



# City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave  
Pomona, CA 91766

## Special Meeting Minutes

### City Council / Housing Authority / Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency

*Mayor Tim Sandoval*  
*Councilmember Rubio R. Gonzalez*  
*Councilmember Victor Preciado*  
*Vice Mayor Nora Garcia*  
*Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole*  
*Councilmember Steve Lustro*  
*Councilmember Robert S. Torres*

#### VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful  
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of  
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

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Monday, June 29, 2020

5:30 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

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4:30 P.M. Via Teleconference

#### CLOSED SESSION

A) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

Part Time Unrepresented Employees  
Part Time General Employees Unit  
Unrepresented Group A and B Employees  
Unrepresented Mid-Management Group C-2 Employees  
Pomona City Employees' Association, a Chapter of Teamsters Local 1932  
Pomona Mid-Management Confidential Employees Association (PMMCEA)  
Pomona Police Officers Association (PPOA)  
Pomona Police Managers Association (PPMA)

Labor Negotiators: James Makshanoff and Linda Matthews

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5:30 P.M. Teleconference via Zoom, closed to the public

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sandoval called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Assistant City Attorney Marco Martinez had no reportable action from closed session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Sandoval led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present via Zoom: Mayor Tim Sandoval  
Councilmember Victor Preciado  
Vice Mayor Nora Garcia  
Councilmember Steve Lustro  
Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole  
Councilmember Robert Torres

Not Present per May 23, 2020 City Council Resolution of Censure:

Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez

**STAFF PRESENT via Zoom**

James Makshanoff, City Manager  
Marco Martinez, Assistant City Attorney  
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk  
John DePolis, IT Director  
Kirk Pelser, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Gluba, Deputy City Manager  
Linda Matthews, Human Resources Director  
Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director  
Andrew Mowbray, Finance Director  
Anita Gutierrez, Development Services Director  
Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director  
Chris Diggs, Water Resources Director  
Mike Ellis, Police Chief

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with California Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 regarding the Brown Act and guidance from the California Department of Public Health on gatherings, please note that comments for a specific item on the agenda were accepted by email only.*

***Comments will be read into the record by the City Clerk. The deadline to submit the comments was 4:00 p.m. today. All comments must be limited to 200 words.***

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Authorizing the Use of All Properties within the Vehicle Parking District for Permits Associated with the "Activate Pomona" Pilot Program

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-102 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ALL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT FOR PERMITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE "ACTIVATE POMONA" PILOT PROGRAM**

**MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER LUSTRO, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER ONTIVEROS-COLE, CARRIED 6-0 (COUNCILMEMBER GONZALEZ NOT PRESENT DUE TO CENSURE) to adopt Resolution No. 2020-102.**

## **DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

2. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 City of Pomona Operating Budget, Housing Authority Budget, Five Year Capital Improvement Program Budget, and Establishing the 2020-21 GANN Appropriations Limit

It is recommended that the City Council and the City Council sitting as the Commission of the Housing Authority, adopt respectively the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-92 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE CITY'S OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-93 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, SITTING AS THE COMMISSION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF POMONA, ADOPTING THE HOUSING**

**AUTHORITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-94 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE 2020-21 TO 2024-25 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND ADOPTING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-95 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING THE GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT OF THE CITY OF POMONA PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Comments were received electronically via email and read into the record by the City Clerk.

**\*\*PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR COMMENTS READ REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEM 2**

Andrew Mowbray, Finance Director, gave updates on significant budget changes made based on Council recommendations from the June 15 council meeting:

- \$400,000 CDBG funding reallocated to youth programs
- \$600,000 in public art funds reallocated to youth artists
- \$734,000 reduction in police department budget (equal to FY19-20)
- \$100,000 for grant writer position or consultant services
- \$6.1 million in CARES Act identified to be used for homeless services

James Makshanoff, City Manager, reported that the management team was working on options to address the budget shortfall for FY 20-21. He advised the contract the City has with LA County Fire cannot be reduced due to a budget shortfall on the county side. He also advised that the City is in negotiations with employee bargaining units to discuss employee concessions. Any cuts to staffing discussed in closed session are not ready to be discussed in open session.

All members of council made comments regarding the budget.

City Manager Makshanoff spoke on the budget as a process that will need to be revisited all year long to address the projected budget shortfall. The decision to adopt the budget at tonight's meeting is just a starting point.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER PRECIADO, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER LUSTRO, CARRIED 5-1 (COUNCILMEMBER TORRES OPPOSED AND COUNCILMEMBER GONZALEZ NOT PRESENT DUE TO CENSURE) to adopt Resolutions No. 2020-92, 2020-93, 2020-94, and 2020-95.**



3. An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Pomona, California, Amending Section 2-1187 of Division 2, Article X of Chapter 2 and Adding Section 34-113 to Division II, Article 3 of Chapter 34 Relating to Fines for Illegal Fireworks Violations

It is recommended that the City Council introduce, waive further reading and adopt the following urgency ordinance and resolution by a 4/5 vote:

**URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 4291 - AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2-1187 OF DIVISION 2, ARTICLE X, CHAPTER 2 AND ADDING SECTION 34-113 TO DIVISION II, ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 34 OF THE POMONA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO FINES FOR ILLEGAL FIREWORKS VIOLATIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-103 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION FINE AMOUNTS FOR VIOLATION OF THE CITY'S FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**

Comments were received electronically via email and read into the record by the city clerk.

