

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager

COPY: Erik Walsh, City Manager
William McManus, Chief of Police

DATE: June 23, 2020



SUBJECT: INPUT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE LISTENING SESSIONS

This correspondence transmits the comments provided by residents at the three Public Safety Committee Listening Sessions held on June 15th, June 18th, and June 20th to gather feedback on policing in San Antonio.

Residents were able to provide comments through on the City's website, visiting www.SASpeakUp.Com, by texting SA Police to 55000 or by submitting a voicemail to (210) 207-6991.

The Public Safety Committee Listening Sessions allowed residents the opportunity to provide input related to public safety policies and procedures. A total of 306 public comments were received and 35 verbal comments were provided during the Listening Sessions.

The table below provides a breakdown of comments provided by City Council District:

| Council District | Number of Comments |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 25 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 10 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 23 |
| 8 | 20 |
| 9 | 28 |
| 10 | 19 |
| Did not Indicate | 174 |
| Total | 341 |

Attached are the Public Safety Comments that were submitted by Council District.

ATTACHMENT



Report of Community Input

Public Safety Committee Listening Sessions

June 15, 18 & 20



Presented to Public Safety Committee

June 24, 2020

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

Table of Contents

Meeting Dates: June 15, 18, 20

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Council District 1..... | 1 |
| Council District 2..... | 10 |
| Council District 3..... | 15 |
| Council District 4..... | 18 |
| Council District 5..... | 19 |
| Council District 6..... | 21 |
| Council District 7..... | 28 |
| Council District 8..... | 37 |
| Council District 9..... | 43 |
| Council District 10..... | 49 |
| Unspecified..... | 56 |

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 1 | Number of Comments | 25 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Anahi Gonzalez | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Natalie Lerner | 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. -Natalie |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Riley Metcalf | Mr. Metcalf 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Sarah Kelly | I urge you to adopt all of the "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 rehiring 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Brendan Kennedy | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Carly Leech | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Elizabeth Salazar | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Gabriela Lemos | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Gary Keener | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Illyria Kelly | Please reopen the cases for Marquis Jones and Charles Roundtree. |
| 6/18/2020 | John Ferguson | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/18/2020

Joie Pena

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.

6/18/2020

Julia Fogelsong

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 & 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 one's 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.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Katy Murdza | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Lynn Knapik | <p>I'm anxious to view the session.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Madelyne Wilson | <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 equitably distribute our collective resources. The safest communities are not the ones with the most police, they are the ones with the most resources. 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 can't tell you how many drunk drivers, people doing donuts in the middle of McCoullough, and recreational drug users I have seen in MY neighborhood, but I also can't 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 our 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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Michael Pepe | <p>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 counterproductive. 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 race 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 choice to lift up community, not hold them down.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Michael Martinez Martinez | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Sarah Fly | 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 our 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! |
| 6/20/2020 | Colin Roark | Implores the City Council to sign the 6 sapd.org petitions to repeal Chapters 143 and 174. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 6/20/2020 | Eric Koch | SA City Council Public Safety Committee, Thanks for taking the time to listen to the people of San Antonio on issues of public safety. It is important to remember that the people, not the police department (or officer's association), are the ones that get to decide how the department works, and what programs we want to fund. With contract negotiations coming up, and health care issues settled, it is an excellent time for us to continue to shape SAPD into a better and safer department. Below are my suggestions for changes I would like to see to the department. Emphasis on community --more SAFFE officers, the department hasn't increased the number of officer since 1995 --more Crisis Intervention officers --bonuses for officers who live in the communities they police --reduce dangerous encounters and start to build trust by ending certain proactive policing policies. Officers should not be looking for trouble, or doing anything that resembles a stop and frisk policy. Ultimately, some proactive policing policies MAY reduce crime in the short run, but ultimately result in a confrontational relationship between police and non-police citizens. Residents feel frightened or harassed and police come to see the people they are supposed to be serving and protecting as their opposition. Ultimately community trust in the Police erodes, and along with it respect for law and order erodes as well, this ultimately results in increasing crime. Better training --more time on Crisis Intervention Training --more time on diversity training --learning better tactical training, including principals of time, distance, cover, auditory exclusion, etc. Get rid of the bad apples --fix the arbitration system so the Department has the authority to get rid of the bad apples 2/3rds of fired officers have been rehired under current arbitration agreement |
| 6/20/2020 | JoAnna Pena | This hearing is just another example of why we need to defund the police. You routinely employ officers who demonstrate and proudly display attitudes of white supremacy and continue to murder Black and Brown citizens. You have Black and Brown communities decimated by COVID and white supremacy yet you want to continue to fund one of the biggest perpetrators of white supremacy-the police. We know reforms don't work. Defund SAPD. Though to some it may seem impossible right now, the reality is that prisons and police must be abolished. Many people still attempt to justify funding police by claiming that police uphold public safety. But in reality, public safety means something completely different. To me, public safety means: A robust healthcare system Food security Safety for people experiencing violence or homelessness Psychiatric care Public Housing Decent schools Parks & green spaces Art of every variety, Libraries, Economic opportunities and much, much more. I am asking you to please exercise your imagination and envision a society that serves all of us " a society in which we can all live safe and dignified lives. |
| 6/20/2020 | Joanna Pena | spoke on behalf of the Texas Organizing Project stated that SAPD offered incentives to individuals with military experience. She expressed her concerns over the health and mental evaluation and appeal process provided to the officers. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/20/2020

