I Strongly disagree with reducing our police Department Budget. Our Officers and staff have put a lot of time and effort into making Salinas a safer place. I think they are already below budget for the work they put into the community. Salinas has been known for crime at a high rate and now you don’t even hear about Salinas that much anymore. They have done a great job taming the city and bringing peace. I believe this is all because of social media and should not effect Salinas. Please do NOT reduce Salinas PD Budget.

Thank you!
To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jose Amezcua and I have been a resident at 1735 Humboldt Drive in Salinas for over twenty years. I am writing this letter because I have never felt concerned about my privacy until now and am looking for guidance on what to do about this situation.

About two years ago, Tony Villegas made the decision to rent out a bedroom from the home across the street. Ever since then, words cannot express how uncomfortable I have felt living in my neighborhood. This individual has violated my privacy on numerous occasions and has exemplified negative behavior towards me which surprises me because he is a city councilman for District 6. However, his job title is meaningless to me because unfortunately he does not show characteristics or morals of a councilman due to his rudeness, racism, invasion of privacy, and judgement about me and my life. Instead, he abuses his authority and this has made me feel very uncomfortable living in my own home. He has harassed me by constantly looking to see what I am doing. For example, I have evidence on my surveillance videos of Villegas coming out to take pictures of my vehicles to intentionally get me in trouble. He has called the community service officers for not moving my vehicles after 72 hours although I have never left my vehicles parked for that amount of time and have not violated any laws. Still, he has continued to call Sevco Services on me and have tickets issued on my vehicles. In addition, he has made racist remarks about me to the owners of the home in which he lived in such as labeling me as a “low life beaner.”
I am a hard-working father who minds my own business and simply wants to relax at home after a long day of working to provide for my family. However, this man has made that impossible and the discrimination I have received from him is unfair. I have communicated my frustration and concerns with police officers and they are just as exhausted as I am of dealing with this issue. Therefore, I am writing this letter because I do not know what else to do to resolve this. I hope this letter serves you well and that there will be action taken to resolve this issue and help me go back to living a peaceful life in my community.

Sincerely,

Jose Amezcua
Hola Buenos días tengan todos ustes. Mi preocupación es que el presupuesto de salinas está solo llevado en gran mayoría para la policía y bomberos, sabiendo que el futuro de salinas está en los jóvenes y su educación. Teniendo niños y jóvenes ocupados tendremos una mejor comunidad, me gustaría que tuviéramos más programas para jóvenes y si se pudiera construir o rentar un edificio para donde los jóvenes tuvieran videojuegos, música, patinaje, mesas de juegos como futbolito o ctr. Lo pido para que salinas esté más libre de violencia. Y esto pueda crear más trabajo para los jóvenes y entretenimiento. .
Dear Mayor Gunter and Salinas City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you as a voting resident of Salinas, asking that you focus on budgeting for our community. As the nation mourns the loss of not only George Floyd, but the deaths of countless people of color at the hands of local law enforcement including our very own community.

It is imperative that we re-center the budget to meet our community’s needs. As our elected officials I invite you to lead these efforts for the best interest of our community. Now more than ever, it is crucial to restore justice, respect, accountability, and harmony in Salinas through community-based efforts. I urge you to consider the voices of the community and re-image effective community interventions including investment in our infrastructure (parks, sidewalks, greener public transportation), youth programs, mental health and public health efforts.

Respectfully,
Brenda Rodriguez, District 2
Please see attached public comment for today's city council meeting.

Respectfully,
Mireya Moya
As a native resident of Salinas. There are many things that I feel proud and passionate about my hometown. Therefore, in 2017 my husband and I decided to establish our future here in Salinas and purchased our first home in the North Side of Salinas. Nevertheless, there is a problem that I would like to bring up to Mayor Gunter and City Council members, I highly believe that there has to be a change within the city’s budget. We need to invest in our younger population, which makes about 30% of our population (US States Census Bureau). Our budget and funds must positively impact our community and be allocated directly towards our public parks, libraries, recreation centers, after school educational programs, and youth programs that are more critical than ever in order to best support and ensure the continuous growth of minorities in Salinas.

I am against funding the police department more than 30% of the city’s budget, crime has decreased since 2006 with the help of preventative measurements. Therefore, the City of Salinas must focus and continue to provide more support towards community efforts and organizations outside of the police forces.

I demand investment to our minority groups in order for each and every one of them to have the opportunity to strive here in Salinas.

Respectfully,
Mireya Moya
Council public comment,

Please read the attached letter.

Thank you,

Marco A. Becerra
Construction Inspector
Public Works Department
City of Salinas
200 Lincoln Avenue | Salinas, CA 93901
June 9, 2020

City Council Members:

My name is Marco A. Becerra I have worked for the City of Salinas, for over 24 years.

I have witnessed the value of well experienced and dedicated employees that have served their community and have provided options to overcome city needs. I hate to see yet again, loosing valuable employees due to lack of leadership, and support to current employees.

Funding cuts compromise taxpayer services and weaken enforcement. Taxpayers already suffer by not receiving services and the city continues to cut the services that are seen & “visible” to the residents of Salinas. Instead, consider investing in the City. Consider requesting for management to sacrifice their benefits that do not impact the services to the residents of Salinas that we all serve.

Thank you,
The police chief just hired 5 recruits that are currently getting paid awaiting a July academy. She has also received approval to hire an additional 7 positions. Asking for a concession to subsidize other employees salaries doesn't make any sense.

Respectfully submitted employee & resident of Salinas Carlos rios
Good Afternoon Mayor,

I am writing to see if my words will be heard, among more. The reporting of city money and how it is divided in order to provide a safer and better life for residents was astonishing. I am aware you know the numbers already, but just to reiterate. The fact that the police department acquires 44% of the General Fund and Measure E & F is enraging. I personally would like to see more being done for the community rather than against the community. I do however understand the basic structure that police play, yet there is too much that our police officers do. I believe that there are ways to get the police force to be a job of quality rather than quantity.

Looking at the fiscal year 2019-20 compared to the fiscal year 2020-21, there is an overall decrease to all departments in order to increase the police budget once again. I foresee a problem in this proposal, there should be way more mental health facilities and more homeless facilities that are funded by the city. I don't feel as if "fleet replacement needs funds" nor do I feel as is, "SWAT needs funds for equipment replacement which is aging out" nor a need for "Range staff requesting an increase in funding for ammo mandated for training." The reason I say this is because there already is $30 million to work with. Support and priority must be shown to strengthen the ties between the community and leaders of the community.

What it is that I ask? I ask you to reduce the over 50 million budget of police to create more departments that the community can benefit from. Reinvest to fix parks, sidewalks, etc. By simply reducing the department from 45% to 30%, there is $17 million to do and be better.

I am ashamed to say that I have never attended a city hall meeting. This is my community for now and for my family, now at 20 years old, I will have my name recognized by all of the city council.
Hello, my name is Abraham Mendez and I would like to comment that I want to be proud of my city and my city council, and the only way that'll happen is if the council listens to the people of the city; we want to divert money away from police and into safer and more necessary resources, like schools and infrastructure. Thank you.
Hello,

As a citizen of District 5 I am writing for more fiscal year funds to be allocated to public services like the libraries, mental health, and homeless prevention programs. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Smith
I think this is a horrible idea and knee jerk reaction to what is happening nationally. Salinas police already has officers going from one call to another with no breaks in between to do regular patrols. 459 alarms, past tense 211, assaults can pend for hours before an officer is dispatched making the citizens anxious and worried during these tense situations. If you defund the police how do you plan on fighting crime? What’s your plan when the murders start climbing back up? Also where will the funds go? Will this go to the general fund for the council and city manager to d with as they please? Will you ask your citizens when this backfires in your face for more taxes because you will need more police on staff again? Are we truly thinking long term or we simply cowering to the few and making knee jerk reactions do to nation wide out rage? Also if the council members truly feel outraged over racism why haven’t we heard more from them in past years about it?
> Good evening. I am hearing that the Salinas City Council is considering cutting the SPD budget by 30%. I am writing this email to express that I am not in support of this. With the hard work of the SPD we have seen significant decreases in violent crimes in the last couple of years. My concern is that with a 30% cut to the budget staffing will decrease and we will see record violent crimes return. I have just recently began shopping in Salinas again. If crime were to increase again we would take all of our shopping to others areas which would decrease the much needed tax dollars. We would like to support our local businesses but if we are concerned about our safety we will take our tax dollar to other cities. I also fully support the purchase of necessary vehicles and equipment to protect our officers and the community. Thank you for giving me a voice.