**\*\*PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR COMMENTS READ REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEM 2**

All members of council made comments regarding this urgency ordinance.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER LUSTRO, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER ONTIVEROS-COLE, CARRIED 6-0 (COUNCILMEMBER GONZALEZ NOT PRESENT DUE TO CENSURE) to adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 4291 and Resolution No. 2020-103.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

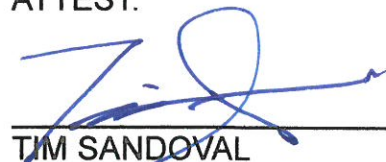
The City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



ROSALIA A. BUTLER, MMC  
City Clerk/Secretary of the Pomona  
Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the  
to the Redevelopment Agency

ATTEST:



TIM SANDOVAL  
Mayor/Chair of the Pomona  
Housing Authority/Successor Agency  
Redevelopment Agency

**JUNE 29, 2020 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**DISCUSSION ITEM NO. 2 – ADOPTION OF BUDGET**

*(The following individuals submitted the following comment below.)*

DENICE SANDOVAL  
JENNA HOOVER  
EDWARD DIAZ  
EMILY MIRANDA  
GEORGINA RUIZ  
PAOLA BEAS  
MARISOL JIMENEZ  
SERGIO SANCHEZ  
PAMELA BEAS  
ASHLEY ROMERO  
DENISE MORENO  
MELISSA ARIAS  
VANESSA CHAVEZ  
JACQUELINE CALDERON  
MONICA BELL  
ROSA OCEGUEDA  
ISABELLA CHAVEZ  
MONIQUE PORCALLO  
EMMA RAMIREZ  
EMILY TURNER  
EVELIA ROCHA  
JULIANNA PINA  
RANDY MIRANDA  
BETHLEHEM MARTINEZ  
JUAN MIRANDA  
VANESSA MERCADO

We demand action for black lives and youth in the city of Pomona and we demand city officials to prioritize the voices of the working class community. The voices of the people need to be acknowledged and not dismissed or ignored. Currently, your budget heavily supports Pomona police and therefore upholds white supremacy and its damaging effects. What has been approved in prior city budgets, is no longer meeting the needs of our Pomona community and you, as city appointed officials, are accountable to move us forward towards a better future. We need long-term solutions and we need to address the systematic oppression that begins with the allocation of funds. The demands are: 1) **defund the police and allocate funds specifically supporting the black community.** This can be achieved by creating a new line item that serves black families only. Listen to black voices AND have black lead initiatives that can create support to the

black community based on their identified needs. 2) Instead of funding school resource officers, **INVEST in the lives of youth, families and children.** Instead of the current policing happening in our schools, fund & create wellness/healing opportunities: hire counselors, social workers, mental health professionals.

*(The following individuals submitted the following comment below.)*

**GEORGINA RUIZ  
MONICA ARREDONDO  
ISABEL VARGAS  
MELISSA MICHEL  
LORENA  
SIGIFREDO RUIZ  
LILIA LOPEZ**

I'm a resident and/or business owner of this city and believe we can reimagine a better Pomona by redirecting our attention from policing our neighbors and neighborhoods to investing in them instead. I urge the council to direct city staff to study what a **redirection of funds could mean for our Pomona families & black families specifically.** I urge the council to direct city staff to study the responses of the housing survey done regularly to see what community needs could be met by redirecting PD funding there instead.

*(The following individuals submitted the following comment below.)*

**WENDY MELENDEZ  
MICAELA MELENDEZ**

Dear Pomona City Councilmembers,  
I'm a resident of Pomona. I am writing about the city budget proposal. I am asking that the Pomona City Council make a more overt and visible commitment to racial justice. I demand that the budget vote be delayed so that Council may find ways to redirect money away from the Pomona Police Department's overinflated budget. I urge you to pressure the City Manager's Office towards an ethical and equal reallocation of the city's expenditures, away from PPD, and towards sectors that facilitate the dismantling of racial and class inequality. Research shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at reducing crime than police or prisons (Source: Popular Democracy). As such, I demand more aggressive financial support be directed to those areas. Do not forget our poor communities and communities of color who are disproportionate targets of police violence. Justice will only be served when the police are reformed, and this will not be possible until we defund them. We must bring the focus back to the poor and disadvantaged youth of Pomona. Can I count on you to consider an alternative budget that puts a focus on social service programs and programs for our low-income youth AND the people of Pomona?