Paul Lewis

The murder of George Floyd was not a tragedy, it was an atrocity. I make my living by attending to the precision of words and ideas, so I reject the abuse of language that obscures the truth by replacing an honest word with a misleading one. The murder of George Floyd was not a tragedy, it was an atrocity. Moreover, recent weeks have made it clear that this spectacular atrocity is not an aberration. It is one symptomatic instance of widespread problems not only in police practice but in the political priorities of cities nationwide, which fail to address conditions of intergenerational economic inequality and social despair. It is these bleak underlying conditions that inflict chronic violence on poor communities, many of them black and brown and immigrant communities, which are in turn subjected to hyper policing, psychological intimidation, incarceration, and violent abuses of force. There is no reason to think that San Antonio is fundamentally different from other cities in this respect. Therefore we are morally responsible to answer for this moment. We cannot breathe. We hear this chanted in the streets. It is true. We must act. Rarely do great moral responsibility and opportunity come together as they have come together now. Far more common is the circumstance of feeling moral responsibility with little opportunity to make deep changes for justice. Now is different. The problem is much bigger than police rules of conduct. The scope of the solution must be bigger. The spell of normalcy is broken. Nobody wants to get back to the normal social and economic rules and practices. You must offer more than hope and more than incremental change, because incrementalism has delivered us to this terrible moment, and while hope might be good for breakfast, it makes a bad dinner. Get to work!

6/20/2020

Zoe Russell

I'm a criminal defense lawyer, and I take appointed misdemeanor cases. I have dealt with a lot of clients affected by mental health in my short time in this job. We need to have a different way of dealing with people who have mental health diagnoses than throwing them in jail for something they didn't even *understand.* We do not need police for these people -- we need social workers. On one case I have, 5-6 officers came to the scene for a criminal trespass. That's what I think about when I hear police demanding greater and greater shares of the budget. We also need to change the collective bargaining agreement in all the ways KSAT identified in their investigation entitled \"Broken Blue.\" Police should be much easier to let go and discipline. If they don't like it and quit in protest--great! I know that almost NO complaints are \"founded.\" How is that the case? Are our police perfect? Are we so different from any other major city? No way. I'm so happy that people are on the streets demanding a change because trying to have a band aid solution won't cut it anymore. Police need to be let go and not rehired by the next agency. Extra training is not a solution. Further, why is anyone being arrested for marijuana anymore? Our DAs cannot even test it or prove it up as marijuana, and our cops refuse to stop arresting. Why? Because this person must have done something else bad so let's punish them anyway? We need to adopt the same rules they've established in San Marcos whereby the police are not allowed to arrest for low level marijuana -- they issue citations instead. We should be doing this for all kinds of offenses.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 2 | Number of Comments | 15 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Diana Martinez | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Evelyn Brown | 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 |
| 6/15/2020 | Margarita Cantu | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Michael Good | 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 shoot8ng that is the problem. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Rosalind Littlefield | 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!!! |
| 6/18/2020 | Daniel Clark | Thanks to law enforcement for all they do. Let's provide funding, and hold officers accountable for their actions. |
| 6/18/2020 | Daniel Reed | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Emily New | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Madeline Carrola | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Matt Sirgo | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Nicole Cannon | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Ruben Pena | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Valerie Jeannin | 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 office 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Benjamin Miele | To ensure public safety in San Antonio, police officers need to be held accountable for their actions. Members of the City Council must pledge to sign the petition to repeal chapters 143 and 174 of the state local government code. They also must prioritize disciplinary reform in the new contract negotiations next year. San Antonio cannot continue to have the ignominious distinction of being the city most likely to allow bad cops back on the force. The city must address its arbitration process in the following ways: 1) an officer's full discipline record should be allowable. All suspensions need to remain on the record to accurately report an officer's history and show progressive discipline in arbitration. 2) an officer's ability to take interrogatories at Internal Affairs should be rescinded. 3) an officer's ability to forfeit accumulated leave in lieu of suspensions should be removed to disincentivize illegal behavior. 4) the police chief's ability to review discipline records should be strengthened by removing restrictive and difficult timeline requirements on police management from the CBA. 5) The arbitration process: the new contract should explicitly prohibit arbitrators from reducing the punishment in cases involving perjury by officers. 6) The arbitration process: instead of 1 judge, expand to at least three arbitrators, one chosen by each side in the case, and the two chosen then agree on a third. As it is, the arbitrators are chosen by SAPOA, basically, and so the process is corrupt. The Council needs to do everything in its power to reform this process and signing on to the petition to end 143 and 174 is the best place to start. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/20/2020

Desiree Schanding

"Use of Force Continuum" There needs to be more clarification & specificity. The SAPD needs to "Require Warning Before Shooting", "Ban Shooting at All Moving Vehicles" (It puts civilians lives at risk), "Require Exhaust Of All Means Before Shooting a Weapon", "Ban No-Knock Warrants" & update language about what this actually means, in terms of Officer Steve Casanova who did not have an actual warrant & fired shots before even announcing himself as an officer. "Strengthen Duty to Intervene" language. Most importantly there is an absolute need to reprimand, hold accountable or fire officers who do not meet the basic standards of Use of Force Continuum. Who will follow ANY rules if there is no REAL punishment for breaking them? The answer? NO ONE. In this regard, we need city council to work with community leaders to completely repeal State Code 143 which gives police one-sided due process & undermines justice & accountability. It allows for no real accountability at all & it makes complainants disclose their name even though many disciplinary actions done to police never have to be disclosed to the public at all which takes away ALL accountability. Repeal State Code 174 which establishes a lopsided collective bargaining scheme that favors police associations (174.004). It allows the police association to ignore city concerns or public trust (174.156) In terms of Cadet training & continual education. 1. The psychological exam must be performed PRIOR to entrance into the academy & the needs to be thorough internal bias/racism examination prior to entry. Officers need to have CONTINUAL psych evals, every 2 years while employed & be fired if their behavior goes unchanged. The 4 psychologists used for the current psych evals need to be vetted by City Council & alternated every 4 years. A lot more could be done.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

