

eComments Report for City Council Special Meeting Agenda (BH) of August 18, 2020

Item	Name	E-Mail	Street	Neighbor	City	State	Zip	Comment	Received
SPECIAL MEETING	Lisa van Wijk	lisa.m.vanwijk@gmail.com						Please provide more transparency when you reschedule a meeting. It is not ok that your meeting schedule still says 5PM yet the meeting is 3PM. It is not ok to not give us clarity about your meeting time. Not being proactively transparent about meeting changes effectively silences people who planned to comment but who don't know the meeting's new time slot. This is not OK.	8/18/2020
SPECIAL MEETING	Marc Cobb	mcshootist@verizon.net						I am apposed to the decrease in staffing of the Police Department as proposed in the City budget plan. Eliminating 112,000 hours of law enforcement coverage at a time when civil unrest is occurring nationwide makes no sense. If the budget is truly at a deficit, why in the last month have the city street closure initiative been passed and the Mayor committing to a social experiment on city welfare style paychecks for select low income individuals? Both programs have grant or start up money to establish them, however future budgeted funds will be needed to continue or maintain the programs. Public Safety should not be cut prior to programs that only serve to make the city and therefore city politicians look Greener and more benevolent.	8/18/2020
SPECIAL MEETING	laraib Malik	laraib.malik420@gmail.com						This is my first t e i visit here. I found so many interesting stuff in your blog especially its discussion. From the tons of comments on your articles, I guess I am not the only one having all the enjoyment here! keep up the good work.ë"iŠ€ê²€i 	8/16/2020
BUDGET HEARING:	Savannah Benton	savannah.m.benton@gmail.com						I'm Savannah & I'm a citizen of district 5. I am writing to encourage city council not to pass the budget in its current form. At a time when childcare and virtual youth programming is needed more than ever, it is a HUGE mistake to defund the library. The City should be looking for ways bolster library programming to support parents. Also, the cuts to the police budget are reactionary. The police budget SHOULD be cut & stripped to its core role: processing crime in the city. LBPD should not deal with mental health calls, graffiti, homelessness, or nonviolent crimes. To force officers to do jobs outside of their key role (to process crime once it has occurred, not prevent it) is not fair to officers. LB has such huge equity problem and at the center is the LBPD. I urge the city council to rethink the city budget and give our officers room to breath. Divest from the LBPD in favor of crime prevention programs like libraries, job development, and equitable education.	8/18/2020

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1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Lisa van Wijk	lisa.m.vanwijk@gmail.com						I am writing you today to demand that you, as our elected leaders, make the necessary changes to the proposed FY21 city budget to align with the needs and values of our community. Cutting \$4 million from the LBPD budget is not enough, not even close. That is only 1.6% decrease from last year's budget. We are asking you to take LBPD's funding and redirect it into housing, health care, education and well-being for our Black residents and communities of color, so that everyone -- not just those who benefit from the status quo -- can thrive at their full potential. If we as a city can spend \$103 million on a swimming pool, we can do better than \$3.3 million for racial equity efforts. DEFUND THE POLICE! Please act in support of the most vulnerable communities in Long Beach. Defunding LBPD to provide housing, health care (mental care), education, food security will benefit everyone in Long Beach! Listen to your community and please please do the right thing. We will be watching.	8/18/2020
1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Marc Cobb	mshootist@verizon.net						Marc Cobb at August 18, 2020 at 12:34pm PDT I am apposed to the decrease in staffing of the Police Department as proposed in the City budget plan. Eliminating 112,000 hours of law enforcement coverage at a time when civil unrest is occurring nationwide makes no sense. If the budget is truly at a deficit, why in the last month have the city street closure initiative been passed and the Mayor committing to a social experiment on city welfare style paychecks for select low income individuals? Both programs have grant or start up money to establish them, however future budgeted funds will be needed to continue or maintain the programs. Public Safety should not be cut prior to programs that only serve to make the city and therefore city politicians look Greener and more benevolent.	8/18/2020