Andrea Lane

Andrea
To whom it may concern,

I am a Salinas resident and greatly concerned with the possible defunding or lowering of funding for the police department. That is the last thing I believe should be happening. If anything, we need more police force and funding with the current events going on. The conduct during the George Floyd incident has only increased the amount of vandalism, destruction and death. We cannot lose our police force! We already have an abundance of gang issues and other crimes and without our police force the community will be in complete despair. Please don’t allow this for the sake of the innocent that want to go on with their lives and have a safe community for their children and family to live in. We depend on law enforcement and if we can’t, what kind of situation will we be left with? A place where no one feels safe. No one will care about clean streets, new libraries or public facilities if we don’t feel safe knowing that the police are there to protect. Please consider this and God Bless.

Rachel and family
To whom it may concern,

As somebody who works very closely with public safety, I can say without doubt that any sort of cut to the police department’s funding would not only put every single citizen at an increased risk, but it would continue to jeopardize the ability of the department to do the work it does 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The department is already struggling to handle the amounts of calls for service on a daily basis due to short staffing, and the budget cut being proposed by opposing groups would cut any progress made off at the knees. I strongly urge you to consider the safety of the citizens who put you where you are, over the voices of few whose main objective is to destroy the police that would be the first to respond to their cries for help without prejudice or delay.

Regards,
J. Perrien
Dear City Council,

Don’t be absurd.

Thank you -

Ken Rozin

--
Ken Rozin
Corporate - Straight Line Sales
I urge you to keep our Police Department FULLY FUNDED. Salinas has a huge problem with gangs, weapons, drugs and violence.

The community needs Law Enforcement protection. What will happen is people will take the law onto their own hands causing destruction in our city. Keep our city safe, please.

The last thing Salinas needs is a lawless City. Salinas Police are very professional, hard working, honest. I'm very proud to be a resident of Salinas and our Police Department.

Thank you for listening,

Debbie O'Conner
My name is Jeff Davis, I am a Los Olivos resident and can’t stress enough to end this lunacy of defunding SPD. Again, DO NOT CONTINUE WITH THE CRAZY NOTION OF DEFUNDING SPD!!

Thank you
I have been a resident/homeowner of Salinas since 1995 and am a retired Police Officer of the City of Salinas. I am total against defunding our Police Department. This city is very violent and dangerous already and if the police Department is defunded I can just imagine how chaotic this city will become. Our Officers do an excellent job in keeping our city safe and put their lives on the line daily. Please do not approve this absurd proposal of defunding our beloved Police Department.

Sincerely,
Juan Cruz-Gonzalez
Retired
To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of the City of Salinas and have nothing but respect for the Salinas Police Department. The men and women of this department put their lives on the line every day. They work in a city that has a high homicide rate per capita and a huge gang problem and they work extremely hard to keep the citizens of this community safe. And how do we repay them? By trying to cut their budget down by 18 million dollars! This is horrible and I find it disgusting that it is something that is even being discussed.

If the City Council decides that cutting the Police Department budget will make for a "safer community" then I have truly lost all hope for common sense in humanity! What I can guarantee is if this were to pass, the City of Salinas will see a spike in all crimes, and once the Police Department is outnumbered and the City of Salinas has been destroyed it will be impossible to get back. We have seen this time and time again. Nobody in Salinas will care about an expanded library or recreation programs when they don’t even feel safe going there or sending their kids to these programs. Salinas is still fighting to make the community feel safe, please help by keeping the funding for the Salinas Police Department and show them the respect they deserve!

Thank you,

Jana Kaster
I am pleading with you to not be pressured by Anti-police activists, many of whom don't EVEN live in Salinas trying to DE-FUND SALINAS’ POLICE DEPARTMENT!

This will not be in our cities best interests.

California’s cities will only accomplish pushing out more residents the same way the state has pushed out business with such an unfriendly business environment.

Sincerely,

Holly Hebert
Dear Salinas City Hall,

With an understaffed police department and the high amount of crime in our city, we can not afford to defund the brave men and women protecting our city. The safety of our city is the first priority before we can begin rebuilding and renewing. Please do not consider defunding our protection.

Kindly,

Ashley, Salinas Citizen
I'd like to say that defunding SPD, or any law enforcement agency, is irresponsible and unwise.

Instead, we need to ensure police policies and procedures include non life threatening ways to ensure compliance in an area, based on my experience as a retired civilian employee of the Salinas Police Department, that doesn't respect law enforcement. Officers also need to receive appropriate training in that regard.

I support the Salinas Police Department in working with citizens to promote public safety.
Please do not defund the police department. Salinas PD is doing an amazing job keeping the citizens safe. Please do not defund them. I am a taxpayer and do not believe that this action would help the city, only hurt it and make the city dangerous again.
To whom it may concern –

My name is Sarah Sale, and I’m a former resident of Salinas, CA. I still consider it “home” and visit often, as my parents and brother and his family still live there. Actually, my brother used to be a Salinas police officer quite a few years ago, but decided to change careers (Chris Stark).

I don’t think Salinas should even consider de-funding the police. I don’t understand how anti-police activists think this is a good idea and justify their stance. Salinas PD already fight an uphill battle with constant and high crime activity. De-funding would only make that worse. I believe de-funding the police would make Salinas a place on the map to be avoided. You would lose tourism from people who attend Salinas events (Rodeo, especially, but others as well) as I think they’d be afraid to attend. I know I would think twice... You would also lose tourism from people who pass through going to coastal tourist areas. I’m not sure how much of your revenue comes from city events and tourism, since it’s so close to the coast, but I think it would take a hit if you consider this asinine idea.

I feel like the only people who support de-funding the police are those that get in trouble. Their reasoning is selfish and to gain the ability to do whatever they want. Those of us that hardly ever interact with the police, because we are honest, law-abiding citizens, appreciate the police presence and feel safer when we see them out doing their jobs.

Please do not de-fund the Salinas police. It would be a grave mistake.

Thank you,
Sarah Sale
Supervisor of Accounting, Fiscal Services
Ceres Unified School District
Hello,
My family fully supports the Salinas Police Department and we cannot even believe de-funding is even being talked about!
The city of Salinas has enough crime and defunding would create chaos and anarchy.
We support SPD!

Manuel & Melissa Ortega
I strongly disagree with reducing our Police Departments budget. Our officers and staff have put a lot of time and effort into catching criminals who murder, rape, rob, and etc. already short staffed and on a budget that was already reduced earlier in the year. As it is, i don't believe our officers get paid what they deserve for the amount of crime a small city has. DON’T reduce our PD’s budget.
Don’t be stupid, be smart!! Defunding the Police is a horrible idea!

We must fund the police department fully! We have a huge crime and gang problems and defunding our department Is pretty much handing it over to the gang members!

- Lyle Skeen
Dear City Council members,

I have been a Salinas resident for over 50 years. I went to Kamman, El Sausal, and North High. My mother worked for the Agricultural Commissioner ioner, CDE my father was a small business owner, and his shoe shop is still on Laurel Drive. I love Salinas and defunding the police department is NOT the right answer. I agree that these are trying times, but taking away money from the officers that keep us safe. The Salinas Police department, and consequently the residents of Salinas, would be punished for the actions of a department in a different state. Defunding our officers makes us even more vulnerable to Central American cartels who are already established in our city. It would directly impact our special units such as the Drug Task Force that currently is fighting the fentanyl and meth epidemic. Our hard working officers have done nothing wrong. Don’t jeopardize our safety.