City Council District 3 **Number of Comments** 10

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Briauna Barrera | Ms. Barrera spoke in favor of defunding the police and ensuring that police budgets were transparent |
| 6/15/2020 | Delia Hauser | 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 the 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Denise Ojeda | Ms. Ojeda 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Justin Lovin | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | liz trainor | I am a firm believer in COMMUNITY POLICING. I have seen it in person about 15 or 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | nancilee cordrey | Proven program that should be seriously considered and it is money saving https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2020/06/theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police/ |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Angela Zaiontz | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Rachel Cywinski | <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 soeacted. 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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Terrence Salas | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/20/2020

Diana Vasquez

Systemic or institutional racism is not limited to law enforcement but may be interlocked with the medical profession to include private practices and hospitals (ie Stone Oak Methodist Hospital). There is a history of conformational bias by the medical profession that is known and impacts Hispanics and other minorities. My questions are: 1. Are the police obligated to inform you of their presence? Why are they (the police) there? 2. Are the police obligated to explain why one is being detained, placed in custody or arrested? 3. Are the police obligated to secure statements from all parties involved? Why or why not? 4. Are the police obligated to contact family members when a request is made and contact information is provided? 5. Why are the police used as medical transport and medical first responder? It is known the police are not medically trained. 6. Why are the police involved in medical emergencies or care when other more appropriate, trained, and qualified medical personnel are available? 7. If racial bias is suspected what remedies exists and is available for redress? Is it possible to file a complaint against the misuse of the need for police presence? Are there ways to correct the record. 8. Is there an economic factor for using the police instead of EMS? 9. Is using the police instead of EMS meant as scare tactics to solicit the flight or fight response or a negative response to retain some form of authority (by the initiator of the call to the police) because of race? 10. Do the police have discretionary judgment to determine the proper avenues for the type of medical care required? Thank you.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| City Council District | 4 | Number of Comments | 4 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Debbie Wolford | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Stephanie Gomez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Velvet Gatica | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Victoria Henretty | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| City Council District | 5 | Number of Comments | 4 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Crystal Arias | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Joel SÃ¡nchez | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Ricardo Cardenas | 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Dora Morales | City Council we need changes to our SAPD departments. We need to pledge to sign the petition to repeal chapters 143 and 174 of the state local government. Our citizens are aware of the officers being fired by Police Chief and rehired again. We need to stop these types of actions. It affects our Upright Police officers and degrades our strong force. We as citizens will vote for these changes and our Citizens Council needs to step up. History can be repeated, for example the City of Camden, New Jersey disbanded its police department 7 years ago. Camden was routinely named one of the most violent cities in the USCNN //www.cnn.com/2020/06/09/us/disband-police-camden-new-jersey-trnd/index.html |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 6 | Number of Comments | 19 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Ann McFall | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Calvin Williams | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Cheryl Rowell | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Elizabeth Comeaux | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Rianne Sykes-Wenske | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Veronica Morales | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Adrienne Lefevre | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Allison Hermes | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Amber Tomas | 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) |
| 6/18/2020 | Dustin Denton | We do not need to remove any money from SAPD Budget if anything it needs to increase |
| 6/18/2020 | Griselda Gonzales | Do not defund our officers! we need them. They are Texas proud and serve to protect us civilians. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | James & Linda Woolums | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Jesus Pena | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Michael Camarena | <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> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Rose Laurel | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rosemary Flores | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Scott Sheldon | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Shannon Vega | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/18/2020

Sonya Hesseltine

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 stupidest 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.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

City Council District 7 **Number of Comments** 23

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | anna blair | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Deirdre McDonald | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Kristi McClatchy | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Sylvia Poynter | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ananda Tomas | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Carol Kohrs | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Casandra Cutter | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Charles Coleman Coleman | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Claudia Vargas | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Deirdre McDonald | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Jacob Hernandez | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Jake Scott | <p>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</p> |

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Jonathan Kennedy | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Kristi McClatchy | <p>Please decrease SAPD Budget and invest in community based programs, mental health, housing, education, and healthcare.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/18/2020

Not disclosed- public
employee Not disclosed

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.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Rebecca75 Jones | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Sharon Newport | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Stephanie Garay | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Stephanie H | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Veronica Lopez-Alvarez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Zachary Schramm | 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Kristi McClatchy | I am in favor of decreasing police funding and using this money for community based programs, education, housing, healthcare, mental health, and COVID response and recovery. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/20/2020