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1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Esther Kang	estherkang122@gmail.com						<p>The city manager and his team spent the last two months "listening" to our marginalized Black and communities of color to institute meaningful change in the City on a structural level. With this promise in mind, these communities gave you hours of testimonies regarding their experiences with LBPD and their suggestions on what the City can do to align itself with more racially equitable practices.</p> <p>After all this, it was beyond disappointing to see the city manager ignore these critical voices and data in writing the new budget. His proposal to continue funding the LBPD at 44% of the City's general fund is not only tone deaf; it is a testament to his unwavering commitment to uphold the agendas of the mayor and the LBPOA.</p> <p>We are not going anywhere until you vote to meaningfully divest from the LBPD and invest in our Black and Brown communities (and yes, that means allocating more than 1.4% of the police budget to address racial inequity). Stop messing around and do the right thing.</p>	8/18/2020
1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Savannah Benton	savannah.m.benton@gmail.com						<p>I'm Savannah & I'm a citizen of district 5. I am writing to encourage city council not to pass the budget in its current form. At a time when childcare and virtual youth programming is needed more than ever, it is a HUGE mistake to defund the library. The City should be looking for ways bolster library programming to support parents. Also, the cuts to the police budget are reactionary. The police budget SHOULD be cut & stripped to its core role: processing crime in the city. LBPD should not deal with mental health calls, graffiti, homelessness, or nonviolent crimes. To force officers to do jobs outside of their key role (to process crime once it has occurred, not prevent it) is not fair to officers. LB has such huge equity problem and at the center is the LBPD. I urge the city council to rethink the city budget and give our officers room to breath. Divest from the LBPD in favor of crime prevention programs like libraries, job development, and equitable education.</p>	8/18/2020
1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Jessica Wilhelm	jsswilhelm@gmail.com						<p>Thriving, safe communities are not born of Police investment. The money traditionally given to the Police force can do more to create safety when used to fund community services and neighborhood development. Time to pull away from "traditional wisdom" and having one squad of armed individuals responding to every situation in our city. What functions need to be pulled to other departments? Where can they be disarmed? These are the questions that will allow Long Beach to move away from the old world of policing. Library Services should receive money from the Police budget.</p>	8/17/2020

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1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for	christine morse	chrystayeen@gmail.com						Defund the police! Invest in hiring trained mental health professionals, with at least a bachelor's degree, as first responders. Invest in library services, as hubs for connections to social services, keeping LBPL main and branch libraries open daily.	8/17/2020
1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Rebekah Ressler	rebekahressler@gmail.com						The Long Beach city council claims that transparency is important. If transparency is important-- why is it that this agenda item has been shuffled around so much? Last week it was canceled, this week the time was moved with little to no notice and no public announcements. Why aren't any local news sources reporting on one of the most important agenda items of the season? We are calling on you to divest money from the LBPD by at least 20% ideally more than that and investing that money into community services, like public works and library services. The proposed cut is not enough. We, the community, need to see real commitment to change from the long beach city council. Defund the police, make a cut that will make a real difference. Forget your personal interests with the police and start showing interested in community services.	8/17/2020
1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						I am asking as a resident of District 2 and a business owner in District 3, that we have a park ranger or special community police officer at Bixby Park. We need a community presence to help the homeless, enforce social distancing and to enforce LB ordinances. The area impacts too many residents and we have seen a significant increase in drug activity and crime in the last year. IN addition, we need a liason to help coordinate homeless outreach programs and having a park ranger would facilitate this. IN addition to PUBlic Works, we have a litter crisis in Long Beach. People are dumping their trash on the streets and in the parks. Street sweeping is ineffective bc cars are not moving. I am asking you outsource the street sweeping to Azteca like I see them doing at the Belmont Pier. We also need more signs to discourage littering at the beach and parks. I have never seen it like this before and we need to make this a priority with more trash cans.	8/17/2020

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1. (20-0783) Recommendation to conduct a Budget Hearing to receive and discuss an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the following Departments: Public Works, Police, and Library Services.	Leslie Davis	leslielkd@gmail.com						am writing to recommend that the Police Department establish a dedicated hotline for reporting the detonation of dangerous explosives on our city streets - off the police scanner. This will substantially increase the percentage of catching the perpetrators in the act and will encourage those who are afraid to call in and leave their names because of retaliation, to do so. It will also disrupt listening in on the police scanners that have enabled those committing this crime to evade arrest for years. Residents of Long Beach are very serious about seeing meaningful and consistent action taken on this problem. We want a decent quality of life with neighborhoods free from fear. This recommendation would not require a great deal of revenue. Thank you for your serious consideration of this recommendation. Leslie Davis, Dist 2	8/14/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Lisa van Wijk	lisa.m.vanwijk@gmail.com						I am writing you today to demand that you, as our elected leaders, make the necessary changes to the proposed FY21 city budget to align with the needs and values of our community. Cutting \$4 million from the LBPD budget is not enough, not even close. That is only 1.6% decrease from last year's budget. We are asking you to take LBPD's funding and redirect it into housing, health care, education and well-being for our Black residents and communities of color, so that everyone -- not just those who benefit from the status quo -- can thrive at their full potential. If we as a city can spend \$103 million on a swimming pool, we can do better than \$3.3 million for racial equity efforts. DEFUND THE POLICE! Please act in support of the most vulnerable communities in Long Beach. Defunding LBPD to provide housing, health care (mental care), education, food security will benefit everyone in Long Beach! Listen to your community and please please do the right thing. We will be watching.	8/18/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Cecelia Lynch	lynch.cecilia@gmail.com						I urge the City Council to support the Long Beach People's Budget. The ration of funding for the police compared to social services, libraries and public works is unconscionable. We know that efforts to "reform" racist actions by police department do not work. Instead, we need to defund, shifting money to community services and programs, including libraries, parks, and social services.	8/18/2020