**ADRIANA PINEDO** – Good afternoon Mayor and City Council members,

I'm writing to you again to re-inculcate the need for our City to re-evaluate how and where we spend city dollars, particularly the funds allocated to policing. For many, many years community members have been asking that we invest more deeply and intentionally into our families and youth. For years, community leaders, residents, agencies, etc have tried through different programs and initiatives to soothe these needs, but we seem to be missing an integral piece. Often, ownership in these initiatives is the missing piece or not enough community voice. Well here we are and community is speaking and speaking loudly.

I urge you as our leaders to listen intently to what our residents are really saying and for you to take that into consideration as you settle on our operating budget for the next fiscal year.

I recognize our nation is illuminating the issues with flawed and oppressive systems and that restoration is LONG and HARD work, but I trust our city is in it for the long haul.

**DAKOTA FABRO** – My name is Dakota Fabro. I am a resident of Pomona, CA. As a resident of Pomona, I believe the city budget should reallocate funds from the police and mobilize these funds to support Black communities, housing, employment, youth, queer resources, and the creation of a safety response teams. The residents of Pomona deserve a healthy community.

**BILLY LOPEZ** – Hello my name is Billy López and I am a longtime resident in Pomona from District 6 and I am saying that we as citizens of Pomona are calling for the Pomona PD to be defunded. We want more money to be poured into our education system for our youth, mental health services, and homelessness outreach too! These are just a few ways we can change the way we view safety in our communities. Policing was an old way of looking at the world and it clearly shows that it's not working for us and we need to change it. We demand for a better Pomona now! If not, we will put those in office who will reflect our needs and values. Defund Pomona PD now!

**MITCH ELIAS** – Thank you Mayor and Councilmembers for making a concerted effort in leading our city through this challenging time in our history.

In reviewing the proposed budget, I noticed that certain funds directed to Pomona PD will be reduced for FY 2020-21 which encompasses 15 less sworn positions and a reduction in the Homeless Outreach Support Team program. While it may appear to be the socially responsible thing to do, my concern is that the quality of life of residents throughout the City of Pomona will further deteriorate. Remember, for a city the size of Pomona, Pomona Police Department is well below the national average per capita of sworn officers. With that being said, the City of Pomona has a greater demand for services than the average



city due to the various degrees of crime and other challenges which puts a larger strain on the already understaffed department. Reducing funds to the Pomona Police Department may only exasperate the problems our city currently has.

Again, thank you for all your dedicated work and tireless hours during these trying times.

**FRANCES KIM** – My name is Frances Kim and I've been a resident of Pomona for over 10 years. I was in Claremont for nearly 20 years before moving to Pomona. I am at 3636 Sumner Ave., #114, Pomona, CA.

I'd like to express my support for Pomona city council members to vote to defund the police and divest the money into programs including affordable housing, public gardens, mental health care, community services, public school support and literally all other sectors other than funding the police! Thank you for listening to your constituents and making us proud!!

**PAIGE BRUYN** – "Hello, my name is Paige Bruyn, and I am a 30 year resident of Pomona.

Constituents are looking to the Council for bold and courageous leadership. And I am concerned about the Police Department's proposed General Fund Expenditures budget of \$61.57 million, which is 52.7% of the total proposed Expenses of \$116.69 million. This police budget does not represent any meaningful reduction from the prior fiscal year.

Recently I took the time to visit the Cal-Access website, from the Secretary of State. There I found, that in 2018 alone, the Pomona Police Officers Association, Political Action Committee, registered over \$9,000 in donations to the City Council campaigns of Victor Preciado, District 2; and, Steve Lustro, District 5.

The Mayor and the Council are leading us down the wrong side of history if they overlook this conflict of interest. An office holder should not accept financial support from a group of employees. So I respectfully request that both Councilmember Preciado and Councilmember Lustro recuse themselves from the vote to approve the budget tonight and from any vote containing items involving the police."

**ROBERT DOUGLAS** – Thank you for taking the time to read and hear my comments. I am a relatively new resident to this city, but have grown to love this community. I am emailing you to express my deep concern regarding the proposed budget you will be voting on today. The national outcry against the murder of George Floyd and countless other unarmed Black people at the hands of police is forcing government agencies to reflect on the ways in which racism and anti-Blackness have historically corrupted our institutions. Cities across the country are reevaluating their funding priorities and shifting funds away from policing efforts towards community health, wellness, and safety



programs. Pomona has an opportunity to be a leader and an obligation to its citizens to follow suit. I believe Pomona can thrive, but we won't get there without deeply engaging the community you claim to serve.

I am asking the city council to:

1. Vote for a temporary budget (3 months max).
2. implement a participatory process to develop a budget that involves community, as to actually reflect community needs and values.
3. Commit to radical government transparency, especially around spending and policing.

**GRACE KIM** – I am a resident of Pomona, CA and I support abolishing the Pomona Police Department.

**GISELLE RANGEL** – We need you to DEFUND the police and allocate funds specifically supporting the black community and INVEST in the lives of our youth, families, and children. In supporting this, we can have a new line item that can serve black lead initiatives where their voices can be heard and supported based on their needs. In investing in our community, we can create and fund wellness opportunities by hiring counselors, mental health professionals, and more in our schools.