Thomas Lee

"Riot Gear" (helmets, body armor, etc.) used in crowd control should be marked with easily readable ID numbers to promote personal accountability for actions taken by each officer. Allowing anonymity in a crowd of officers wearing vests, helmets, and masks leads gives 'bad apples' cover for behavior that requires a great deal of documentation to prosecute. The easiest way for "the system" to dismiss reports of bad behavior is to demand that the person reporting the offense identify the perpetrator. "If you can't tell me who did it, how can we investigate?" If the witness can say "it was the guy wearing number 12345" there's a place to start. And if authorities get a lot of independent reports about "the guy wearing 12345" on days John Smith wears 12345, and reports about "the guy wearing 67890" on days John Smith wears 67890, then there's a pattern that needs to be investigated, even if no single incident crosses the threshold of sanction. "The system" shouldn't be allowed to hide behind the explanation of "a few bad apples" if the system doesn't provide a way of identifying patterns of misbehavior. I am also troubled by video from Washington DC showing demonstrators yelling "Tell us who you are!" to riot police who were not even wearing insignia indicating their organization. Citizens should not be required to follow instructions of people who are not clearly identifiable as peace officers. Paramilitary groups can arm themselves, wear riot gear, and move through streets during demonstrations, but that doesn't give them rights to issue orders to other citizens. Peace officers need to be clearly identified in ways that it is illegal for other groups to mimic.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 8 | Number of Comments | 20 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Adam Moran | 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? |
| 6/15/2020 | Brant Mittler | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Derek Ellis | 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 "they were throwing bottles and bricks". 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Jennifer Fleming | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Jessica Villarreal | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Jonathan Anderson | <p>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</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Nicole Wicha | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | PABLO CRUZ | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Amanda Canales | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Amber Fly | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Derek Ellis | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ed Castor | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Emily Delgado | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Isabella Briseno | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Jennifer Krantz | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Lauren Esquivel | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Mason Walker | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Susan Aleman | 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Dolores Garcia | Stated that she supports police reform but not defunding the police. |
| 6/20/2020 | Josephina Fernandez | was in support of defunding the Police. She stated the funds could be better utilized by providing basic human needs to keep the community safe. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 9 | Number of Comments | 28 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|----------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Alysse Swientek | 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? |
| 6/15/2020 | Brittany Des Rosiers | 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 |
| 6/15/2020 | Deborah Martin | 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 " such as Chauvin and his three colleagues " George Floyd would still be alive. Thank you for your time and efforts on policy change to end police brutality. |
| 6/15/2020 | Doug Curris | Do not defund the police or reduce their budget. |
| 6/15/2020 | Jennifer Curtis | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Lance Escobedo | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Matt Johnson | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Rebecca Griffin | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Adam Cortez | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Ashton Corder | I support our police and am in favor of keeping their funding. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ashton Corder | I personally support the police. Defunding police would create an unsafe environment for us all. |
| 6/18/2020 | Carina Hiscock | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Celestina De La Garza | 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? |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Deborah Martin | <p>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...</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wf4cea5oObY</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Dominique Dufek | <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> |
| 6/18/2020 | Lamonte Chatman | <p>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. There 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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Mauria Atzil | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Megan Edwards | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Pablo Campos | 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)? |
| 6/18/2020 | Ray Rodriguez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rosalind Hassell | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rosalinda Gallegos | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | S Padilla | None of this is necessary. Bring back the SAPD of the early 90s! Problem solved. God bless SAPD and BCSO. |
| 6/18/2020 | Samantha Flores | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Teri Neal | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Tiffany Itz | 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Janet Byrnes | I am appalled at what is happening at the hands of our police officers across the country, and I'm glad to see our city taking steps to remediate issues. One point that I've heard little or no discussion about is that the vast majority of the police violence is occurring by the hands of white, male officers. In fact I haven't heard of a single instance of a female officer's perpetrating excessive force or murdering a citizen. I'd like to see more female officers hired and promoted into leadership. We hear suggestions in many areas for racial and ethnic diversity and that organizations of leadership and authority should resemblance the racial and ethnic make up of the population. Those organizations should also resemble the gender balance of the population. If 51% of law enforcement organizations were female, with an equal percentage in leadership positions, and especially if male officers were paired with a female partner, much of the violence would stop immediately. Try it and see what happens. |
| 6/20/2020 | Maria Biemer | Urged City Council to rise above rhetoric and do what is right for our citizens in addressing unchecked often unintentional racial, cultural, or personal biases in policing. She requested redirected funds for police training and education in complicated cases of abuse, or for the formation of a separate unit to handle such cases. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| City Council District | 10 | Number of Comments | 19 |
|------------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Angelica Miller | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Lisamarie Fallon | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Nancy Campbell | 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 funds to workforce development program, resolving digital divide, and solving housing/homelessness problem |
| 6/15/2020 | Rebecca Stambaugh | 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 will 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! |
| 6/15/2020 | Shawn Aten | Mr. Aten 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Wanda Thomas | 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 I've 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 can't trust this evil movement of defunding! We need our POLICE!! Please don't leave our city defenseless!!! |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Allen Walker | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Andrea Gutierrez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Becca Humphrey | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Bradley Schmitz | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/18/2020

Brittany Sharp

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.

6/18/2020

Carl Merkle

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 embezzlement 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. I'm 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.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Kim Sedillo | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Linda Barfield | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Linda Rogde | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Nancy Molter | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | William Schiller | <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> |
| 6/20/2020 | Allen Rindfuss | <p>It is well past time for a substantial - possibly complete - transfer of funding and resources from the fear-driven, \"law-and-order\" approach to community safety to one that prioritizes effective solutions for root problems (poverty, addiction, illness, hopelessness, and desperation) and bringing the systemic structures designed to maintain the status quo to an end. As a citizen and taxpayer, I strongly object to the use of city/county resources to fund a police force of the size and nature we have, and will consider anything less than a dramatically reduced, de-militarized force, better screened and better trained, and focused on community-building and de-escalation as a failure on the part of my elected representatives and an endorsement of systemic racism and state-sponsored violence. I recognize that this won't be easy, and, unfortunately, will require political courage and sustained public pressure, but, honestly, it's something a truly responsive government and power structure wouldn't even have to be asked to do. And I remind you, and warn all interested parties, that half measures and re-brandings are not acceptable, and a clear breach of trust. Olean is effectively the same thing as Olestra was, and I don't want either one of those ingredients in anything anyone I care about is served. Obviously, the city will have to address the over-reaching of the police union and its contract in a bold and serious way. Although I'm broadly pro-union, police unions are a different breed, failing to demonstrate solidarity, or embrace accountability of any kind. To that end, I support the efforts of Fix SAPD to repeal/rework chapters 143 and 174 of Texas Local Government Code, and Chief McManus' desire to remove disciplinary constraints in the union contract. The city's well-known issues with removing cruel and capricious officers from the force are an embarrassment. Thank you.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/20/2020

