use force. It should be a last resort and only used to prevent harm of others. My PREGNANT wife was not going to hurt anyone. My wife and I were terrified that the force used was going to harm our baby. There is a serious problem with use of force, a PREGNANT woman gets pulled out of her car at home, pinned to the ground and arrested when she was not causing anyone harm.
N/A	Stated that SAPD should be defunded and those funds should be diverted to public services such as public health, housing, Education, and others.
N/A	I want to praise the SAPD for being so wonderful. The department does a great job training officers. I also want to say I know a lot of the officers and they are very kind and truly want to keep their communities safe. I would recommend possibly a longer academy for officers that are brand new to policing. I would also recommend more physiological evaluations. I also think it would be a good idea everyone once in a while that a Sargent checks in with his officers about stress management. I also believe the officers should have a higher starting salary. These men and woman are putting their lives on the risk daily. Especially now a days where they are targets. These men and woman deserve the best! If it wasn't for them our communities would be a pure terror to live in. Please continue to give the officers all tools needed to keep themselves and our communities safe.
N/A	Every day San Antonians live under the threat of serious bodily injury or death due to no-knock raids by law enforcement. No knock raids were responsible for the tragic death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, the death of Rhogena Nicholas and Dennis Tuttle in Houston, and the unlawful invasion of the home of Lindsey Bishop and Carolyn Clark here in San Antonio. It is obvious that this law enforce tactic leads to death and injury of innocent officers and citizens alike, as well as a plethora of civil rights violations, and the practice should be banned in our city immediately. The risk to human life does not outweigh whatever evidentiary benefit may accrue from the execution of no knock warrants. Louisville, Houston, and other cities have recently banned no knock raids as a way to restore faith in law enforcement in their cities. When will San Antonio do the same?
N/A	To Whom It Concerns, I work at Madison High School and the SAPD on staff are critical to our school safety. These are great men that have built rapport with the students and have made our campus feel safe. Students and parents are showing less respect to authority all the time. In the last few years on hallway duty during lunch, I have students yell profanity at me for asking them politely to get to class. We have taken consequences away in school and that is leading to the lack of respect to our law enforcement. If you defund police I can tell you what our future holds. Untrained private citizens will start taking matters into their own hands. Police are trained to assess situations and make the right decisions. If a person feels threatened in their home and there is no one to turn to they will shoot first and ask questions later. Were there not already civilians bringing guns to the Alamo to protect it? Don't punish our law enforcement for bad police decisions in other states. If we have cops making bad decisions in San Antonio then punish the individual officer, but dont take funding away from men that sacrifice their lives daily for the greater good. We will miss them when theyre gone. Sincerely, Janeen Downen

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N/A	Abolish the racist institution that is our police system we can not continue to single out of people of color and forward to racial profiling that leads to police brutality and murder. I CANT BREATHE BLACK LIVES MATTER
9	I am strongly opposed to defunding of the police department. It's pathetic that this is even an issue. Yes, police policies should be reviewed and any "bad" cops should be removed from the department, but the vast majority are good officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect citizens. They don't deserve the hate that has been spewed at them these past few weeks. I hope and pray the mayor and council have the guts to do what is right and work on police reforms without defunding them.
8	I am going to be explicit: the use of tear gas against protesters on May 30 by the SAPD is an actual real human rights violation. This was a human rights violation only made possible because the City Of San Antonio provided the chemical weapons to do so. This is the truth of San Antonio. How dare you watch this as our representatives and not feel the shame and urgency necessary to take the immediate steps to demilitarize the police. How can you not recognize the fundamental depravity of a city police department having a larger budget than the military of most countries. The only people a police department would ever use those weapons against are those of their own city; by funding them in this way the COSA government has actively betrayed the people who they have claimed to represent. This is in addition to an already long history of police violence specifically targeted towards black San Antonians by a department that has done nothing to hide its disdain for the most disadvantaged of our city. Marquise Jones, Charles Roundtree, Antronie Scott. SAY THEIR NAMES. DO YOUR JOBS. DEMILITARIZE AND DEFUND THE POLICE. Show the moral conviction necessary to make San Antonio safe for every single person living here. Recognize that you hold your positions exclusively on our behalf and any choice you make out of anything less than complete empathy and care for every San Antonio citizen is a betrayal to every single one of us. This is not a political question, it is a moral one, and you are failing.