I demand action for black lives and youth in the City of Pomona. We need our voices and our youth to be acknowledged and not be dismissed during this historical movement of our lifetime. Currently, your budget substantially supports Pomona PD, rather than having this money be reallocated to the community of Pomona. In that support alone, upholds white supremacy and its damaging effects that our community and many other people are faced with on a daily basis. The previous city budgets that have been approved in the past, no longer meet the needs of our community and we need you, all city officials to help us, move forward for a better future for Pomona.

**HAYDN CAMPMIER** – We demand there be actual transformative change within the Pomona budget for Black Lives, Black Youth and working class community voices. Leaving the Pomona PD budget where it is from last year is unacceptable and not what we asked. We are requesting defunding of the Pomona PD, creating a new line item in the budget to serve black families and significant investment in children, youth and families. We heard nothing of the nature, in the initial budget meeting, as it regards black youth, family or children services. It was avoided in all conversation of what the budget would look like. That is the power white supremacy holds within this city council. You all can't even mention black youth services or black family services. You all skipped over it entirely. Check yourselves! Defund the Pomona PD and reallocate, with a separate line for black family services on the budget, black family services & black youth services!

**EMILY MIRANDA** – This pandemic has shown the lack of concern all government officials hold for the safety and dignity of its constituents by refusing to cancel rent, not including ALL workers in economic relief, forcing people to continue to work despite their health, by ignoring the health of millions of people caged in city jails and state prisons, by continually ignoring and actively destroying Black lives and Black communities. We need access to housing and health services for all, nutritious food, youth centers, and none of this will be achieved by funneling more funds into policing. I demand that elected Pomona city officials do the work to change these conditions and meet the needs of the community or step down. They can begin by changing the city's budget and listening to community demands.

**CARRIE BAKER** – As a 40 year resident of Pomona I feel the city should fully fund our Pomona Police Dept. To those that oppose funding Pomona PD I ask you "take the wrapping off the box to find the treasures that are inside" I understand the need for youth programs. Over the years, I have seen real inter-action with our Pomona PD and the youth & our communities; DARE program, Cops for Kids, Explorer Program, the Youth Camp-Out. We have Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop and remember the PNRP's ?? When I explain these activities to friends from other cities.....they're amazed that we have a community relationship with our Pomona PD. Their cities have no youth or community activities.....or maybe they never "unwrapped the box to look inside." The people that wish to defund our Pomona PD probably never participated in PD's community based programs or spoken with a Police Officer at a function like Coffee with a Cop. They have never unwrapped the box to find the treasure. Thank you to the men & women of Pomona PD for the work you do. I encourage City Council and Mayor to fully fund our PD,

**ANY REYES TAM** – I am a resident from district 4 and I demand that the city of Pomona stand in solidarity with the BLM movement move into the direction of defunding the police and fire firefighters so that 75% of the city's budget is not being spent between these two groups but instead is actually being poured back into the actual community. I want to see money being given specifically to black lead organizations who can respond to the needs of the black community, increased mental health services, training to create new forms of community safety that stop policing in the community but actually respond to the needs of people and stop criminalizing people. We need to create response teams who can mediate, help folx stay safe in various social conditions and situations and be connected to the resources they actually need. Pomona has great services but most of whom are underfunded or do not provide services in Spanish and or culturally appropriate ways. I am a therapist and am trained in trauma and culturally informed practices that can serve the local community. Pomona has a wealth of skills and talents but are we providing the opportunity for change? no. Lets demonstrate though our budget what we really believe in. The current budget shows our priorities but we must change that NOW. We need housing, jobs, education and expansion of wellness services for all aspects of community: balck community, youth, elderly, homeless, queer, gender non conforming, undocumented, DV. Thank you for your time and be committed to the movement and

moment we are all being provided to change the our future towards one of justice. You are the person in power in this position at this time for a reason, trust that and move with the PEOPLE. We can only be as free as those most vulnerable.

**VIRGINIA MADRIGAL** – Good Evening Mayor, Council Member's. I've resided in the City of Pomona since 1993. As we see the violence that has resulted in the cities where elected officials have decided to defund their police departments. I worry that you will throw our police department under the bus and bow down to a small group of people that want to cut our police department budget. They're clueless and know very little about our police department and the successful programs that exist. They've never bothered to be part of a conversation or volunteered to work with our Police Officer's. Instead they spend their time criticizing everything our Police Department does. Those people have their own agenda, one that is not in the best interest of our city. If they had taken the time to be involved in our community, they would know that we've had Community Policing programs and grants in Pomona since 1995. We've implemented programs that have been very successful in creating a partnership with our police officer's and the community. These partnerships have made many of the neighborhoods in our city safer. I don't want our city to become a hostage to their demands, like the cities of New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Seattle. The violence there is what happens when lawless individuals are allowed to hold their community's hostage with their distorted demands. We need to have real conversations with real solutions. The kind that involve our entire community, not just a small anti-police group of people. We should all want our city to be a safe place where everyone's life matters. Including our Police Officer's.