Trudy Finney
Fearful 50 year Salinas resident
My name is Ulises Carrango and work as a Senior Worker in the Urban Forestry department and a proud SEIU 521 member. I am providing my statement regarding the concern of the Council who has yet to review the budget and yet will be approved on June 23 council meeting. For years and decades, we have come to work and provided services to our city proudly and have been invisible to our work and dedication to the city, and now, during this pandemic, we are now vital essential workers as you on this council have stated and we have heard from city management.

As an essential service worker I provide maintenance and safety to our Urban Forest.

Yet we are now asked to help balance the budget on our backs, as we have done in the past. We have learned from the last recession that austerity is not the answer and it took our nation 10 years to recover jobs lost. We must invest in our future if we want our economy to thrive.

Your management team is proposing to take away benefits that are minimal costs compared to those of executive and management. For example, did you know that 5 executive positions including City manager, Assistant City manager, City attorney, finance director and human resources director has seen since 2015 to 2018 a 82.5% increase in their lump sum and other pay, in addition to their combined salary over $988 thousand dollars. But you are letting management choose to cut from us – working families – who do not have the luxury of wages and perks that average over $195 thousand each.

Ulises carrango
My name is Ray Montemayor and work as a equipment mechanic II in the Public Works Fleet department and a proud SEIU 521 member. I am providing my statement regarding the concern of the Council who has yet to review the budget and yet will be approved on June 23 council meeting. For years and decades, we have come to work and provided services to our city proudly and have been invisible to our work and dedication to the city, and now, during this pandemic, we are now vital essential workers as you on this council have stated and we have heard from city management.

I provide essential maintenance and service to all city fleet vehicles.

Yet we are now asked to help balance the budget on our backs, as we have done in the past. We have learned from the last recession that austerity is not the answer and it took our nation 10 years to recover jobs lost. We must invest in our future if we want our economy to thrive.

We are being asked to give the City full authority to take 10% furlough and then give the City management full authority to take up to 20% and with what checks and balances? You cannot ask us to blindly give you full authority to harm our family’s livelihood without knowing the projected budget and what the city can do to ensure we don’t further harm our economy. We must be honest with our community and your essential workforce you depend on day in and day out.

Ray Montemayor
Dear City Council,

I have been living here in Salinas for over 20 years now. I am reaching out to make my opinion known. I do not have any family members in the Salinas Police Department or any special interests. I am an active working member of our community and a parent of teens, I 100% support our Salinas Police Department. I sure hope and expect you all will do what is best for our city and FULLY fund our SPD!! I personally feel anything less is NOT acceptable and definitely NOT in the best interest of our community. We need to keep our city safe and keep enough officers on the streets. They are the ones looking out for our well being by protecting our streets and who we call when we need help. Now more then EVER do we need them! Again, please fully fund SPD, it is crucial to keep resources going which will allow the department to continue to work at making our city safe so we can go out in the day and sleep at night.

Thank you,

Leslie Hall
Dear Sir / Madam:

To Whom it may concern.

I am writing this email to state that my name is Vikas K. Patel and I am a resident of Salinas since 2002 and have been living here along with my family. I work in Salinas as well.

Over the years, I've had several opportunities to see the value of our Salinas Police on a personal level. I successfully completed a Citizen's Police Academy, which was a 16 week course hosted at the Salinas PD through the leadership of Sgt Heath Johnson.

Further to that, I have interacted with our children's school district where we have SRO assigned and met officers Lopez and Sanchez.

I see through the local news and keep myself updated on all the crime prevention that goes on in our very own Salinas and Monterey County in which our brave officers have put themselves at risk to keep us safe.

This email is to share my views on the issue about "defunding" the Salinas Police Department that has come up in wake of recent Activists.

I fully support the Salinas Police Department and request through this email to the leadership at City of Salinas, to NOT defund the Salinas Police Department as we need these brave officers to keep us and our families safe in the City of Salinas.

I will reach out to my near and dear, asking them to show their support and send similar emails to the City of Salinas for their support to the Salinas Police Department.

Sincerely,
Vikas K Patel
Please Keep Salinas “FULLY FUNDED”

Thank you!

L. Lizaola
Councilmembers,

I live on North Main St. and I want you to know that I am writing to tell you I support Salinas Police Department, and the budget they have. I live in Councilmember Cromeenes district, and I am asking her especially, to vote as a representative of us here in the district. We need police officers to have the tools and funding necessary to do their jobs. Please **fully** fund SPD.

I’m deeply concerned that the council would consider a budget cut to our Police Department. We need officers to respond to all crimes - domestic violence, break-ins, gangs, rape, homelessness, theft, etc. All of these issues are now multiplied by high unemployment and the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. Now is definitely not the time for cuts to our Police Dept. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Boye
Hello,

Please see attached letter to be read during public comment at the next scheduled council meeting.

Thank you,

Bonnie Adams
Executive Director
Monterey County Hospitality Assn
June 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have been very fortunate our number one industry, agriculture, has been able to remain open and operational. As you know, our county wide number two industry, hospitality, has not been as fortunate and has suffered tremendous losses both financially and from laying off over 13,000 thousand employees. It is time for our hotels and resorts to re-open and we need your help!

The economic impact to the county alone in the first 90 days is over $198M dollars. Our collective cities have had an additional economic impact of over $368M dollars. We understand for some of our cities these revenues fund more than 40% of their general fund. Dollars which are spent on fire and police in order to keep our communities safe.

The majority of the revenue is generated by our hotels and resorts. It is imperative we re-open them to non-essential travel ASAP. Attached you will find the SIP for LA County, where they already have the language in place to move forward. We need our health director to revise our SIP now and establish the protocols so we can get back in business. Other destinations such as Napa and San Luis Obispo are actively marketing and are seeing there is demand to travel.

Our hospitality industry has gone to great lengths to create protocols to protect our guests and employees. Additionally, the CDPH and CAL OSHA have established COVID-19 Industry Guidance. We all understand the importance of life safety and we feel our collective county wide hospitality community leaders share the same concern. The responsibility to take care of our employees and guests is our number one priority.

As you struggle to move forward and make painful decisions regarding your cities budget, please keep in mind the sooner our industry re-opens, the severity of the financial impact to your city will lessen. We need you to reach out to our Supervisors and Dr. Moreno and support our efforts to re-open now.

Sincerely,

Jeroen Gerrese
President, MCHA
I was born and raised in Monterey County and know intimately how Salinas and the city's spending impacts all communities across the county. I'm writing to echo the pleas of The Movement for Black Lives and countless organizers on the ground in Salinas and throughout the county — please ensure that Saliens public services are fully funded and expanded, even if that means moving money away from the police department, which enjoys huge funding advantages compared to most other cities on the peninsula.

We know that real public safety comes from fully funding public services recreation, libraries, and museums — so let's ensure that they're expanded and funded.
The Monterey County Workforce Development Board is here to help. Our Work Experience Program can help supplement labor costs for local business, and also help fill volunteer positions, with young adults, ages 18-24, that are eager to learn and want to work. All costs are covered by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, (WIOA).

We can connect a local business with talent during these hard times. This program offers a business, 320 of hours for a paid labor at no cost to the business. Workers compensation is covered by the program. Work opportunity tax credit (WOTC) up to $9,600 of tax credit per individual, for qualifying businesses that hire on the participants.

The Work Experience Program will help lower the cost of new hire training. We also offer ongoing support for those within the program. i.e. work attire, tools, and certifications.

Businesses can interview our participants and halt the program at any time. Utilize the tax dollars that you’ve already paid.

**Through partnerships we can build a stronger workforce for our community.**

For more information call [contact information] or email [contact information]

Michael Artalejo  
Job Placement Coordinator  
Turning Point of Central CA.

Salinas, CA 93901

[Monterey County Workforce Development Board logo]
I support our Salinas Police Department 100%. Do not dismantle this amazing group of Officers who have dedicated so much to our city. More training, yes. Update protocols, as needed. But do not dismantle our Police Department.
Thank you,
Norma Bozzo
Dear City Council –

I want to be counted as a Salinas citizen who fully supports the Salinas Police Department. I want to keep the SPD FULLY FUNDED.

So much progress has been made; I do not want to let anyone start to undo that progress.

Please do not consider any cuts to our Salinas Police Department budget. Keep Salinas safe with a fully funded SPD.