April Duvall

Chapter 143 sets up unreasonable standards for due process, then creates a loophole for an officer to avoid culpability if any of a myriad of mistakes are made during the investigative process. (143.123(k)). Chapter 174 sets up a one-sided dispute resolution process, where arbitrators and judges are instructed to consider certain conditions affecting police jobs, but does not require them to consider the city's concerns regarding public accountability and public safety. (174.156) It's disgusting that SAPD has officers on the force who have fed a homeless man feces and watched while another officer pulled out a woman's tampon while she stood on the curb. The city council should be ashamed for standing by doing nothing. They must put their full weight behind the citizens efforts to gain signatures to for referendums to end Chapters 143 abs 174. If you do not support the citizens efforts in gaining signatures, then you are responsible for these violent actions of SAPD officers.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| City Council District | N/A | Number of Comments | 174 |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|

| Meeting Date | Resident Name | Comment |
|--------------|---------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Aaron Arguello | Asked for a change in policing and reallocation of police resources to community services. |
| 6/15/2020 | Amador Salazar | Stated that the City needed to address the militarization of police and invest in housing and human services |
| 6/15/2020 | Ananda Tomas | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Anthony Bernardelli | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | April Driesslein | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | black-lives matter | <p>Defund and abolish the police.</p> |

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Carlos Romero | <p>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."</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Chad Schultz | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Chelsea Evans | <p>Good Afternoon, My name is Chelsea Evans and 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 grassrootslaw.org/pledge 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. All the best, Chelsea Evans</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Chris Quiroz | <p>Mr. Quiroz 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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Dani Sliva | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Deandra Villarreal | 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 |
| 6/15/2020 | Debbie Klarfeld | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Desirae Schuler | 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!!! |
| 6/15/2020 | Dorothy Harrell | 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 sheriff's 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Emeka Uzomba | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Emily Satel | I am calling on the local government to take the Path to Justice pledge (grassrootslaw.org/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. 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | G G | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Garrett Kocian | 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. The his partner put his finger in my face and said if you dont get back inside Im 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 wouldnt 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Gina Kramer | Asked that a transparent line item police Budget be made available online. She spoke in support of reallocating resources from the police Budget to housing and health and human services. She requested that the cases of Charles Roundtree, Marquis Jones, and Antrione Scott be reopened. |
| 6/15/2020 | Guadalupe Barboza | Ms. Barboza stated that SAPD should be defunded and those funds should be diverted to public services such as public health, housing, Education, and others. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Ivana Scrivanich | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Jake Ramirez | 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? |
| 6/15/2020 | James Dykman | Stated that 70% of Officer terminations resulted in reinstatement with back pay and legal fees paid. He recommended that the following be included in the San Antonio Police Department's Open Data Initiative: 1) Disciplinary suspension records from October 2009-present; 2) Civil Service Commission Agendas from October 2009-present; 3) Arbitration awards from October 2009-present; and 4) The Chief's Citizen Advisory Action Board recommendations from October 2009-present. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Janeen Downen | 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? Dont 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 |
| 6/15/2020 | jaymie cupp | 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 |
| 6/15/2020 | Jessyca Perez | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Jonquil Wilson | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Kathleen Anders | 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 pilice. |
| 6/15/2020 | Kathleen Gamble | 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 occured and at least one stabbing has also occured. SAPD needs to treat its citizens (especially people of different races) as if they are not all criminals. Drop the arrogant attitude. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Kelly Espinoza | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | LaTonya Jackson | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Laura McGuire | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Lauren Lee | My name is Lauren Lee, and 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? |
| 6/15/2020 | Leilani Talaro | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Leonard Trevino | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 6/15/2020 | Lorenzo Infante | 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 I'm 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 couldn't get a lawyer to even look at the case because trying to prove police wrongdoing is close to impossible. 15 years after bad experience 1 I still have bad thoughts on how that evening went. My disdain for the lawlessness and self-serving police has grown over time. There needs to be a way to hold them responsible! |
| 6/15/2020 | Mark James | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Matthew Snyder | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Michael Kane | Please consider signing the Grassroots Law Project pledge. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Miguel Ramos | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Natalie Hines | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/15/2020 | Nicole Hayes | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Nicole Rodriguez | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Nita King | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Rachel Schloss | 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 needs to go to grassrootslaw.org/pledge 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Shawna Lien | Our police force does a fantastic job and need nothing but more support from our city leaders. |
| 6/15/2020 | Sivaram Bandaru | 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 havent 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Stephen Hartlieb | I cant believe this is even a topic of discussion. Headline in todays 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 its 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 investigativng) 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Suzzie Thomas | 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Terry Castillo | Ms. Castillo 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. |
| 6/15/2020 | Tim Barr | 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 - |
| 6/15/2020 | Valerie Garcia | Do not defund to police. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