**JESSICA BELTRAN** – I grew up and lived many years in the city of Pomona for that reason I demand action for black lives and youth in the city of Pomona. Our voices need to be acknowledged and not be dismissed or ignored. We demand defund the police and allocate funds specifically supporting the black community. We can achieve this by listening to black voices and have black lead initiatives that can create support to the black community based on their identified needs. Instead of funding school resources officers invest in the lives of youth, families and children. Instead of the current policing happening in our schools, fund and create wellness, healing opportunities hire counselors, social workers, mental health professionals. We need to be heard and make changes!!

**HANK FUNG** – We need to review police budgeting, thoughtfully which will remove some of their duties and transfer them to other departments which may not need to be armed while keeping trained sworn individuals for instances where they are necessary. However, I do not agree with calls to defund the police. Indeed, reductions in the police budget often affect civilians who can relieve burden of officers in report taking and administrative tasks. It is known that Pomona's officer per-capita ratio and spending per resident is below the national average and well below that of surrounding cities. Pomona is not an overpoliced city. A bottom up approach with community input shall be implemented during the next

fiscal year, to determine the services the public wants to be provided by the police department and other services which could be provided through other means. Also, if we are going to have a strong civilian oversight commission, like has been proposed and is present in many larger cities, they would need to be funded to properly investigate incidents involving officers. I urge City Council to pass the budget with the freeze on spending increases and use the following year to obtain feedback about the future of the police department, rather than rush through a budget cut which could have detrimental impact to public safety.

**ANTONIO BEAS** – I grew up and still a current resident of the city of Pomona. As a tax payer for the city of Pomona, I urge you that more funds go towards education, mental health and lower income families of the communities. We need to educate our city into becoming a mature in the future, and not intimidate with police presence. We need more business owners, more quality educators and community involvement in the city. As a resident of the city for many years, I have been on the wrong side of the departments "mistakes" and by increasing the budgets, the department is becoming more dominant, and have never suffered consequences for their actions. It is time for the city to spread the budget on the future in a more justified way.

**CHERYL SIMPLISS –**

\* This online comment procedure is very discouraging and not easily accessible to all Pomona residents. I see this as an attempt to further silence the voice of the unheard and neglected of this city.

\* I have resided in Pomona for 32 years and have not seen progressive change. There's always excessive talk and no real action. This is not the time for business as usual. The city budget should reflect the needs of ALL Pomona residents, not just law enforcement and other city officials who most likely don't live in Pomona.

\* During these changing times, we all find ourselves making adjustments. The city budget also needs adjusting. Our poor library needs more funds, our marginalized seniors need better services and healthier food. There is a great need for public restrooms and more mental health programs.

\* Millions of dollars are spent every year on various projects, and so-called repairs. Why does Pomona look and feel the same?

That's it for now. Thank you.

**YESENNIA DE LA TORRE** – I am a Pomona resident living in district 6. Mayor and Council Members, the proposed reductions and vacancy savings to the Police budget for 2020-2021 are not enough. Do not pass a city budget that continues to allocate over 50% of the city's General Fund to the Pomona PD. I challenge the Mayor and City Council to



take bold action for Pomona and defund the Police. We demand divestment from law enforcement and reinvestment in systems of community care and opportunity, alternative forms of emergency response and public safety. The police should not be involved in dealing with un-housed people, mental health emergencies, drug addiction, domestic violence, etc. Move the money from the police budget toward bringing in non-law enforcement emergency responders like mental health workers, medical workers and social workers. These professionals are specially trained in handling these crises with care, intervention and treatment, not violence and incarceration. Our priorities need to change in Pomona. I urge the Mayor and city council to adopt a budget that prioritizes universal needs (such as housing, childcare, healthy food, clean air and water), pandemic recovery and re-imagined public safety over the police department.

**JESUS SANCHEZ** – Mayor Sandoval,

Residents are pleading with you to release them from a police state. In the past, you have shared that as a grown man and as mayor that you still fear police presence when out. This fear is something that most of us share, but it is not normal. Why should residents fear a city department that takes the majority of its resources in the name of public safety? Does this sound like a healthy relationship to you? Is this the environment you want for our youth and your newborn?

Your budget shows us that you haven't listened.

Your budget is leading us towards the wrong side of history.

Your budget is in alignment with upholding white supremacy.

Your budget invests in policing and not healing.

Pomona is tired. Our young people are tired. Defund Pomona PD now! Invest in our black community and our children, youth, and families now!

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

Don't choose the wrong side of history Tim.

**CLEMENT TSANG** – My name is Clement Tsang, a graduate student at Cal Poly Pomona, and volunteer community member at the Pomona Farmer's Market. I am including a short write up below about our work at the farmer's market to try and include more voices and participation in today's public comment. I appreciate you reading this and we would love to conduct more qualitative data and research actions. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!