Thank you!

Ginger Stark
Creekbridge resident

Learn how we’re helping our clients.
Dear Mayor Gunter and Salinas City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you as a voting resident of Salinas, asking that you budget for our community. As the nation mourns the loss of not only George Floyd, but the deaths of countless people of color at the hands of local law enforcement, now more than ever, we need to support our children and families.

Our local police department is set to receive an increase of $711,946 in their budget which is already nearly half of our entire general fund (45%). At the same time, our Library and Community Services Department is projected to lose $326,000 of their funding having only received 8% of our budget as it were. This is unacceptable. The youngest members of our community deserve access to clean parks, online learning spaces and library resources, and to continue to have access to the quality sports, arts, and cultural programming taking place in our recreation centers. Furthermore, we need to fund mental health professionals, crisis de-escalators, and other resources for those suffering from domestic abuse and addiction, who are too often subjected to unjust policing. Please take action to make the necessary investments for the future of our community.

Sincerely,
Daniel Ibarra, District 2
Vivienda para Todos.
Investing in our youth is a subject worthy of our attention as well as our tax dollars but this is not the right approach. The underlying sentiment is that we are penalizing law enforcement for the sins of a few. They need our support more than ever and this sends a message that they can easily be disregarded and life will go on peacefully. There are deeper issues within our communities that need to be addressed that cause youth to go the wrong direction. This is an oversimplified plan without the data to support its proposed outcomes.

--

Ashley Tedesco
Dear Salinas City Council,

We are a family who has resided here in the North, East and South sides of Salinas for over 20 years. We understand the national narrative has caused angst nationwide, and also in our community. We also know SPD has recently been targeted for "defunding", and we as a family want you to know we fully support the funding of Salinas Police Department.

Our city struggles with gang issues, and violence, and it is important to keep the rest of us feeling safe in our city. We work here, we have kids that go to school here, and we want to stay here.

We strongly support the budget being kept "intact" for Salinas PD.

Thank you,
David and Megan Ramon
San Tomas Drive
To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Salinas and as a mother safety is my outmost concern for my family and my community. Maintaining the Salinas fully funded will continue to provide safety for our community.

I am sadden by recent events involving police officers we should not punish all police officers and put our communities at risk because of the bad judgement or the abuse of power by a few bad apples per say.

I support all police/peace officers that do right by their people and the community which is t a vast majority of our officers. I have the outmost respect for those who risk their life to keep us safe.

There are better solutions out there like police reform that includes investing more time for training, continues training, mental state assessments, serious investigations when reports are filed against any police/peace officers.

A process of disciplinary action needs to be established when more than 2 reports are made against any officer and this process needs to be fully transparent coming from the police department to the community. This will continue to build trust between the community and our police department. This process would allow the police department to identify the few bad apples and be able to rectify the issue or get rid of the bad apples.

We need the Salinas Police Department to be fully funded and not only that but get additional funding to support the process I mentioned above.
Salinas PD has done an amazing job keeping this city safe and tracking gangs down! Keep them funded! We have good cops in this city and it should stay that way! WE SUPPORT SPD. KEEP THEM FULLY FUNDED!
I will like the city council to know that we support SPD. Please keep it fully funded.
Thank you
Hello there.
First off, this shouldn’t even be a topic right now for discussion.
We Need the police department. We Need them to keep doing what their doing to keep us all safe! We Need them, period. Defund them, abolish them, take them away and this whole city becomes a huge shit show.
Please please, from a LEO wife, and a mother and a huge supporter of our SPD, Do Not Defund our police department!!!
Hello Mrs. Barajas

Please enter my letter in the public comment section/records.

Thanks so much.

Ms. Asya F. Guillory
Earth Systems Science & Policy  B.S.
Class of 2003
10 years of Service to CSUMB 2007 - 2017

~ "That which you are seeking, is causing you to seek"
June 7th, 2020

Asya Guillory

Attention: Salinas City Clerk, Mrs. Patricia Barajas,

Dear City Council members and Mayor Gunther,

Some time ago, it was brought to my attention that one of our esteemed elected officials, Mr. Tony Villegas posted a racist and horizontally oppressive video mocking the farmworkers who break their backs to make this city the respected, Salad Bowl of the county.
Mr Villegas callously made remarks as he was driving on John St. mocking labor workers for not “socially distancing”. His words exactly, “It must be Taco Time”.
I have yet to learn of or witness a public apology on his behalf nor from Mayor Gunther on behalf of all of the Elected officials that are holding seats representing the working class people of Salinas.

As an employee with the department of Commerce, I have observed first hand the neighborhoods in which our farm workers inhabit. It's apparent the lack of attention and funding these communities receive. Furthermore, the fact that these workers are residing at a motel is indicative of the inequities that exist this population. I am gravely disappointed that a fellow Latino male would publicly mock his own people instead of informing the workers of the new Shelter In Place/ Social Distancing ordinance.

Like many residents of Salinas, upon hearing this I was embarrassed for the council and to know that Mr. Villegas has yet to publicly “make this right” is further evidence of his lack of commitment to serving unbiased and with integrity.

As an ally to our families that work on the front lines and in the fields, they deserve a compassionate apology. It's what is right and long overdue.

Thank You,

Asya Guillory
To whom it may concern,

This is Liliana Guzman and I support Salinas PD. I believe our city needs law enforcement officers to keep us safe. Do not defund the Salinas Police Department.

Sincerely,

Liliana Guzman
--
Liliana Guzman
Psychology Major
California State University Monterey Bay
Hello,

My name is Nancy Mendoza I am a resident is Salinas and a local member of the NASW. I support our Salinas Police Department however, I and encouraging our city council to look at allocating funding to preventative programs that support our community and Remove responsibilities that have been imposed on our officers to more appropriate programs and professionals. If we focus on preventative measures we can and move funding to do so we will also allow officers to focus on other matters. Additionally, perhaps Chief Frese can look at the requirements for our SPD and possibly consider changing requirements to be that officers have a 4 year degree and more social justice and cultural competency training to reflect that they know the community they serve and protect which is majority POC.

Thank you!

Warm Regards,

Nancy Mendoza
I am an educator requesting the City of Salinas reinvest a portion of the budget allocated to the Police Department into the Library & Community Services Department and Public Works.

Working with incarcerated men, the most significant factor leading to their imprisonment has been a lack of access to education and community services as children. The majority of my students in the prison are people of color, and every single one was born into poverty. Instead of access to learning spaces and recreational opportunities, they were criminalized for being poor. Arresting these folks does not eliminate crime, it exacerbates it.

I work with Salinas’ elementary school students during the day, and teach their fathers in prison at night.

Due to the pandemic, local school districts have been asked to cut upwards of 20% of their budget; not thinking critically about how much of our budget is spent on policing is dangerous. The research is clear: The most cost-effective way to reduce crime is to invest in education and community resources. Increasing police funding while simultaneously reducing community resources is immoral and a gross misuse of the public’s money.

No one is asking to eliminate the police but instead to reinvest a portion of that money into preventative programs and the professionals in mental health, education, and community services. Nearly 1,500 people have supported the online petition, and I’m told there are over 100 emails saying the same. You are responsible to the whole community, not just its loudest voices.
Good afternoon Mayor and City council,

My name is Daisy Cortes and I would to ask you that you think about what defunding our police department will do to our city and community.

The reason why murder and crime has gone down is because of our law enforcement. Now if you adjust or defund the department all that will do is force our officers to leave elsewhere and crime will go back up to what it once was before. Our city and community will suffer tremendously. I understand that we need to make adjustments however I know we can make adjustments elsewhere from other places instead of our police department. I don’t think that adjusting our law enforcement is the best choice for anybody or the community. Really think about what you will do.