6/15/2020

Velma Hernandez

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. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| 6/15/2020 | Yolanda Chapman | <p>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 every month as a requirement to talk about what's 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 there's 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 wasn't 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 what's going on nationally and I think ongoing listening sessions like this one should continue. We can lead the way.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Aaron-Justin Burnette | <p>The police spending in this city is far too 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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Adriana Vallejo | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Airk Doehlman | 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\"! |
| 6/18/2020 | Amber Garza | stated that she would be surprised if any substantive change would be made by the Committee because several members received donations from fire and police. She spoke of the expanding police Budget. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ananda Tomas | stated that the quality of training was more important than the number of hours of training. She noted that Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code should be repealed. |
| 6/18/2020 | Andi Noveroske | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Angela Alonzo | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Angela Botello | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Anthony Delange | Do not change to satisfy the criminals. Police should be respected and trusted to serve and protect. Ignore the fascist idiots. |
| 6/18/2020 | Anthony Magnabosco | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Antonio Martinez | stated that the "8 can't wait" goals were short-term goals and higher standards for police should be a long-term goal. He challenged the City Council to develop statistical databases. |
| 6/18/2020 | April Arizola | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Becky Walker | 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. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Brad Hallonquist | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Brandy Ruiz | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Carlos Romero | Police departments are a pillar of National Security. If you seek to abolish the Police, you threaten National Security. |
| 6/18/2020 | Chris Balthrop | Do not defund the police. Provide more funding for hiring and training for equal equality of enforcement and people. |
| 6/18/2020 | Chris Ruedas | 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 police. Let's not let it be criminals who want to destroy things and don't care about people. |
| 6/18/2020 | Christine Abraham | Pursue investments in community-led, non-police initiatives to prevent violence, reducing the risk of fatal or violent encounters. |
| 6/18/2020 | CJ Gallagher | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Consuelo De La Garza | There should be a committee in each city council district that looks at police misconduct. That committee should be made up 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Corinne Smelker | When will playgrounds open again? This is so ridiculous. Open the city back up. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Crystal Lane | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Cynthia De Leon | We support the police. In order to do their jobs, they need the backing of local government. |
| 6/18/2020 | Deedee Lu | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Dr. Santos Cortez | stated that SAPD Police Officers were honorable men and women. |
| 6/18/2020 | Drew Whiting | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Elizabeth Mills | 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 seve and potect!! |
| 6/18/2020 | Elizabeth Moore | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ellen Corrigan | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Emily Noel | 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 |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Fernando Valdivia | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | G.G. Martin | stated that the SAPOA had power over local leaders. She called for repeal of Chapters 143, and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code. |
| 6/18/2020 | Genevieve Donaldson | asked of the Committee's intention to defund the police and repeal Chapters 143, and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code. |
| 6/18/2020 | Gina Cramer | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Hailey Blummer | stated that she was disturbed over the lack of empathy by some Committee Members. She called for change in public meetings to include responses. She noted that different types of responses, and access to mental health providers was needed. |
| 6/18/2020 | Helen Gafford Brown | Defund police |
| 6/18/2020 | Irene Ubando | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Ivan Munoz | Spad is awesome. Dont change a thing |
| 6/18/2020 | Jack M. Finger | recommended that police be asked to identify as women and as black |
| 6/18/2020 | James Dykman | stated that over the last 14 years, 70% of Officer terminations ended in reinstatement. He noted that disciplinary records, Civil Service Commission agendas, arbitration awards, Citizen Advisory Board agendas, independent recommendations from Chiefs and Civilian Board, cost of investigations, and appeals of indefinite suspensions should be available on SAPD's Open Data Initiative. |
| 6/18/2020 | James Myart | stated that Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan was doing a good job. He noted that Mayor Nirenberg and Chief McManus were responsive, responsible, effective, and efficient. He noted that no one in the top level of SAPD looked like us. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Janie McClatchy | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Jason Mott | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Jerry Fields | Do not weaken the Police Department. Allow them to follow potocol. Protect citizens and property. |
| 6/18/2020 | Jessi Brymer | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Jessica Allen | 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 |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Jessica Cardenas | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | John DeVilbiss | stated that many public restrooms had been closed. He spoke of the suffering of the homeless. |
| 6/18/2020 | Jordan Parks | expressed support for making Officer records available to the public and having an accessible website for each Officer for reports. She noted that there should be no tolerance for racism. |
| 6/18/2020 | Joseph Ivey | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Joseph Ovalle | 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 Enforcement entity's |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Justin Martinez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Justin Mott | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | K N | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Kathrine Williams | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Laura Hernandez | 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!! |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Laura Lambie | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Liz Franklin | stated that Chief McManus could do something right now. She spoke of the lack of recruitment in the inner city and noted that police were not representative of the people which they serve. |
| 6/18/2020 | Luke Androsos | spoke of instances of police misconduct. He noted that misconduct was removed from an Officer's record after two years and the statute of limitations was 180 days. He stated that the Citizen Advisory Action Board's recommendations were advisory and non-binding. He noted that the Collective Bargaining Agreement limited the Chief of Police and protected bad Officers. |
| 6/18/2020 | M G | Thank you for offering this publicly. |
| 6/18/2020 | Marianne Schuman | stated that SAPD should invest in resources to gather demographic data. She noted that a yes or no question of racism should be added to the Police Cadet application. |
| 6/18/2020 | Mariel Amador | Hello, excuse me, what are you gonna do to repeal 143 and 172?! |
| 6/18/2020 | Marlon Davis | stated that "8 can't wait" was developed with false data and would not work |
| 6/18/2020 | Marlys McKinney | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Marsha Adams | I would like to see our city open safely. In order to do that, we should be doing contract tracing and isolating with all covid cases across the board. Our city needs to be wearing masks in all businesses in order to sip 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Matthew Colliflower | What are you going to repeal chapter 143 and 174 |
| 6/18/2020 | Matthew Alonzo | stated that SAPD could do better. He noted that he wanted to see Police Officers from his neighborhood. |
| 6/18/2020 | Megan Amaro | What are you going to do to repeal 172 and 143? |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio
Public Safety City Council Committee
Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Melissa Arredondo | <p>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.</p> |
| 6/18/2020 | Melissa Garcia | <p>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.</p> |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Mike Keith | 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 SAFTE 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Mitchell Lopez | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Nicole Grey | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Nielle Jackson | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Nika Cleaver | stated that people had to work together for a better community. She noted that the police needed discipline. |
