

City of San Antonio



Public Comment

No in-person access to this meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

5:00 PM

Videoconference

Public Comment

1. Public Comment is your opportunity to address your City of San Antonio elected officials directly about issues that are important to you and your community. To sign-up to speak, please go to www.sanantonio.gov/agenda and click on the eComment link for instructions. Members of the public are given up to three minutes to speak, and groups are given up to nine minutes.

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Lexy Garcia urged the City Council to defund SAPD and reinvest in the community. She called for the City Council to act at tomorrow's meeting.

Brandon Mowles stated that mental health, senior and youth services should receive more funding. He noted that the current system is broken. He added that 80% of the comments for today called for defunding police.

Lorenzo Ortiz stated that zoning for C2 was too harsh for the area. He urged the City Council to take the commissioners' advice and do what's right.

Diana Uriegas stated that the police did not need any more funding. She noted that the funds should be allocated to housing assistance. She added that sometimes the police do not show up when called.

Celeste Brown stated that a second father was killed yesterday by police. She noted that 10 minutes passed by before police rendered aid. She indicated that the media was informed before the family.

Natalie Lerner called for the reallocation of funding from the police to public health. She added that a warrant should not be a death sentence.

Desiree Schanding stated that just because it is difficult to cut funding for the police did not mean it was not right. She noted that laws protected bad police. She added that mental illness should be handled by trained professionals, not police.

Stephen Versteeg spoke of the Martinez property in Government Hill. He Referenced the Unified Development Code and stated that the zoning was not compatible. He played video of Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan.

D'Ette Cole stated that property owners want to sell affordable housing and commercialize the neighborhood. She noted that changing the zoning from R6 to C2 was significant. She added that neighbors within 200 feet of the property did not want a zoning change.

Jerril Bills stated that increasing the police Budget would increase police presence in vulnerable communities. He noted that the root causes of crime must be addressed.

Karen Munoz stated that she was involved in the ID Recovery Program and was a member of San Antonio Stands. She noted that a Cite and Release Ordinance would mandate the policy.

Jennifer Falcon stated that hours after a recent death, SAPD trolled her and Celeste Brown on social media. She added that the Collective Bargaining Agreement should not have been passed.

Moureen Kaki stated that she was a Palestinian organizer. She indicated that systemic racism and segregation existed in San Antonio. She urged the City Council to reimagine society, starting with the vote tomorrow morning.

Brad McMurray stated that he was the Vice President for property development for Prospera Housing. He noted that Prospera Housing supported gap financing for affordable housing for San Antonio residents. He indicated that Prospera Housing recognized the challenge of balancing immediate and future needs of residents.

Antonio Diaz stated that funding for police should be below 67%. He spoke in support of funding for mental illness.

Katy Murdza stated that individuals killed by the police contributed to society. He added that the City needed to provide mental health care and invest in the community.

Riley Egger stated that he supported reallocation of funding to areas that would help the community. He called for defunding the police.

Marlon Davis stated that the ban on no-knock warrants and choke holds was not sufficient. He noted that again police have taken the life of someone they were sworn to protect. He demanded that body cam footage be released along with the names of the Officers who killed Darrell Zemault Sr.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG

Mayor

Attest:

TINA J. FLORES
Acting City Clerk