8	On July 4th, 2018, I was beat by my ex. I went to police who I now realize didn't handle things in the best way. After I told the officer what had happened, that I was strangled and had my head banged into the door twice, he told me that i could work things out with my abuser. Now I know that returning to someone who strangles you increases your risk of strangulation by 7 times and increases your risk of death by 8 times. He refused to use the camera that would show damage to my throat by the strangulation. He asked me to come the following morning to speak to the Crisis Response Team. That woman asked me to leave my house right away, which I couldn't do. I needed to plan my move strategically so as not to harm my children or myself further. She asked what I did all day, and why I couldn't stay with friends or family in this city. She shamed me for not having anyone to go to, unknowing that abusers alienate you from friends and family. Most importantly, she did nothing when my ex awaited me outside the police station. She forced me to leave when he was waiting for me and I was afraid. Instead she asked why I was afraid when I had also explained to her how I was beat by him in front of my children. We need to educate police about domestic violence and try not to shame women or send them back to someone who will inevitably kill them.
N/A	It would hurt the city to defund SAPD because vital training and programs for law enforcement come from that budget. The first thing that would be dropped due to defunding would be training, then equipment. SAPD does a great job training and equipping officers to protect and serve the city of San Antonio. You would be doing residence a dis-service reducing the budget. We saw what happened in Georgia with Ahmaud Arbery when citizens took law enforcement into their own hands. Don't force our city to protect itself for inevitable violence by defunding the police.
8	We HAVE to be smarter about what we are asking police to do. We need to increase funding for social programs and social workers and take this off the plate for police to try and handle. Please also reduce or even eliminate the purchasing of military grade equipment. This is not needed and only intentionally escalates situations! Thank you
N/A	I think they should be required to go through more training before being able to join, as well as continuous evaluations throughout their career on the force. I have a strong distrust in our policing system as I have been the victim of police trying to meet their \"ticket\" quota.
3	Mr. Lovin spoke in favor of defunding the police and making a line item police budget available. He noted that the police did not serve public safety but rather endanger it. He spoke in support for treating the social causes of crime.
N/A	Law enforcement is a VITAL part of our citys wellbeing. The city government MUST support our police. Any undermining of San Antonios police force would be harmful to the citizens and their neighborhoods, families and businesses. The police should NEVER be instructed to stand down especially in a riot and/or looting situation. We must respect and support our police.
N/A	Eleven years ago on July 7th, 2009 I called SAPD about drugs being frequently used out in the open and in front of elderly and young residents in an apartment complex on the Northeast side of San Antonio. A female police officer rudely told me that my husband had called earlier and hung up on me. Since then, three murders have occurred and at least one stabbing has also occurred. SAPD needs to treat its citizens (especially people of different races) as if they are not all criminals. Drop the arrogant attitude.
N/A	You must make it illegal for our police force to use methods banned by the Geneva convention of 1949. The mayor and police chief are complicit in committing war crimes against their own citizens if they allow this to continue. Officers who use excessive force and misuse less than lethal munitions need to be removed from the police force.