| 6/18/2020 | Pharaoh Clark | stated that no-knock warrants should end. He noted that some parks and streets were named after racists and polygraphs should be more detailed on the subject of racism. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | Ramon Velasquez | 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 |
| 6/18/2020 | Randall Ashmore | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rebecca Al-Bannay | 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! |
| 6/18/2020 | Rebecca Guajardo | 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 city 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Richard Costancio | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rose Hill | urged the San Antonio Police Officers Association's President to meet with the City, SAPD, and Home Owner Associations. |
| 6/18/2020 | Rylee Jackson | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Sergio Dovalina | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Shannon Lewis | What are you going to do about repealing chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas local government code |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 6/18/2020 | Shannon Lee | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Shawn Vina | quoted the 13th Amendment, section 1 which states that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. He noted that the 13th Amendment was the root of all pain voiced in this meeting. |
| 6/18/2020 | Sherry McClendon | We need our San Antonio Police Officers, only an idiot would consider defunding the Police Force. |
| 6/18/2020 | Stacey Schouten | What are you doing to help repeal 172 & 143? |
| 6/18/2020 | Test Suser | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Tiffany Stubbs | 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. |
| 6/18/2020 | Veronica Levens | 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 'badcops to continue working without any accountability or repercussions. Reduce the police unions power, Repeal laws 143 and 174 |
| 6/18/2020 | Wallace Sheridan | stated that most police did a good job but there were pockets of police who did not. He recommended that citizen review boards be given power, legislation be enacted which held police and local leaders accountable, and the on/off switch on body cameras be removed. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--|
| 6/18/2020 | William Abbott | 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 whats at risk could be lives. |
| 6/18/2020 | Zeus Jimenez | 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. |
| 6/20/2020 | Abby Fernandez | There is a difference between accountability and funding. In fact, they have nothing to do with one another. Defunding police puts their lives as well as the lives of citizens at risk. Holding law enforcement officers accountable for their actions is absolutely necessary, and ensuring they have the proper training is the first step toward supporting LEOs. It is asinine for any city government to reduce financial support as a means to better protect the community. Read that again. The city council is proposing that we reduce resources for police so that we can better serve our communities by limiting police presence that could result in the mistreatment of a citizen. I recommend that the city government of San Antonio be a leader by using real statistics, science-based learning and psychology to create an improvement plan that supports our police department and better serves the citizens. How about the city highlights the good things done by police instead of hyper focusing on the bad? What an amazing opportunity to lead! I hope the city chooses to take advantage of this prime position during this time of knee-jerk reactions. |
| 6/20/2020 | Anna Vuich | Urged the City Council to demilitarize the police and to re-route funds for the police to services for domestic violence, food security, and homelessness. |
| 6/20/2020 | Chelsey Goswick | I fully support the blue and all funding that goes towards SAPD and all public safety measures. We need to continue to support our police department and that includes providing all necessary funding. |
| 6/20/2020 | Christopher Cunningham | stated that he wants to reduce violence in our City. He encouraged the commission to ensure that imposed investigation waiting periods be removed from next year's contract with the Police Union. |
| 6/20/2020 | Danielle Duarte | Public safety funds definitely need to be evenly distributed between all departments and cut police funding. It's way to high and can be beneficial to other departments. Also we need to find better ways to have our policing under control. They need more training hrs and Regular mental evaluations. The safety to the people in San Antonio are the priority, even if it's our own law enforcement that needs to be revised. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 6/20/2020 | Debra Bush | stated that there should be no paid administrative leave for police officers being disciplined. |
| 6/20/2020 | Doshie Piper | stated that we need an independent review board of officer's conduct infractions. It would insure that the process was fair. |
| 6/20/2020 | Henry Sauer | As productive members of our families, churches, communities, and places of employment, we all benefit from real accountability. When we are performing and acting as we should, we get positive reinforcement. When we are not acting as we should and are harming ourselves, others, or our organizations, that accountability protects people and our communities. Nowhere is that more important than with our police, those that protect our safety and have the heavy burden of potentially using deadly force. Good cops get to be role models for other cops and new recruits. Bad cops change their behaviors or do not get to be cops anymore. This makes perfect, logical sense and is a critical part of how successful organizations work. Unfortunately, the Texas legislature and the SAPOA have severely and holistically handicapped accountability in the SAPD. Through Chapters 143 and 174 of the Texas Local Government Code, SAPOA has virtually removed accountability to the public and the Police Chief. As a result, SAPD is infamous for allowing more fired cops back on the job than any other city in the nation. We must do better. Our Police Chief and the best cops in the SAPD want it to be better. You were elected to make better happen. I urge you to put opting out of these parts of the Texas Code on the next ballot. Thank you for your service to San Antonio. |
| 6/20/2020 | Isabela Briseno | with Texas Rising suggested more rules and reform for police. She stated that there should be stricter consequences for police who have a disregard for the rules. She supported defunding the police. |
| 6/20/2020 | James Finley | Stated he supported decreasing the SAPD budget and divest the funds to necessary social services. He requested that City Council examine issues of accountability and use of force or violence when SAPOA contract comes up for renewal next year. |
| 6/20/2020 | Jim Corona Morris | Supports for re-routing funding for police militarization to services for the homeless, mental health, veterans, and people of color. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| 6/20/2020 | Josefa Moreno | I would like to ask a question about the San Antonio police during Covid-19. I would like to know WHY police officers continue to arrest people for low level offenses, instead of receiving a citation for Cite & Release? I don't know how the police have been trained but they are making the spread of COVID-19 so much worse. Police officers are stopping and arresting people without wearing any mask or protective gear. Bexar county jail has already had a long history of neglecting inmates health. The San Antonio Police Department continue to arrest people for certain low-level offenses, many of which have been black and latino. Many of the arrested have been immigrants, who get booked at the City Magistrate's Office or county jail, are been taken by ICE, and sent to Detention Centers, where many reports of Covid-19 have been confirmed. This is a personal attack on your communities. Why are they continuing to send these people to jail during world wide pandemic!? Prisons are not hospitals! Detention centers are not hospitals! They are not equipped with the supplies or knowledge needed to help the sick. Cite & Release is the only way to ensure the health safety of all involved. I DEMAND, for the safety of ALL San Antonio, that you enforce all San Antonio police officers to use Cite & Release. |
| 6/20/2020 | Josh Avila | spoke on behalf of the Live Oak Revolutionaries and stated that the group marched and spoke on public safety. He stated that the organization was designing a website to help the community but required input from City and Police. He thanked the Mayor and Police Chief for taking the time to talk to the organization. |
| 6/20/2020 | Lauren Torres | On behalf of our SAPD officers I ask you to please continue to support them. Our officers are some of the finest, most disciplined and committed and they deserve to be taken care of. They care for the community they serve and are committed to their duty to protecting all those in need. I support our SAPD officers and am thankful for their service to us. |
| 6/20/2020 | Lexy Garcia | stated she was against the public safety budget. She was in support of divesting the police budget into areas that are more fit to solve our issues. |
| 6/20/2020 | Michael Pena | is in support of divesting funds in SAPD and reinvesting in our community. |
| 6/20/2020 | Nancy Lopez | Ch. 143 and 174 help keep incompetent members of SAPD on the payroll to the detriment of everyone's safety. Let's get rid of Ch143 and 174 now! |
| 6/20/2020 | Rachel McCalla | Stated that she was grateful for police officers. |
| 6/20/2020 | Rachel Walker | I absolutely believe in the police department and would be horrified if they were defunded. |
| 6/20/2020 | Santos Cortez | Stated that he was against defunding the police. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.