**Introduction:**

The "Conversation Station" at the Pomona Farmer's Market solicits participation from market visitors on various issues. This report is on the third iteration of the Conversation Station. It is recommended that the Pomona city council begin a process to amend the city budget and adopt Civilian Control of Police.

**Research Design of the 3rd iteration**

Talked with 16 community members about the city budget and wrote down notes on where they think the exorbitant funds for emergency services should better be allocated to.

**Findings:**

The figure above is a word cloud, generated from transcribed notes from conversations. The most salient themes were improved public infrastructure and programs. One child shared their vision of an "open store" for folks to paint rocks and self-express. The child's mother shared a story about a young foster youth that received effective counseling and uplifted the need for more services for the houseless youth.

**Recommendation:**

1. Reallocate 10% of the budget to fund incentivized and compensated participatory community meetings made of multiple stakeholders from all 6 city districts representing community organizations that operate from a restorative/transformational justice framework.
2. Convene a simple majority BIPOC study/working groups/task force regardless of citizenship status, and hold weekly public forums and meetings to receive community input and engagement, check-in next month on progress, and commit to amending the city budget to benefit all equitably.

**MALCOLM LUGO** – My name is Malcolm Lugo. I am in my mid forties and recently finished three associate degrees and am now enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona with a year left to complete my bachelors degree in social work. I moved to Pomona when I was fifteen years old back in 1989 and have lived here since. Back then, there was a black owned youth organization that helped minority youth find jobs. Due to that program, I worked for the NAACP, DMV, The Welfare office, and the public health clinic. I learned a lot from this agency and did not feel discriminated against being that it was founded and

ran by an African American man. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the police in this city. Throughout all the years of me living here, I have been harassed for absolutely no reason. I have been taken out of my car and handcuffed for having a three inch school permit on my rear-view mirror, to getting pulled over by the Pomona Task Force while driving home from massage therapy school, all the while wearing my school scrubs and a backpack filled with books all of which were tossed around my dad's car. The content in the glove box was thrown all around inside the car and my backpack was thrown on the street. I was on the curve handcuffed and noticed that no one of the officers had a badge on and when I asked why this was happening, I wasn't given an answer. Only for them to get back in their car and leaving me on the curve. No one should be in constant fear to be out doing what good citizens should do while being harassed. I now have a nephew who is about to be a teenager and given today's political climate, it is terrifying to know that this 2020 and nothing has changed. There aren't any programs for or after school for kids to have a safe place to go to, do homework with a tutor there, and there aren't any counselors/social workers at any of the school or any nurses working daily. This has got to change immediately. I use to work for the city of Pomona many years ago and use to see the incoming mail to some of the higher employees of the city in which they would get paid credit cards, gas for their vehicles and an absolutely inflated wage to basically have a title. All these monies could be helping our communities be clean with educated kids and not have people ask me, "Isn't it dangerous living there?" when I tell them where I live. I am asking to DEFUND THE POLICE and 1) invest in the black community & 2) in the children, youth, and families of Pomona.

**FANELLY MILLAN** – I'm a community organizer in the Inland Empire. As someone who directly benefited from after school programs in the city of Pomona, I can testify that having access to resources & guidance at an early age can greatly impact someone's life. I'm writing today to ask you to please reconsider the increased allocation of our city's budget to the Pomona Police Department. I strongly disagree with the plan to allocate more than half of the city's budget to law enforcement. I suggest that you listen to our petition to Defund the Pomona PD and create a new line item in our city's budget to invest in our youth and serve our black community. Thank you for your time.

**ERIN RUNIONS** – Good evening city council:

Why must 62 million dollars be given to armed enforcers of white supremacy, private property, gentrification, and heteropatriarchy? Why must it be given to those who enact toxic masculinity? To those who harass and criminalize youth in our schools, the unhoused in our parks, street artists and vendors on our streets, and people in their homes. As a city and as a community we deserve more.

If the Mayor and City Council need to defund the Pomona Police Department by half and reinvest in a better Pomona. Youth in the city have been calling for:

- Black Youth and Family Programming, with space and resources for youth programs, recreation, mentoring programs, cooking programs, alternative economies, composting and gardening programs, and more.
- Wellness centers and wellness programs with trauma and social justice informed therapy, and distribution of resources.
- A space and a center to provide housing and care for our homeless Black, Indigenous, Person of Color and queer youth.
- Community gardens in every park, with paid positions, internships, and city-funded water.
- Arts and Culture, including public Black and Brown youth-led mural art in parks, accessible art classes, reclaimed spaces, and accessibility pathways in all spaces.

**ELLIE O'BOSKY** – I live and work in Pomona and I'm calling on City Council to commit to changing the budget to reflect our city's values. People want change. Approve a budget that temporarily reallocates 10% of the budget from the police department to participatory budgeting for a month. Convene a simple majority BIPOC study/working groups/task force, regardless of citizenship status, and hold weekly public forums and meetings to receive community input and engagement.