7	I am a licensed counselor who worked at a San Antonio based psychiatric inpatient facility for several years. There I served as a therapist and trainer for mental health workers. I worked with people who had histories of mental health concerns who presented with suicidal or homicidal ideation. This facility trained staff members to use verbal de-escalation strategies when the patients in our care exhibited violent behavior or made verbal threats. The facility also trained staff to use specific types of holds/restraints that would not cause the patients any serious physical harm. Force and restraints were to be used only as a very last resort when verbal de-escalation was not successful and the patients were at imminent risk for causing injury to themselves or others. After any force was used, staff were required to process with patients - as any type of force is traumatic - even if done to keep patients safe. Many mental health workers have been cursed at, threatened, spit on, hit, kicked, or had items thrown at them. Mental health workers are trained not to respond in any form of retaliation. We do this work on a daily basis without causing physical harm to the folks in our care. Please consider consulting with mental health care professionals if San Antonio decides to defund SAPD. Also please consider allocating more funds to hire social workers, counselors, and other mental health workers to assist with assessing community members' needs, connecting them resources, and serving as first responders for conflict within the community.

District	Public Comment
9	The City of San Antonio's 2020 Budget includes over \$479 million dollars allocated to Policing, which makes up over 37% of the general fund budget. By contrast, the budgets for Health, Human Services, and Neighborhood and Housing Services combined are only 4% of the total budget. I support defunding SAPD and reallocating those funds to public programs that will serve and uplift our community, such as fair housing, education opportunities, public health and support for our homeless community. San Antonio desperately needs more funding for these critical programs. The current pandemic has only exposed and exacerbated the widening health and economic disparities faced by underserved communities. In order to ensure the health and safety of all San Antonians, we must defund the police and invest in our people.
N/A	I compare that to the seemingly endless supply of tear gas, "less lethal" weapons, shields, helmets, vehicles, guns, and even tanks that police budgets can afford. We are told that this is because policing is dangerous work, but the people who pick up our trash and maintain our sewers have riskier jobs than police, and are paid less. The people providing our social services, emergency medical services, homeless services, and firefighting have risky jobs too, and they are trained to handle it in the ways that are least harmful to the violent person. And they do it without guns, helmets, shields, or vests.
N/A	This ridiculous idea of defunding the police department is just a huge political fad that will only hurt the community and have the worst impact on the residents in the higher crime areas of the city. Do not jump on this bandwagon of idiots. If we have problems within our police department, reducing funds will only make them worse. You have a responsibility to the citizens of SA to serve the community by improving it, not destroying it with bad decisions.
N/A	I live in zipcode 78238. We must defund the police and redistribute their resources to new and existing departments based on actual evidence of what helps communities succeed. 50% of police shooting deaths involve someone in the midst of a mental health crisis, situations which police, empowered to commit violence on behalf of the state, are not capable of handling. Why are they doing welfare checks? Why is there always more money for No Knock raids that easily turn lethal, but not for mental health care, housing, and education? Why does any government employee need a Dodge Charger on the taxpayers' dime?
N/A	What do we do about situations that stemmed from a property dispute and now has turned into acts of retaliation because there were actions that were against the code of conduct & ethics with certain workers who handles inspections and permits.
N/A	It's time to radically re-think our public safety and public health services. We already know that we need different kinds of professionals for public safety -- police, firefighters, EMTs -- so why not expand the types of professionals we employ while reducing the number of police? We don't need armed police to give out parking or speeding tickets, or to address homelessness or drug use. Instead of sending out police, let's send out mental health professionals, social workers, and conflict resolution specialists. It is far easier to train them to manage violent situations than it is to train police in their specialties.
10	I do NOT believe we have an inherently \"bad\" cop situation but what we DO have is a brotherhood culture that protects each other NO MATTER WHAT. The fear of breaking with that culture is losing trust with one another, there needs to be a way to deescalation the preconceived images of a \"rat\" betrayal when one calls out the other in the department. There has to be a way to develop a culture of excellence, trust and brotherhood based on performance. We need to amend the laws that society feels are unjust and stop blaming those who enforce the \"outdated\" laws that hurt society as a whole. We need to \"humanize\" our judges instead of giving financial incentives to them. They are elected to serve, not profit. Our city police ARE doing a good job, worthwhile job. Our city is safer than most, even with the gentrification of some of our residents and the amount of tourism. Our county (Bexar) needs help, they need additional training, they are not as well trained. Placing my life in their hands is NOT something I would do, not on my enemies life either. The department needs to mature, its leadership need not be so egocentric, it is not a platform for popularity but for integrity and productivity. Assisting the City to keep our county safe, respond to emergencies and support its citizens. I support of police, fire and first responders, they have already been deinsentivized by this City. Do we want to abolish them all. Already paying \"unacceptable\" wages. Most have to have two jobs to pay their mortgages and raise their family. I dont see this from elected leaders. Police, Fire and First Responders serve by choice (not poverty by choice) They need our support not our condemnation.