Thank you,

Daisy
KEEP SALINAS PD. THEY ARE A VITAL PART OF THAT COMMUNITY AND PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO NOT ONLY THE PEOPLE OF SALINAS BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTY OF MONTEREY. People generalizing about the police is beyond me..they do so much more good than harm especially in a city like Salinas. Without police, we are not only endangering the lives of the community but the lives of first responders as well who respond to treat ANY person in need of medical attention no matter what they’ve done. Defunding the police is one of the stupidest things America could do, especially during this troubling time.
Dear City Council please do not even consider defunding our police department. That would put the residents of Monterey county at great risk, considering our gang situation already. Thank you

Cynthia Marie Lee
I believe that funds can be put to better use, it can go to schools for their after school programs or for new playground equipment. It can go towards building new parks (including dog parks), there are so many empty lots especially in East Salinas. We need more LGBTQ+ friendly places, new rec centers specifically for at risk teenagers who are targeted by gangs. Police should be more approachable.

Regards; A concerned resident of Salinas
Good evening,

It has been brought to my attention that certain groups within our community wish to defund our local law enforcement as sign of protest. As public opinion of law enforcement is at an all time low due to the protests happening across the country, it is for this exact reason we must NOT define our law enforcement. We as a community must stand with our law enforcement officers as we have before and not bend to the will of the ignorant many. They ignorant few have no idea the issues that plague our communities everyday and seek destroy was our law enforcement has worked so hard to achieve in our city.

My only goal in this message is show my support for Salinas Police and show that not every citizen of our city thinks poorly of law enforcement. Law enforcement is necessary and is the only thing keeping us safe from those who wish ill on our city.

Thank you,

Concerned Citizen
Pro Law Enforcement
Good afternoon, Esteemed Councilmembers!

My Board Chair, Luis Alvarez, has asked that I pass this along to you.

Please call if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kimbley Craig

(cc'd to Patricia Barajas to add into the record)

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Kimbley Craig
President and CEO
Monterey County Business Council
Subject: SUPPORT of Salinas Police Department

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey County Business Council, made up of business, government and educational leaders vested in advancing responsible economic development in Monterey County. We wanted to communicate our support of Salinas Police Department, and the significant work they do to ensure our community is protected and safe.

As you may know, the critical impact of revenue in your city allows for services to be provided to your residents. For many years, Salinas struggled with an image issue, which was worsened by the national spotlight of gang activity and drug trafficking. You have since "moved the needle" by introducing other positive economic elements of the city to be spotlighted. Ag Technology continues to be a source of pride for us in the Salinas Valley.

Additionally, Chief Frese has made great strides in diversifying the department and has excelled in reaching out to a greater portion of the community. In recent years, Salinas Police Department has done a fantastic job in hiring more people that are representative of our community. The statistics are interesting—there is a majority of minority officers (79 sworn!) within Salinas Police Department—signifying a huge shift in hiring over the last few years.

145 Currently Sworn Officers:

Hispanic – 64 sworn
Asian, Pacific Islander, etc. – 13 sworn
African American – 2 sworn
White – 66 sworn

I cannot fathom why there would be a consideration of reducing the budget, when for the first time in decades we seem to be succeeding in lowering crime and increasing our revenue streams. Despite the recent pandemic, Salinas has the ability to bounce back economically from this and continue forward to become the city we are proud to call home.

We ask that you support Salinas Police Department and consider the consequences of reducing the police budget. Keep Salinas PD fully funded.

Sincerely,

Luis Alvarez
Chair, Monterey County Business Council
To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that anti-police activists are requesting the City of Salinas to reduce funding to the Salinas Police Department. I respectfully request that the powers that be not only reject this unrealistic request but also stand up to this dangerous group.

I was born and raised in Salinas. I have lots to say but I will only say this: Salinas is well known for having a high crime rate.

Growing up, my parents rarely let my siblings and I go farther than a block from our house. Sometimes it felt like we'd inevitably be the victims of some type of crime. My parents always told us to dial 911 if we were ever in trouble. Dialing 911 for help from a police officer was the only thing I felt I had control over.

I've never had a bad experience with a Salinas Police Officer but if I ever did, I know that the complaint process is available and I have no reason to believe it would not be dealt with in a professional matter.

Most people who are not supportive of police have no idea what the job entails. Many of them claim negative experiences because they or someone they know have been the suspect of a crime. Of course it's negative, they're the 'bad guy'!

The silent majority is law-abiding, appreciates the Salinas Police Department's efforts and recognizes the importance of every police officer and PD employee.

Salinas Police Officer’s are some of the most dedicated, well-trained, and honest officers I've ever come across. They're one a several reasons why I'm proud to say I'm from Salinas!

P.S.

I urge to consider increasing funding to the Salinas Police Department in order to stay competitive with other Bay Area police departments.

Sincerely,

A concerned Salinas resident
Dear Salinas Leaders,

Our Police Department’s funds cannot be touched (defunded). As it is, there isn’t enough officers to keep up with our city’s crime. Defunding just does not make sense in anyway. A KION news article published 8/17/19 stated there were concerns of “short staffing and difficulty keeping employees” and also that “there’s not enough officers to meet minimum staffing on a daily basis.”

These officers risk their lives and deserve the best of benefits and pay.

Thank you,
Concerned Citizen
As a lifelong resident of Salinas, I am against defunding Salinas Police department as well as Monterey county sheriffs department. We need Salinas police who chose their careers to protect and serve. I do not believe defunding the police will help any type of racial divide. Sidewalks, and large libraries will not help. If BLM claims to educate cops, well how can that happen

When there is no money. Once this type of defunding happened you will see a number of officer leave. SPD isn’t fully staffed as we all know. We the community of Salinas Love and appreciate our officers!

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor Gunter and city councilmembers,

I am writing to support law enforcement budget requests in Salinas. I am proud of the work Chief Fresé and her officers have done, investing in community relationships, creating the Homeless Outreach position with Officer Carvey, and so many other programs designed to support community relationships and preventative measures.

I strongly support the department's requests for funding and technology for enforcement -- I live blocks away from where Mariana Jurado was murdered. I do not believe that reducing police salaries or equipment will protect the innocent from evil and violence. You offer that protection day in and out, no matter the political rhetoric or policy flavor of the month. Thank you.

Thank you for your commitment to public safety and the wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely,
Marieke Desmond
Dear city council of Salinas,

My Name is Hailey Wood, I am a resident of Salinas, and I would like to comment in support of removing a portion of police funding and putting it into community funding. Specifically I believe funding should go towards an aspect of the community which will benefit the quality of our residents mental health. Examples of this could include recreation areas, as well as our libraries and our public parks. We must address the root problems which cause crime, to end crime. Mental health is one of the greatest factors which cause individuals to commit crime, so if we support our residents mental health, we can prevent many crimes from occurring in the first place. I also believe we should consider ending our affiliation with the TV show Live PD, I believe it paints our city in a negative light and may encourage crime. Another idea could possibly be adding additional murals to our city, and create more opportunities for our residents to show their art and passion for the community. We could also potentially experiment with community based crime prevention as well.

I appreciate your time and consideration,

Hailey Wood
Hello,

I would like to state that I would like to keep the police fully funded. I don't believe there is enough information on the implication of the police being defunded and personally really terrified of the reality of the police not being able to do their job.

I do agree that we should have more plans to fund public programs for mental health and the other items that people are pushing for but not at the expense of our police.

Thank you for your time
Ariel Wright
And keep up the great work!!!
I am a physician assistant working at SVMH ER please do not defund the police here we can’t afford to lose any more officers
Jennifer Carlquist
Dear City Council,

Please do not cut funding to the Salinas Police Department. The Salinas Police Department is already understaffed. I am certain if you compare the 'officer to citizen ratio' both nationally and even statewide, you will find that our Salinas police department is already understaffed for a growing city our size.

Although we all stand united against racism and police brutality, please don't make the mistake of bowing to the direction of political winds that are blowing fresh with anger and frustration. Make the right decision for the people of Salinas over the long haul. Thank you.

Daniel & Frances Perez
Salinas, CA
Please keep Salinas Police Department fully funded. Salinas needs these hard working individuals at their fullest capacity. I ask that you consider the residents in Salinas and their safety. Defunding the Police will only lead to more crime and will leave the people in our community vulnerable.

