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To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: LB City Council Meeting Public Comment 07/20/21 - Items 26 & 27

-EXTERNAL-

Item 26

Despite the millions of dollars this city spends every year on policing, according to LBPD, crime continues to increase, disproportionately in the neighborhoods of BIPOC. If policing and imprisonment stopped violence, the US would be a utopia already...we would have long since 'arrived.' But alas, this is not the case. Instead, policing and imprisonment perpetuate harm on a mass scale, ensuring the cycle where police can continue to hold up a crime report and scare council members like you into handing over half of your budget (or more, some years).

One of the ways to move in this direction is to stop hiring police officers. Let the attrition shift the money to the resources we need. I understand police are fighting for their existence & to stay relevant; that is understandable. But there is only one way out of the quagmire policing created, and we cosigned. Stop hiring police officers. Divert that money to community resources.

Item 27

Covid disproportionately infringed on BIPOC to live in safety and peace. If we are looking to heal some of that harm, we need to disengage with institutions that cause harm and free up resources for solutions that are actually designed to create healthy, safe, sustainable communities. That means diverting this 5 million dollars to resources, not more policing.

There have been social costs to investing in policing, instead of investing in people and our communities. We have created a society conditioned to look to policing as the answer to our problems, both real and imagined, calling the police not only in emergencies, but also in response to white/affluent people's fears or annoyance in many situations where people of color are simply trying to live their lives. And we have created tenuous circumstances for a large portion of society in a resource desert. If we want different outcomes, we need to change our investment behavior.

Marianne Drummond