3	I am a firm believer in COMMUNITY POLICING. I have seen it in person about 15 oe 20 years ago. SAPD probably doesnt have enough personnel to do it well now. They would ride bikes through community and everyone knew and respected. SA needs many more police as the city is so much larger that 15 or 20 years ago.
N/A	Bad experience #1, I was assaulted at a nightclub by the employees of the club and called police to help me. I was choked and bruised. While shaking hands with what I assumed was the club manager the police supervisor that showed up told me to leave or he would charge me with trespassing. #2 I was invited to a bachelor party, a friend of a friend, while driving on 410 after drinking alcohol, the person driving said \"I can drive as fast as I want. You know why? Because Im a cop\". Then when they got to a hotel downtown they, including the SAPD cop, starting smoking weed. #3 Working in retail I was helping a man carry out product to his car. He reaches in to the passenger side and pulls out a ticket book. Out of the blue he says \"I can write you a ticket right now if I wanted to.\" No provocation by me. Just trying to prove he was a big man and the general public has no recourse to do anything. -- Of course I tried to sue the SAPD for their lack of action to my attack in the club (example 1) but I couldnt get a lawyer to even look at the case because trying to prove police wrong-doing is close to impossible. 15 years after bad experience & I still have bad thoughts on how that evening went. My distain for the lawlessness and self-serving police has grown over time. There needs to be a way to hold them responsible!
2	I am shocked and dismayed that this is even an issue in the city of San Antonio. I am in support of reform and retraining, but in NO WAY do I advocate dismantling or defunding the police force. This is \"Military City USA\". We support our heroes in uniform. This includes our police and firefighters. I live on the Eastside of San Antonio, 1 block away from Martin Luther King Jr Dr. The \"dangerous\" part of town. Thanks to the hard work of the police in conjunction with the neighborhood watch groups crime has gone down in the area. I do not want to see my beloved neighborhood fall back into the hands of gangs and rampant crime. We cannot join the mob mentality many cities have succumbed to. I have always held our police officers in high regard knowing they risk their lives for us every day. We CANNOT let the actions of the few dictate the fate of the many. God Bless America.
N/A	Absolutely do not take any action that would result in compromising the safety of San Antonio citizens. Protesters have hijacked the meaningful discussion and it would be a dangerous travesty for our elected officials to surrender to the criminal element. Do not pave the road that leads to becoming another Seattle. Do your job; keep our citizens safe.
9	I support the police. The rioting that happened downtown is disgraceful. Our city depends on tourism. No one going to come to SA if we do not have a safe city.



District	Public Comment
N/A	Our police force is not the issue here. We do not try to defund schools because there are a couple bad teachers, or get rid of government because of some bad public servants. If you defund/get rid of police support you lead us towards lawlessness. You cannot uphold the law without someone to enforce it. Our city already has a problem with crime without making it harder for our police force. That will only rise if you cut the force down or if they have to spend their time trying to raise funds instead of patrolling.
2	I have to ask where have you council members been prior to this incident in Minneapolis? We have many great officers Ben Drew is a great officer. Bobby Deckard was a great officer. He gave his life protecting this city. Each and every one of you who signed off on the police contract are the problem. When an officer such as Dezi Rios is allowed on the streets after being drunk and involved in a shooting that is the problem.
N/A	Please consider signing the Grassroots Law Project pledge.