Thank you for your time,

Tara Keaton
I respectfully submit my opinion for continuing and even broadening the administrative and financial support of the police department and all forms of emergency services. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael & Madaline Mastroianni
Monterey Bay Equestrian Center
To whom it may concern:

A reduction in budget for our Salinas Police Department would be detrimental to our city. This area is heavily populated with people that already do not think the law applies to them. Any reduction to the already strained amount provided to our Police will only increase crime rates & encourage behavior that will ultimately put more lives in danger. Walk around our city, read the crime reports. It's not for the faint of heart. Please do not jeopardize the citizens that love their community & take pride in what our city provides to our many non-profit organizations. Our children deserve a safe place to grow up! Safety & well being should be first & foremost. Reducing funding to SPD is the last thing that needs to happen at a time like this. Unrest is already abundant due to the ridiculous "orders" we are under.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McVay
A concerned citizen
Hi, please keep the Salinas PD FULLY funded.

Thank you!

Shelly
Please keep our police officers fully funded. We support our officers. We need our officers.
Black lives matter
Dear Salinas City Council,

I am writing as a life-long resident of Salinas and Voter. I am asking you to budget for our community. As the nation mourns the loss of not only George Floyd, but countless boys and men of color at the hands of local law enforcement, now more than ever we need to support our children and families. Our local police department is set to receive an increase of $711,946 dollars in their budget which is already nearly half of our entire general fund (45%), yet our Library and Community Services Department is projected to lose $326,000 of their funding when they only receive 8% of our budget. This is not acceptable. The youngest members of our community deserve access to clean parks, online learning spaces and resources at our libraries, and to continue the quality sports, arts, and cultural programming taking place in our recreation centers. Please take action to make the necessary investments for the future of our community.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing the Salinas City Council re-invest in our Community and our Youth.

Sincerely,

Becky Monarrez
We need to allocate funding to our community through public services and community services instead of overfunding and over policing our community.
Regarding Budget Split. I was born and raised in East Salinas. I now hold a professional degree and can sit here for hours lecturing you about something you are or should already be familiar with: consequences deriving from enabling a police state, over-policing, and stealing from already underfunded public resources. The community has reached out to many of you regarding this issue and the responses received including no responses speaks volumes. This issue is not about reelection or reputation it is about prioritizing our community, which you all promised. You all should be equally, if not more, alarmed by the budget split because you know the consequences that come with it. I want to call out the Mayor, Mr. Gunter, Finance Director, Mr. Pressey, City Manager Mr. Corpuz, assistant CM, Mr. Pia, and all district council members, DO NOT fall for the “tough on crime” failed tactics of the past. I ask you all to please take a head start on the $120,000 grant received to fund continued and expanded race equity training and start to try and understand race equity now, which includes giving our underrepresented, low income, minority youth an opportunity to demonstrate their full potential by RE-INVESTING in our community. If you decide, to NOT advocate or represent our community’s best interest by removing funding from the police, you are loudly stating that you agree with criminalizing our youth, criminalizing poverty, and you do not care about our future, or our public safety and health. It’s time to invest in education and healing.
Mayor and Distinguished Council Members,

As president of the Salinas Police Manager’s Association I am deeply concerned about recent calls to “defund” the Salinas Police Department by reducing the police budget. Another recent event thousands of miles away have sparked national outrage and the response by some is to vilify all law enforcement professionals. I came into this profession to serve my community and hold many of the same views as those outraged by racism and injustice. Where we differ is how we go about it. Defunding a police department will have devastating effects on the community and will not deter crime. Your voters spoke on their support for the Salinas Police Department when they passed Measure G. Removing funding will counter many of the great feats we as a department have achieved, and hinder our momentum in the local community. I ask the council to remember their commitment to the silent majority of our residents, to the Salinas Police Department, and to its members. You have one of the greatest police agencies in the country. Please allow us to continue growing with, and serving our community’s needs.

Respectfully,

Jim Godwin
President, Salinas Police Manager’s Association
Good afternoon Mayor and Council Members

During the last great recession, the employees and members of SMEA and SEIU have tirelessly worked with the City to help in the budget deficit. Since then, we have lost MANY co-workers to layoffs and after over 10 years, we have not yet fully recovered. Positions continue to go unfilled, frozen, or filled with part time and contracted employees. In 2015, full time positions far outnumbered part time. Now, there are approximately 150 SMEA full time positions, and over 200 part time. These are positions lost and workload absorbed by the full time employees. Here we are today, each of us going through the same crisis together; battling the stresses of the COVID virus both personally and professionally. While we understand there is a budget crisis, the City does NOT have to recover from it by cutting the lowest paid employees who are the “feet on the ground” providing services to the Community. The City Council has made it very clear that their priority is to maintain services to the Community however, this simply cannot be accomplished by way of layoffs or furloughs. The reduction in staffing IS cutting services. If one employee is furloughed, they cannot be expected to maintain their regular workload and then be expected to pick up the slack after a second employee is on furlough. The same is true for layoffs. Unfortunately, we have been “working more, with less” for several years now and frankly, we are worn out. We have faithfully carried this workload for the betterment of the Community but now it is time for the Council to make those hard decisions and begin cutting from the top. A tree will thrive by cutting the top branches, but it will fall and die by cutting off the roots. We are those roots. I encourage the Council to utilize the reserve monies to cover the $3.5M gap. Based on the Finance Directors figures, this would only be an approximate 30% of the reserves and would allow us time to figure out the real cost of the COVID crisis, save City services, and save the employees. Let us work with you to find areas within the City to draw revenue and prevent frivolous spending. The SMEA and SEIU membership is filled with committed employees with first hand knowledge of the areas for improvement. Please let us be of assistance to you so that we can provide the best services to the Community.
Hello,

As a resident of Salinas, I want to see our public funds be used to uplift our community.

It's understandable that many of our residents, and likely you on the council, are quick to dismiss those of us calling to "defund the police." What you may fail to understand is that nobody is calling for the complete abolition of the police department. Law enforcement can, and should, play a role in preventing and investigating violent crime. But we have to acknowledge that our current model of the spectrum of situations we ask police to handle is not rational.

When we talk about "defunding the police," we are talking about a gradual process of reallocating resources, funding, and responsibility away from police and towards community-based models of safety, support, and prevention.

The people who respond to crises in our community should be those that are best equipped to deal with those crises. Rather than strangers armed with guns, who very likely do not live in the neighborhood they're patrolling, we want to create more of a role for mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates - those who are trained in dialogue and deescalation to solve problems.

You can show your commitment to these necessary changes by reducing the current budget of the police department to 30% of the city's total budget, and reinvesting that $18 million in projects and programs that will build and uplift our community such as infrastructure repair, mental health services, youth programs, etc.

Sincerely,
Tyler Burrola
Salinas Resident
My name is Corina De La Torre. I am a resident of Salinas California, District 2 and I am contacting you today to demand a change in allocation funds of the in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I demand changes be made that will benefit our whole community. Our budget and funds must positively impact our community and be allocated directly towards our public parks, libraries, recreation centers, and youth programs that are more critical than ever in order to best support and ensure the continuous growth and education of all Salinas residents.

Thank you.
I see a city that has failed us. I see a city that profits off our labor but refuses to see us prosper. I see a city being led by leaders that are dangerously disconnected with the issues of their citizens. I see a city with one of the highest child poverty rates in California. I see a city that has blood on their hands. I see mothers who live day by day without justice for their child’s murders. I see youth being set up to fail. I see our future generations criminalized and deprived of opportunities. I see council members who do not deserve the seat they are sitting in right now. I want our youth to believe in themselves and a city that reinforces their talents instead of treating them like a statistic. We need to invest in the youth, we need resources for our impoverished communities. We need a solution to our ever growing housing crisis. We need resources for farm workers. We need leaders who care.

--
Berenice Magana
City Manager Corpuz, Mayor Gunter and City Council Members,

I am writing to you as a citizen of Salinas, employee of the city and a union representative. The radical call by activists to defund and abolish the police is absurd. Recent and ongoing violent protests, riots and looting throughout the state and across the nation is a small snapshot of what criminals thrive for.

Citizens and their families of this city, state and nation deserve and have the right to be protected from criminals that prey on others. The irony of being deemed essential during a pandemic to now, being viewed as disposable is mind boggling.

