



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 15, 2020

Approved by:

Date: June 15, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Raul Peralez".

SUBJECT: JUNE'S BUDGET MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Mayor's Budget with the following amendments:

1. Restore \$700,000 to the cuts from the Community Service Officers budget on a one time basis for two years, \$1,400,000 total. (Source: Police Budget)
2. Accept Recommendation 4 from Councilmember Esparza and Councilmember Arenas's memorandums dated 06/11/2020 and double the funding for the Office of Racial Equity from \$200,000 over two years to \$400,000 for up to four years. (Source: Police Budget)
3. Add up to \$150,000 to fund an independent after action incident report of the recent protests. (Source: Police Budget)
4. Add up to \$15,000 to the IPA budget to fully update their online complaint form so the community can upload photos and videos to their complaints. (Source: Police Budget)

BACKGROUND

The 2020-2021 Budget has been a moving target since the budgetary process began in March and this past week was no different. The City Council concluded the first of what will likely be many public hearings on police use of force, as well as learning that the State may now be clawing back over \$15,000,000 from the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Given the most recent incidents and information, I put forward the recommendations above for the Council's consideration.

Community Service Officers (CSO) have been an integral part of our Police Department and although the funding eliminated was for vacant positions, the need and value of CSO's continues to be fundamental to our community and diligent efforts to fill the vacancies is necessary. Recognizing we can't fill ongoing positions with one time funding this request is asking for two years of funding with hope that these positions will be restored permanently after those two years.

Last year the Budget nearly passed by a vote of 6-5, this was specifically due to disagreement regarding funding for an equity framework. In a back and forth debate with the Mayor last year, I expressed my interest in creating our own Office of Racial Equity, similar to what many other cities have done throughout the Country, and here one year later, the opportunity is right before us. Given the former challenges, I was committed to achieving better results this year. When invited into the Mayor's Budget Brown Act this year I expressed to him I had one main goal, which is to include a substantial investment towards equity within the budget. I am happy to say we now have the commitment from our Mayor and our City Manager to continue the important equity analysis work and create an Office of Racial Equity to oversee the implementation of equity throughout every function of our City Government. I agree with my colleagues Councilmembers Esparza and Arenas that the office should be adequately funded and that it should include a more immediate focus on systemic inequities within our Police Department. In consultation with City Staff I understand the opportunity for philanthropic and grant dollars are becoming more readily available in order to adequately fund the work of this new office. I also believe our City's commitment should be more significant, therefore, I am recommending we double our commitment with the opportunity to use it over four years or sooner should we have more of a need in the early years of initiating the office.

After the extensive public hearings from last week, it is clear that our community deserves an independent after action report. I encourage using the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) as a lead partner in completing this work. Additionally, after speaking with the IPA, I have learned that the office has received over 1,000 complaints since the protests began and more disappointingly, that the website needs immediate upgrades to adequately accept uploads of videos and images. I appreciate our Information Technology Department working quickly to resolve this and I encourage the City Manager to allocate these funds immediately to complete this important work.

These recommendations should be funded from within the currently allocated budget for the Police Department, allowing the Chief's discretion in consultation with the City Manager to determine how.