N/A	Certain police reforms must be enacted in SA to create a better relationship between citizens and officers. It will begin to rebuild the broken trust and fearfulness minorities feel when they need help YET forced to take the law into their own hands instead of calling the police. If these are not enacted I see a future of American life that continues to deteriorate, lives lost and the empowerment of vigilante squads that will seek vengeance for those oppressed by angry poorly trained undisciplined overzealous and emotionally unstable LEOs who are not held accountable to the Laws they enforce. 1. Dismantle and break apart the police Union. No contract, hire and fire at will LEOs 2. Open all disciplinary records on LEOs. Any instances of police abuses can be made public. As officers are held to a higher standard this transparency will hold that officer to that standard and slowly regain the Publics Trust. 3. Leos must wear body cameras & GPS at all times. They should never be able to turn it on and off at their leisure. All unedited footage must be maintained. All footage must be given to the person encountering the police immediately upon request as well as news outlets. Delays equal personal sanctions for that officer, his sergeant, lieutenant and captain of that substation. 4. Create an unelected unpaid civilian review board from every District in San Antonio to be represented.They will have the power to fire any Leos breaking the law/dishonor the badge. No appeals to be rehired or undermining the boards authority. 5. Revamp the standard operating procedures for Leos. Eliminate all chokeholds, foul language & threats. 6. Unannounced drug and sobriety tests on LEOs managed by the civilian review board. 7. Anonymous tip line to civilian review board to report police abuses.
3	Proven program that should be seriously considered and it is money saving <a href="https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2020/06/theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police/">https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2020/06/theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police/</a>
10	Demilitarize police; make lynching a federal crime; increase de-escalation training for police; ban choke holds; increase community relations; create an impartial community review committee (like jury duty) to review police cases and hold them accountable-DA should not lead investigations; decrease power of police unions; decrease police budget and reallocate finds to workforce development program, resolving digital divide, and solving housing/homelessness problem
N/A	Please do not follow in the footsteps of Minnesota, Washington, New York, and LA to community style policing. This will be detrimental to our city and our citizens. I would however implement more training for our officers and provide more checks and balances to weed out any possible corruption or malfeasance.
1	Dear Public Safety Committee Members, I am asking you today to take action against police violence, and what that means is cutting the police budget. Our neighbors in Austin have just approved a \$100 million cut from their police budget, and I hope that San Antonio can do something similar. Especially in this moment of COVID-19, where money will need to be moved around, the obvious place from which to take funding to reallocate for necessary services is from the police budget. San Antonio is not safer with a militarized, overactive police force. In fact, the fact that multiple Black men have been shot and killed by the police in recent years, that homeless people are harassed by police, and that city council has done basically nothing about it is all clear evidence that its time to remove money from the institution of policing in our city. It is obscene that San Antonio spends so much money on its police and so little on basically everything else. Please consider investing some of the extremely disproportionate amount of police funding in community-led public safety alternatives, as well as in public schools, the arts, services for houseless folks and other low-income San Antonians, and other necessary services. What makes San Antonio safe is a healthy, thriving community, where people support each other, respect each other, and everyone has what they need. We do not need halfhearted reforms and rules that police will not follow, we need to reduce the power of the police force to harm our communities. Its time for your committee to take action to actually keep the residents of your city safe. Thank you.
N/A	Before you consider knee jerk reactions of limiting your Officers by reducing the funding please consider looking into programs that will build bridges with the community. If you dont history will continue to repeat itself. Fund programs such as P.A.L. Police Athletic League,provide incentive pay for officers to live in their districts they patrol,partner with the school districts to develop a mentoring program similar to what Mesa AZ PD has in its youth development unit. It is a program called Making Every Student Accountable. We need to rewrite the narrative for the next generation to enact lasting change. This is going to take a village which means City Officials, Police Departments, School Administration and the community. I would be happy to discuss the MESA Program more as I served as a volunteer for two years. You can also reach out to Assistant Chief Lee Rankin who oversaw the program. In closing we have to do better and we have to be better that comes from investing in our youth and our community.