The thought of defunding, reducing and abolishing police is unconscionable. If it is the goal of the city manager and elected officials of this city to have criminal chaos, civil unrest and an increase in violence, then give into the movement.

I urge you not to paint all law enforcement with a broad brush. The men and women of the Salinas Police Department are dedicated to serving the citizens of this community with their utmost professional service.

The protection and security of the citizens of this city should be your priority. I strongly urge you not to give into the defunding police movement.

Sincerely,

Ruben Sanchez

Citizen of Salinas
Salinas City Employee
SPOA Union Representative
I am a high school student, I am 15 years old and I am worried about my future, as well as the future of our younger generation. I am asking you to not use up more than 30% of our funds for the PD department. I want you to invest in me and my future. Investing into the community will bring economic growth, leading to less crime rates, which seems like is your top priority. According to The Californian crime rates have dropped a total of 47% in 2019. This shows that police don't need 45% of the city budget while community resources only get <12%. It could be used to improve my community, improve my school, which lead to a better education and opportunities for all. Throughout the years police investment has noticeably risen while community resources have continued to have their funding. These statistics show that as of now the city cares more about over-policing than it does about me, and my community.

As a high school student in East Salinas I am part of a lower social location which puts me at a disadvantage from other students who have access to resources, academic help, counselors, and psychologists that I do not. That is why it is important for you all to invest in the community you promised to serve, so we have an equal playing field that is not determined by the place in which we grew up in.
Good afternoon Mayor Gunter and councilmembers. My name’s Omar Perez, life-long resident and Deputy Director of Xinampa, a community biolab based in Salinas.

At Xinampa, we believe in taking bold, innovative action to solve challenges in the laboratory and in the community we call home. That’s why we support defunding the Salinas PD.

Cities around the country, including Seattle and Minneapolis, have taken steps to defund their police departments. We urge you to follow their lead and immediately lower Salinas PD’s budget by at least thirty percent and reinvest those funds into the community.

It’s shocking that 45% of the budget goes to the police when only 22% goes to libraries, community services, community development, and public works combined. Budgets show our values; the pandemic and ongoing protests reveal how inadequately Salinas’ budget reflects ours. Our community needs affordable housing, access to healthy foods, quality healthcare, mental health and social services, and educational and recreational programs that are equitable and holistic. We need open spaces and well-maintained parks. We need infrastructure repairs and environmentally-sustainable public transit. We need just, regenerative agriculture and 21st century jobs.

We’re in difficult times but that’s why it’s important that you take a bold approach to the challenges we face. Let Salinas lead in envisioning and building a community that is just, equitable, prosperous and safe for all. The time is now to represent the values of this City, defund Salinas PD, reinvest in our community and begin building a new model of public safety.
Thank you to our police and Chief Frese for the good job they are doing, the great improvements in community based policing, and their condemnation of police brutality. That being said, the cuts required by COVID-19 economy need to be applied roughly evenly across the board. Mental health and public health investments are a long term investment. It is already hard to retain our public servants, but it is also hard to retain our residents who do not have the benefits available for other investments.

Nona Childress District 3
I have attached a letter for June 9 public comment

Propose to readjust and revise budget

June 9, 2020 at 2:20 PM

My name is Masa, I am a resident of Salinas. During the coronavirus break out, there has been a massive financial shift. I propose to readjust and revise the cities general fund including Measure E & G. I am support of readjusting the police department fund from 45% to 30%. As somebody that was active on Measure G. It is very upsetting to see that Measure G was presented during community workshops as a measure that will improve parks, fix sidewalks, support youth activities, and be able to provide safe and healthy community. I would like to clarify that, “safe and healthy communities “ does not mean giving a large portions of Measure G funds to the police department. these fundings belongs to the community. Even though I am representing myself today I know I am speaking for the community when it comes to this issue. Community tension is very high, so please, I ask the board to resolve this. Thank You
Hello my name is Rio Garcia and would like to submit a public comment to be read for the meeting on June 9th. This is my public comment:

Hello, my name is Rio Saul Garcia Ramirez, I am 23 years old and was born and raised here in Salinas. I write to demand that no more than 30% of the Salinas City budget go to the Police Department. Our community has a long history of distrusting police based on police killings of community members, police misconduct and use of excessive force. With the uprisings that have sprung in every state of this country, and around the world, demanding justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and the many others we have lost to police brutality, we are experiencing a cultural shift towards defunding the police as an institution and prioritizing our communities’ wellbeing. Let us not forget that we are still in a global pandemic in which Black and Brown communities have much higher mortality rates. Health experts warn that to Covid is leading to yet another health crisis of depression and general well being because people are cut off from their support systems and are too afraid to get regular check-ups during the pandemic. We are already in an economic crisis where millions of people are unemployed. This is a critical time to reallocate police funding into our communities’ physical and mental health, education, affordable housing, and community based public safety programs. No more than thirty percent (30%) of the city budget should go to the Salinas Police Department, those funds should be going directly to our community.

Thank you,

Rio Saul Garcia
I want to participate in public comment regarding the defunding of the Salinas police dept. I ask the city council to NOT defund the Salinas Police Dept

Jeanine Spano

Salinas Ca 93901
My name is Rosaura Sierra, I am a Salinas resident writing to you on behalf of the Expenditure Budget for 2020-2021. As a local voter, I respectfully demand that the city’s budget divest from the police and funds community programs. Based on an increasing number of reports regarding the disproportionate use of violence by police officers toward unarmed Black Americans and people of color, I am deeply concerned that such excessive budget can result in the lack of funds for programs that can help of our future generations.

Rather than treating communities of color as a source of trouble and violence, it is imperative that we all find ways to help them heal. The social determinants of our community such as housing instability, educational development, and neighborhood environments have kept Salinas residents from advancing through the socioeconomic barriers. Through the support of community funded programs and libraries, I was able to find refuge and escape the violent reality that many of the Salinas youth have faced. It is especially important now that our community is invested in. The recent Global Pandemic, has cut our education short, and many of our youth have been left behind. The support of our community programs and libraries are essentially to help our students cope with the educational barriers that will prevent them from excelling in school. Moreover, we have a huge homeless population and we need to use some of the resources to help address housing instability.

I am deeply passionate about our community and hope you can speak for the community's needs.
Hello,

I am writing to urge you all to reinvest funds away from the Salinas PD and towards community youth programs and recreational centers instead. As an educator who works in Salinas schools, it is very difficult to see how much police presence there is at our education institutions. This makes students feel intimidated, distracts from learning and builds the belief that our community does not believe in their ability to grow and contribute. Studies like the ones I have linked below show that policing disproportionately and negatively affects the educational experience of students of color. These funds could be better used if it were put into resources to keep young people engaged, empowered and cared for. Instead of policing the problems that our youth experience, use our tax paying dollars to remove the underlying causes of those problems all together. Thank you.

[Link to studies]
Dear Community Leaders,

I am Faviola Alcala, an employee at Alisal Union Elementary School District. As an educator, I am concerned with the lack of community reinvestment in Salinas. Our Salinas Police Department should not be receiving more than 30% of our entire general fund budget.

It is extremely inconsiderate, dangerous, and unfair for the SPD to be receiving up to $52.9 MILLION, while our libraries and community services receive only $8.9.

If the SPD budget would be adjusted from 45% to 30%, we would have a GREAT amount of opportunity to reinvest in our community.

It is time to TRULY INVEST in our youth and their future.

Due to the political and social circumstances in our country, it is important for the leaders of our communities to hear the voices of who they serve.

With all due respect,

Faviola Alcala
San Jose State University
B.A; Child and Adolescent Development
Minor; Sociology
Hello,

I believe it would be a horrible idea to defund the city's police department. The Salinas PD has done a great job in the past 10 years of keeping crime down, before this, I would hear of multiple homicides over the weekend and it was unfortunately becoming a norm. Without police presence, the crime in all communities will sky rocket and property values will go down, meaning less tourism and revenue for the city. The Salinas PD has a great bond with its community and that is important for raising the next generation to be respectful of the law and thus, keeping crime low. If a community has a problem with high police presence in that area, the community needs to come together and fix their own issues before considering removing police officers from that area. The citizens of Salinas are not ready to deal with a nude man, covered in feces, and high on meth attacking people with a metal rod or even a sword. Everyone who is for the defunding of police should really consider their decision because without law there is no order.