City Of San Antonio

Public Safety City Council Committee

Summary of Comments Arranged by City Council District

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| 6/20/2020 | Takeitha Moye | Please just understand that WE ARE SCARED. We are human, and all living organisms have a FIGHT or FLIGHT response. We are burdened. We are in distress. We NEED police to treat this issue for what it is and they can do that in so many ways. A friendly smile, just even looking at us and telling us to not be afraid, that they understand, that they are not here to hurt us. I work with the mentally ill and even when I am being spat at, attacked or threatened, I've been trained to find ways to calm these patients. We are just like them! We just want to be treated fairly. OUR SKIN IS NOT A CRIME!!! Another thing, all black children sit with their parents at a very young age and are told that because of our skin color, we will always be looked at as bad.. Can you imagine having to tell this to your child? But they have to tell us, because if they don't, we will grow up in the Bliss of ignorance and it could cost us our lives... It HAS cost us our lives. Please change the minds of the black children in your community. Even if they do something bad.. are they not human? Talk to them. Empathize with them. Understand them. Comfort them. This cycle must be broken. These children may grow up to be a person YOU NEED one day. That's the circle of life! |
| 6/20/2020 | Tamisine Neal | I want our police force numbers to remain the same and/or increase. I also want changes made so that officers who do not follow the policies and code of ethics with the public are removed. The 5% that make the 95% look bad, have no place in a high stress, dangerous job. Education and the military have code of ethics and conduct that are followed. |
| 6/20/2020 | Zachary Walsh | The City of San Antonio needs to seek alternative methods of ensuring public safety, instead of the police department. Mental healthcare workers, representatives from homeless shelters, social workers, and a range of other personnel can be dispatched and attend to emergency situations. Therefore, the city needs to defund the police department and increase funding in programs that help to positively keep the city safe, such as affordable housing, better public education, arts programs for community members to participate in, just to name a few. I am sure that other well informed citizens are proposing other safe and nonviolent ways to protect and foster a strong San Antonio community. With the amount of law enforcement present aside from SAPD, it seems ridiculous that we are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into this department founded upon systematic policies and laws that are intended to keep black people down and keep white people on top. San Antonio needs to reevaluate how it should keep it's people safe. A department that reinstates two thirds of officers fired because of a bargaining agreement is not one I want in the city. I understand that the police department cannot be abolished immediately, but while efforts in the city are aimed at disbanding the police department permanently, and while efforts in the city are aimed at building a strong community, one that is inclusive and supportive of alternative nonviolent methods to keep the citizens of San Antonio safe, physically, mentally, and emotionally, the city and police department need to make reforms that reduce the amount of times any officer uses excessive force, or any physical contact that does not need to be made. The police department needs to change and understand that they are part of the issue. |

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points made by the speaker and so do not necessarily represent the speakers' exact comments.