N/A	City Council, As a resident of San Antonio, I do not support the "defunding" of police. Our police officers and Police Chief do a great job of protecting our growing city. In the last two weeks when other large cities faced days/week long protest turned riots, San Antonio was NOT one of those cities. Our police department is one of the best in the country; applicants come from all over to apply to the San Antonio Police Department. Defunding our police department would be a step in the wrong direction. Although actions to "defund" police are occurring in other states, our city needs should be assessed based on this community.
8	As a resident of San Antonio I want to see The following police reforms: - criminalize choke holds and other deadly methods for apprehending people - prosecute any use of force of unarmed citizens - train Police on deescalation first; eliminate militarized training tactics and mentality - redirect police duties and funds from social welfare to appropriately trained experts - Create a civilian review panel with rapid access to all police involved complaints and cases - make not turning on body cams a crime! And look into technology that automatically turns on cameras when officer responds to a call.
N/A	I don't live in Bexar county, but I live in neighboring Comal County and what you do in SA will effect us here in Comal county. DO NOT DEFUND SA POLICE! They need more help, not less. I'm for getting rid of bad cops quickly. They do not need multiple complaints before something is done. Make it easier to fire bad ones.
8	I would like for there to be a policy where all police officers are made accountable for their action in the same manner as a citizen. In addition there should be transparency by opening their records to the public and every officer should have a body camera and if that camera is turned off at any point their should be a record and a penalty fee.

District	Public Comment
N/A	I'm a volunteer with the Grassroots Law Project. We are working to end police brutality and mass incarceration, and reform policing for a more just society. I'm asking for you to take the Path to Justice Pledge. By taking this pledge, they are committing to policies that end police brutality and killings by restricting the use of force, creating non-lethal response teams, and demilitarizing police forces. They're also committing to hold law enforcement accountable by creating committees for oversight with subpoena powers, and eliminating exceptions for law enforcement such as qualified immunity. In order to take the pledge, you just need to go to <a href="https://grassrootslaw.org/pledge">grassrootslaw.org/pledge</a> and fill out the form. Too many people have lost their lives to police brutality, and we need everyone in public office to stand up for justice. Thank you and have a good day.
10	I do NOT support defunding our police department in any way. If anything, more funding should go to them to assist with training and counseling for dealing with the underbelly of society on a daily basis. We owe our Law Enforcement all the support we can give them. We do not eliminate the whole because of a small fraction of those who are problematic. This is a knee-jerk reaction that has been blown out of proportion! I will NOT support defunding our Law Enforcement agencies in any way, shape, or form! Nor will I vote for any candidate that supports this movement! Do not give in to radicals so they can bring socialism and their own form of brown shirts to unjustly rule our society. Thank you for the chance for my voice to be heard without rioting and destruction of property. God bless America!
9	We have situation where officers who committed horrible acts against vulnerable populations are still on the force. For example, giving a homeless person a feces sandwich. We need a city funded nonprofit agency that: 1.) Collects data regarding misconduct in policing. 2.) Provides counseling to victims of police misconduct. 3.) Provides legal assistance to victims of police misconduct. 4.) Presents information to the City Council regarding the TRUE nature of police misconduct in the city. Often, these complaints are not fully investigated or dismissed due to lack of resources on the complainants part. Fund a mechanism for obtaining reciprocity.
6	I would like to see the SAPD MHU expanded and more than 6 officers in the department. I think that we should have at least one social worker per 2 officers or maybe more or less per council district based on the history of calls. I would also like to see that we create a commission that oversees the police department and the complaints rather than the complaints going to the dept to investigate. The commission can be comprised of a council member, officer, social worker, community representative and the union representative.
1	Stated that SAPD responded to peaceful protests with more brutality. He spoke in support of defunding the police and investing in housing, education, and public transit.
2	Chapter 143 & 174 must change and be updated. Accountability and responsibility from police officers, police chiefs and police union-CBA Contract. We should not reward any bad behavior on any job, especially the high standard of the SAPD who works for the public. Change must come in house, get SAPD house in order. ALL LIVES MATTER!!!