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PUBLIC COMMENT:	Susan McKibben	susanmckibben@gmail.com						Good afternoon. As a resident of the 7th Council District, I want to urge the City to reduce the massive budget allocated to the Long Beach Police Department, and to reuse those funds for community care by professionals NOT affiliated with LBPD. The City spends nearly 50% of its general fund on the Department. This massive expense could be drastically reduced without compromising safety. Instead, invest in drug treatment and mental health care, keeping our homeless services open 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and expand affordable housing. These people-centered solutions will do more to care for residents and prevent crime than using up nearly half our general fund on a police force that has a truly appalling record of violence against civilians (dwarfing even much larger departments with worse reputations!). Investing in care over police will make Long Beach safer and healthier while saving money for all the other services we value.	8/18/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Matthew Vo	mvo321@gmail.com						Hi all, Long Beach is in need of a strong Police department. Recent and ongoing events locally and throughout our country highlighted the need of a strong police department to protect our community - especially in the middle of the pandemic! We are really blessed to have a wonderful and diverse community here in Long Beach! Lots of deep thoughts and significant discussions need to be done by community members, before we ever consider defunding the police! We need to protect this wonderful place that we all call home as much as possible! Thank you all very much for your hard work for this community! Best wishes, and God bless! Matthew Vo, MD	8/18/2020

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PUBLIC COMMENT:	Colleen Bentley	coleybentley@hotmail.com						August 18 budget hearing - public comment - Library! Long Beach's 12 public libraries are incredibly important to community members across the city. Adults need books/DVDs and help with their students at home; both young people and adults need WiFi/hotspots to access the internet, etc. for school work. I support the Mayor's recommendation to NOT REDUCE the library hours and days from five to three days per week as proposed. The Mayor also called for the Council to continue to look at opportunities to reopen primary libraries to seven days per week. As a kid, I remember my mom driving us to the Los Altos Library. When my 2 brothers, sister and I got older, we rode out bikes there. Please let out children experience the joy of being at a library!	8/17/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Marief Fiedler	marielfiedler@gmail.com						The proposed 2021 budget allocates more than twice the amount of money to public safety than to health and human services. If all of that money went to health and human services we could have fewer people newly experiencing homelessness; alleviation of food deserts across the city; smaller rates of COVID-19 infection; and more experts in de-escalation and community care alleviating stress. I am a social worker and have had to personally call police for a 5150 due to to occupational protocol. I have had to shield a man experiencing suicidal ideation from potential gunfire by LBPd and watch as they wrestled him to the ground, taking him to jail rather than the hospital. Cops do not de-escalate. Hire mental health professionals instead of law enforcement.	8/17/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Billy Jacobs	jrggbpackers@aol.com						It's sad to know our mayor and council backed prop A increasing our sales tax to the state maximum. This budget is ludicrous and should be reexamined immediately. It is pitiful knowing that resources that the residents of city paid for will not be utilized. The loss of over 50 sworn positions in the LBPd at a time where shootings have been occurring frequently around the city is uncalled for. This council hasn't begun to reverse the damage previous councils have done, specifically in 2009 when over 150 LBPd officers were cut. The city finally restored Lbfd E17 just to cut it a few years later? After a fire across the street from their station? Why does it makes sense to spend upwards of \$10k a month for a temporary fire station? To save them two blocks of virtually empty streets to improve response times? More needs to be done to ensure the public safety of our fair city. Your constituents pay the highest sales tax in the state, give them a return on their investment.	8/17/2020