I made a list, based on conversations with 16 people at the Pomona Community Farmers Market, of what they asked funds be reallocated from the police to: youth, police accountability, food access, studying mental health issues and addiction, mental health services, basic services, services and resources for people who are homeless, libraries, community services, better schools, teachers, roads, water quality, better safer streets, senior centers, healthy food education for people on welfare, community gardens, studying why people call the cops for and developing alternative services, activities for children, parks.

I heard people have a different idea about what public safety looks like. Putting people in jail is not fixing our problems. To create a safe and vibrant community we must invest our future.

**CHRIS BRIGGS** – My name is Chris Briggs, and I live in Pomona. I am asking the City to consider redirecting our budget from policing to more restorative justice practices. I believe City officials should respond to the input coming from people of color in our community. Thank you.

**BRADFORD REED** – To the City Council.

I have lived in Pomona for 16 years. I am disconcerted by the high percentage of our city's budget which goes to our police. I would challenge the good people of the council to think strategically about reducing allocation to the police so that other programs may enjoy a larger slice of the pie. We all want a safer city, but many have come to question having the police as nearly the sole tool for accomplishing that-- indeed, many have come to perceive the police force of this size counterproductive to that very goal. Let us diversify our toolbox; Pomona might become an even better place to live if eventually we saw the police force only needing a third or less of the budget.

**KATIE RUIZ** – My name is Katie Ruiz, and I live in Pomona. I'm calling on the City Council to redirect funds from the police department budget to more restorative practices. Police officers merely respond to crimes; Having access to community resources prevents crimes. Pomona would greatly benefit from choosing to reallocate our money to funding more beneficial programs instead of funding police.

**ELI FELDMAN** – To Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, City Council members, City Manager James Makshanoff, and Finance Director Andrew Mowbray:

After generations of broken promises and failed reforms, black and brown people continue to be the target of police violence, abuse, incarceration, all while the budget for the PomonaPD balloons at the expense of community programming and infrastructure.

The numbers are irrefutable - 53 percent of the general fund department's budget is committed to the police as housing, parks, education, and health needs are de-prioritized and stripped of resources and receive single-digit percentage allocations. The proposed budget perpetuates systemic racism - if your vote will not help end it then our vote will end your privilege of representation.

Do more than show up at a BLM march Mr. Mayor. It was good to see you there, but we demand more from you and this Council. Start with the PD budget and sustain reform by creating study/working groups/task forces *that reflect Pomona, regardless of citizenship status*, and hold weekly public forums and meetings to receive community input and engagement. Finally, help permanently stop the shame that is Pomona LivePD. It encourages violence and distorts the image of our community.

**JESUS GONZALEZ** – Dear elected Pomona officials you must acknowledge that the community wants funds to be reallocated from the PD into other community services that desperately need the money. Any discussion not acknowledging those demands is negligence. Mayor Sandoval please acknowledge that love for the community and love for the PD are not synonymous. If our community matters then a majority of the funding should be going to revive our library, refine our schools, combat poverty, and end homelessness. The primary role of the police is to protect property, capital, and values



derived from white supremacy. Addressing our city's crime rate to justify a violent police force is pointless when the root causes of crime are not addressed. Majority of the community, as diverse as it is, are part of the same class struggle. It is in everyone's best interest to have a budget that reflects the values of Pomona's working class Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community and not the values of an oppressive regime that prioritizes profit over people. The message is on the wall, the message is on the streets, the message is on your computer screen. DEFUND THE POLICE!

**GRACIELA CONCHAS** – Good evening Mayor and council members, Black lives matter, black youth matter, black protest matter. By now I hoped you all realized and acknowledged that Black liberation must be achieved in order to begin to liberate all other marginalized communities. However, you have all clearly showed otherwise. We are in a pivotal moment and your actions matter; you have all shown time and time again that you are not on our side. Instead it is clear that you are all choosing the wrong side of history. You literally have young people of color taking to the streets telling you they are being abused and oppressed, that they have zero hope for their future. And you dismiss their calls for help. Mayor, you just brought a human being into this world, remember that the choices you make now will not only impact our lives but your baby's life too. We demand a people's budget; we demand you defund the police in order to help the community, we demand families be kept in their homes, we demand you listen. We deserve courageous and bold leadership that will center those most vulnerable to systemic oppression, which are the Black community and working class of Pomona. You all have the opportunity to reimagine Pomona alongside us, please make the right choice.

**ANEL HERNANDEZ** – To quote Rashad Robinson, "budgets are moral documents, they say what we actually believe, what we care, what our values are." As a lifelong Pomona resident, I URGE you to listen to the working class/marginalized community of Pomona for ONCE. It has long been overdue. I urge you to prioritize Black lives! We may not have control of the world, but YOU have an opportunity to DO BETTER for Pomona. To do right for Black people, to do right for Black youth! YOU have ignored us for way too long despite pleading with the council time after time. The youth is our future! Do for them what should have been done with earlier generations. During the protest, you said you were, "with us" but how does that work when more than 75% of the city's budget goes to police and the fire department? What we hear you saying is that you are allowing the continuous abuse of power from the Pomona PD. You have an opportunity to make a profound impact in Pomona today, and I hope you truly are with us. With Black lives, with the youth, for a better tomorrow.