1	I urge you to adopt all of the "8 Can't Wait" measures immediately (San Antonio only meets 4 of these measures currently) while continuing discussions with community members about policing in San Antonio. These measures can reduce violent outcomes significantly but should not be the only action taken to address our city's issues with policing. The rehire rates of fired police officers in San Antonio are unacceptable. There must be changes to this system. Being fired from the police force is a red flag. The city should not allow unfit officers to rejoin the force. The city's contract with the police union needs significant changes before it is renewed. Please consider reallocating funds from the \$479,000,000 budgeted for policing in San Antonio. Concerned citizens are calling out for change in response to the culture of over-policing and police brutality which has taken root across the nation. The city budget should prioritize investing in community programs in lower income neighborhoods. San Antonio is a compassionate and forward-thinking city. I hope these discussions will continue in the coming months and years for how we can better serve all who live here, especially BIPOC residents.
10	Stated that he supported the redistribution of police funds to other social services and renegotiation of the police contract to stop officers from being reinstated.
N/A	Our police force does a fantastic job and need nothing but more support from our city leaders.
N/A	It is just my impression that police are very strict in my area especially on Sonoma Ranch Pkwy. In a normal day, cops give way too many tickets and fines are steep. It will be helpful if cops warn people who are doing 40 on 30 and then issue ticket if they haven't heeded their warnings. In the America I know there used to be this warning system. In San Antonio I see cops only issuing a ticket and that too with very steep fines. Nonetheless, I respect the work of police in the town and thank them heartfully for keeping me, my family and my society protected.
N/A	I can't believe this is even a topic of discussion. Headline in today's newspaper "8 people shot at local bar". Day before was a drive by shooting. Any council member who thinks this is a good idea should be removed from their position. But to those who do feel it's feasible, just a few questions about who will pick up the slack in the situations below: Enforcement of speed limits? Active shooters? Murder cases? (Sometimes they require an old concept called investigating) Robbery? Assault? So unless the criminals are all going to have a change of heart and not commit any more crime, you have some serious flaws in your plan.
N/A	Please do not consider defunding the police as other cities have done. I do not believe that is a viable solution. Our police force serves a vital and necessary service to our great city. Reforms are necessary, but stripping the force of funding will only result in other issues arising. Consider adding Community measures as an addition to the force to serve along side them to address many issues that are not law enforcement specific such as mental health challenges or other reasons for calls for police response. Any other community engagement activities to work in addition to the force that has proven successful in other large cities.
7	Invest more funds in youth and young adult programs to provide preventative programs to provide alternatives to drugs, unprotected sex and destructive behaviors and help keep our youth on a positive life track. Pool resources from police and community services so every young person has a safe place and positive reinforcement instead of being cycled through the court systems. Help homeless and challenged youth to obtain counseling, job programs and housing assistance. There are not enough easily accessed programs for our youth to help them become and remain positive and respected members of our community..help is needed for our children.
N/A	Spoke in favor of aligning all budgets in a manner which uplifted the community. She spoke in favor of investing in affordable housing, drug rehabilitation Programs, public health, social services, and the arts.



District	Public Comment
N/A	To the members of the San Antonio City Council: Thank you for beginning to explore how to defund and reinvest some of the budget dedicated toward the SAPD. There are other more effective methods to increase community safety. Racism and white supremacy are embedded in our institutions, and while reform will bring about some change, creating new structures to promote everyone's health and safety will be necessary as well. Black lives matter, but our data both locally and nationally do not demonstrate that our institutions are able to serve and protect black and brown lives as well as white lives. Until the data demonstrates equality in this regard, our city's commitment to equity requires us to explore new ways to ensure the full well-being and health of all residents. Thank you for reinvesting some of the SAPD budget to demonstrate how much black lives truly do matter in San Antonio. Please make this more than a token gesture of support; our city needs your leadership to bring about transformational change. Also, thank you in advance for carefully reviewing the union contract. Our police officers must be held accountable for their behavior. Officers fired for bad behavior should not be re-hired. Thank you for striving to ensure the health and well-being of every resident of this city
N/A	Do not defund to police.
N/A	<p>As a retired federal agent, former Texas police officer and former Marine, I would like to comment on the issue of defunding the police department. I disagree with doing that but stand strong in agreeing that it needs restructuring to update training policies, emphasis on teaching of verbal skills to deescalate situations, recognition of other resources to deal with non-police matters such as mental illness, family violence. But just as important, the renegotiation of the union contract to allow the Chief of Police to have greater decision making powers. The one thing that I encourage all council members to educate themselves about is COMMUNITY POLICING. In 1988 I was one of the few officers Nationwide that was assigned to implement the COMMUNITY POLICING program. I'm here to testify that it is indeed a program that greatly increased the positive relationship between the police officers and the diverse members of the community. I've noticed that San Antonio does not promote this program or does very little to encourage it as I do not see it being promoted within the community as I am familiar with. If the SAFE program is similar, I do not see the same emphasis placed in engaging with the public. There should be more officers walking in neighborhoods, making one on one contact to hear people's concerns, comments and suggestions. Community police officers can be a means to get people the help they are seeking, such as contacting CPS for a light that is out in the neighborhood. Contact with civilians for positive results should be a priority, not wait until there is a negative situation when finally making contact with people. Last note, I was a part of the law enforcement community for over thirty years and I know first hand that most Officers are honest with high integrity. However there needs to be reform to hold those bad apples accountable and not have a union that protects them even in egregious cases. I'd like to see the whole department move towards obtaining advanced training of communication skills and empathy, conducted by not only professionals but by their peers, supervised by those same professionals. To show their own officers lead by example.</p> <p>Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.</p>
6	I have had bad experience with SAPD when my daughter was kidnapped by the ex boyfriend back in 2018. I called the police many times and every single police officer said that she probably just run away and that she's not coming back b/c she's 18 (an adult). I explained that she earned 30 college credits in High school and that she is not going to throw all that sacrifice just to run away with the boyfriend. SAPD never did anything to help me, I had to beg UTSA in order for the UTSA police dept. to help me. After 4 months my daughter was home safe. She could have been back home sooner if SAPD could have helped me right away.
10	I am 100 % against defunding the Police in SA and/Texas for that matter! How our Mayor and council can even consider it is BEYOND me and many people Ive talked to at work, church, family and friends feel the same! Why should innocent people pay for the actions of a bad cop!!! Not all Police are bad, and these so called peaceful" protest which at night turn into looting and riots and destroying monuments and streets are proof we cant trust this evil movement of defunding! We need our POLICE!! Please dont leave our city defenseless!!!
N/A	I propose we focus on prevention of police brutality for the safety of all citizens. This is a high stress job and I think a focus should be put on officer mental health and quality of life. Rigorous mental health screeners for people applying and updated screeners annually. Required annual training on Culture, Race, Equity, and Trauma. I think money should be added for licensed social workers to host listening circles that officers participate in twice a month everyoneth as a requirement to talk about whats going on with them and voice struggles or frustrations with their job. I think officers should only work 213 days out of the year so there is time for them to disconnect from the stress and trauma of their work and re-engage feeling refreshed and renewed to support and protect our city. This should not affect their pay and their checks should continue to pay all 12 months - like the way the school districts do it for teachers. This might mean hiring more police officers to schedule groups so theres constant coverage while other groups are on break. I think there should be an anonymous tip line where people can call in and report behavior that is unbecoming of an SAPD officer. The use of body cameras/car cameras can be used to verify if there was or wasnt abuse of power. There should be a separate committee created to look into abuse of power complaints that represents the demographics of San Antonio and has police representation also. It should be an honor to be an SAPD officer and despite whats going on nationally and I think ongoing listening sessions like this one should continue. We can lead the way.