**AMEERA SALAMAH** – I demand for Black led organizations and Black youth to be prioritized in regards to defunding the Police department. I am calling on you to support the safety, rather than the harm of minorities and marginalized groups that have been violated by the police department. I believe that distributing resources that will help amplify and give good resources will help those Black voices that have felt powerless for



too long. By defunding the Pomona PD, there will be more opportunities for the safety and mental health of Black lives. For example, by investing in mental health professionals and counselors, there will be more resources that are accessible for Black youth.

**ELIZABETH BROOKS** – Dear Mayor and Members of the Pomona City Council:

We, the undersigned, encourage you to support the Pomona Police Department.

Defunding the police is a breach of public trust. The citizens of Pomona are depending on you to provide the protection they deserve in their homes and businesses. An increase of our tax rate was just approved by the voting residents of Pomona in hopes of hiring more police officers. Outside influences should be sent home to destroy their own communities, not ours. We have great regard for our local law enforcement who not only police our community, but work with our youth and their programs.

Lawlessness cannot be tolerated by communities of faith and prosperity. We have worked diligently since our Charter was signed to be a city of law and order.

You were elected to represent us in the endeavor to live and work in a lawful community. Do not allow the despicable behavior of a few around the country be welcomed here.

We encourage that you not divert funds from the Pomona Police Department to social programs. The members of the Pomona Police Department have earned our respect and deserve the loyalty and support of the community. Thank you.

**DANNY MCCOLGAN** – What are the POLICE going to do this Year!!!

I personally delivered a report to the Police Dpt on the 2017 incident and told we don't accept those it would be a 4-5 hour wait to talk to an officer. I suggested call me and I will come down to the Department and again "we don't do that". So who do we turn to? We turn to you our elected officials for help.

So myself along with the rest of the community are scare our house is going to burn down. We're scare our animals are going to run away. We're scare for our children that it is going to get worse and we have no one to turn to to protect our property. Hundreds of residents are concerned as you know and we elected you to address these kind of problems. I realized "times" are difficult now but we need something of a plan for this disaster waiting to happen.

Fines, Confiscations, it's time the Citizens take back this town and for once we get ahead of the problems that persist in this Community.

TAP Transparency, Accountability, Productivity=A Successful Motivated Municipality. One that starts at the Top so that the Citizen's quality of life glows for the betterment of the Community.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM NO. 3 – URGENCY ORDINANCE ON FIREWORKS**

**KRISTIE KERCHEVAL** – I want to express my concerns regarding fireworks on Ganesha Hill. We have been hearing them every night now for a couple weeks. My husband called into the police last night to report that he saw several young men on the ridge of Ganesha hill lighting up fireworks. There is a road up to the hill that is easily accessible to anyone who wants to go up there and set off fireworks. They know no one will come and stop them, because when we call in to the police, our calls are ignored.

This in addition to campers on the hill having open cooking fires is a great concern to all of us. Especially this summer with the dry brush on the hillsides. These fireworks and cooking fires are a great danger to us. Please stop these illegal activities NOW for our everyone's safety. How many times do we have to call for help to prevent fires on the hill? This is a disaster waiting to happen. Please end the fireworks and camping in Ganesha Hills.

**OLIVIA CORONA** – My concern is the FIREWORKS going night after night 😊. PPD issues a citation & a promise to appear. This is so ridiculous, if they are able to purchase a good amount of these illegal FIREWORKS do you think a fine of \$1,000 is going to stop them, think again, it has not slowed them down a bit. Another concern is all the animals & people with PTSD having to deal with these loud explosions, their anxiety levels are so high their thru the roof. My dogs are so scared they rub underneath the bed or the jump on my lap, they are shaken beyond belief. The alternative is to medicate them, and yes this get expensive. Why can't there be a stricter penalties for illegal FIREWORKS. The City of Pomona would to add additional revenues to the coffers. Please Please HELP the law abiding citizens & their pets of Pomona.

**JOAN MCINTIRE** – Dear Mayor and City Council members,  
Please consider taking the issue of illegal fireworks in our city very seriously. Many of us have had sleep disrupted, veterans and pets traumatized, our homes threatened, and it needs to be curtailed somehow. Each year the fireworks start early and seem to go on for months.

We live close to a place that has fireworks used frequently. The Wells Fargo bank parking lot on Pasadena St. between Eleanor and Palomares is one location where someone sets them off, if not nightly, then frequently. We see sometimes evidence of this left on the pavement the next morning. It is too dark to identify anyone late at night, but neighbors do try to patrol this area.

Increasing the penalty would be a great start to curtailing the problem, and also having the police available in patrolling all parts of the city.