Thanks.

Miguel A.
Dear Mayor Gunter and Salinas City Councilmembers,

I am respectfully submitting this public comment for consideration at the June 9th Salinas City Council meeting.

I am writing to you as a social worker and Salinas resident to ask that you prioritize our community before cops in the city’s budget. In response to the outpouring of concern and outrage over the deaths of Black Americans by local law enforcement, I ask that you seize this historic moment as an opportunity to realign the values of the city of Salinas to invest in community services, public health, and other programs that strengthen and uplift our community over law enforcement. We cannot surveil, arrest, or incarcerate our way to peace and prosperity. Our community – like many around the country – is demanding investment in community resources and supports to promote real public safety.

As you know, Salinas PD is set to receive an increase of $711,946 in their budget, which is already nearly half of our entire general fund for the city at 45%. Conversely, our Library and Community Services Department is projected to lose $326,000 of their funding, which only amounts to 8% of the city’s budget. This disparity is unacceptable and out of sync with Salinas community values.

In my job as a social worker in the prison system, I have seen firsthand the long-term deleterious effects of lack of investment in education, housing, health, employment, and social services. When people’s basic needs are neglected, their survival and humanity are also threatened. Trauma, poverty, divestment, oppression, and desperation lead to crime and violence; policing is an inherently reactionary response that often serves to reinforce these entrenched social problems. I encourage the Salinas City Council to take a more proactive, preventative approach to public safety and thereby set an example for other cities through realignment of its budgetary priorities.

The youngest and most vulnerable members of our community deserve access to clean parks, online learning spaces and other library resources, and enrichment opportunities through quality sports, arts, and cultural programming that is offered in our recreation centers. Furthermore, we need to fund mental health professionals like social workers, with advanced training and skills in crisis intervention and de-escalation, and other resources and supports for those suffering from acute mental illness, homelessness, and substance abuse, who are too often subjected to policing rather than the treatment they need and deserve.
I strongly urge you to take action to divest from policing and re-invest in our community in order to strengthen and uplift Salinas for generations to come. Our community’s future depends on your leadership and the values you choose to uphold within our city.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this public comment.

Sincerely,
Christine L. Kregg, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Salinas District 3 Resident
Dear Mayor Joe Gunter and Councilmembers:

I write this to you today as a concerned father of 4 youth born here in this City of Salinas. The futures of our youth are at stake as you decide how to spend our community's public funds. Our community is suffering from extremely intense social economic disparities that have a deeply painful history of racial inequality. I ask that you hear the hundreds and even thousands of voices in our community who are asking that you take meaningful steps to address this. We must reinvest our City's precious public dollars to the maximum extent possible in the proactive measures we know will improve the futures of our youth and increase the quality of life for all of us. Please take action through your budget decisions at this time. Do not wait any longer, you have the power to address many of the most urgent needs facing our community.

Thank you

Matt Huerta
Salinas Resident

"Leadership in Housing and Community Development"
To whom it may concern,

Salinas PD should not be defunded.
As former employee of Park and Recreation
Salinas PD is the back bone of this town
Salinas PD does not have any issues like the ones we have been seeing across the nation

Salinas PD is essential to our lovely city defunding them would not be the solution these men and women put their lives on the line daily for our safety.
KEEP SPD FULLY FUNDED! This idea of defunding our Police is completely idiotic. Society will turn into Detroit from the film RoboCop. My pay my taxes and they are funding those that serve and protect.

Marek Piecyk
Salinas CA Tax Paying Resident
Please note that I am NOT in favor of defunding Salinas Police Department.

We count on them for safely protecting our community and are thankful we have their resource for any issues where law enforcement is needed.

Thank you for supporting and continuing to fund the Salinas Police Department.

Patricia Toomey
Salinas, CA. 93908
Hello,

I am writing to you to say that the City of Salinas should absolutely keep the Salinas Police Department FULLY FUNDED. It is outrageous that some feel that the department should be de-funded or have funds reduced. NO.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Albarran
This message is written to assert my position that the Salinas Police Department should NOT be defunded. Defunding of our only source of public safety and protection makes absolutely no sense and jeopardizes the safety of the citizens of Salinas.

Drastic measures such as this would only be considered by those who have a viable and better method of providing for the safety of the city. I dont think an alternate exists.

I sincerely hope that City Leaders support the Police Department by providing suggested strategies for improved service if necessary and not abandon those men and women who put their lives on the line in service to the community.

Thank you for hearing our opinion.

Tak Saito
To whom this may concern,

My name is Taryn Wright and I am a resident of Hollister, California. I am writing this to you today in hopes that my voice will be heard.

We need police in our city along with Salinas. Having family in Salinas and friends in the police force, I have seen the police department do great things for our community. I am very concerned to hear that people want to defund the department. This will only heighten crime in our city and worsen the gang violence. Our police officers work day and night risking their lives to keep us safe and expect nothing in return.

I am urging you to see the greater good in our community’s police force. I propose our city to explore different concepts to make our current and future officers have more training.

Thank you for your time,
Taryn Wright
You must not even consider cutting the police department budget. Salinas is finally getting their massive crime problem under control and Chief Frese is a dedicated leader who exemplifies ethical policing. SPD recovers stolen cars and illegal guns everyday, and criminals continue to run from and resist officers. NO TO BUDGET CUTS!
The recent events in Minneapolis have sparked concern about the police and their relationship with the community. While the event that took place was unfortunate, it should not outline how the community views the police. Life itself is precious and it should be protected and cherished.

The fundamental duty of a law enforcement officer is to serve mankind and safeguard life and liberty. Law enforcement officers wear many hats for different duties every shift with the intent to work in partnership with its community to enhance the quality of life. Police officers are dispatched to events that vary from volatile and violent situations to emotionally charged civil matters. Many times, this is the first-time officers contact those members of the community and the community members first time contacting the police. Both sides look at the same situation with different lenses but anticipate a resolution.

With preservation of live and quality of life in mind it is imperative to not take vital funding and resources away from law enforcement. Resources such as retaining current staff who are familiar with the community and its needs. Allowing funding for new, educated, and progressive officers to serve the community. Funding for continuous and increased training officers in vast situation such as mental health, racial equity, violence suppression, etc.

Historically the United States has taken a stand together in partnership through rough times. It is time to stand together as a community for our future. Do not take vital resources away from those who protect you.
Dear City Representatives,

I'd like to request that you consider reinvesting in our community by adjusting funding given to the Salinas Police Department, and adjust it down to 30%; so that we can have more funding go-into benefiting community youth programs and repair the city's infrastructure.

If cities like Minneapolis, New York City and Los Angeles have made decisions into cutting Police funding, what will it take you all?

Black Lives Matter!

Muchísimas Gracias,

Eduardo Esparza
Please SAVE SALINAS PD, for the reasons of gang violence, drugs, domestic violence, child abuse, sex trafficking, human trafficking, mass shootings, and homicides I believe in the continued funding of Salinas PD. Salinas has numerous problems namely the connection to gangs that interact with Soledad State Prisons. We must continue to protect our citizens!

Jaime Scheid

“The best and surest way to learn the love of Jesus is through the family.” St. Mother Teresa
Dear Elected Officials,

The men and women of the Salinas Police department have been faithfully serving this community, and dealing with all the things we'd like to pretend aren't here, since 1903. Just because there are a few violent participants in the protests around the nation, we don't classify all protesters that way and punish them for it. Like with any organization, I'm sure including yours, there are some bad apples. However to speak of defunding our police department is a slap in the face to our dedicated officers, and their families, who have courageously dealt with the substantial crime problems we have in this city for as long as I've lived here. These folks put themselves in harm's way on a regular basis, for very little compensation or appreciation, all with the goal of protecting and serving our community. I'm shocked and terribly disappointed that you would even entertain the idea of cutting back the police presence in our town. We DO need to review how officers handle people who resist arrest, and who are violent, in order to protect themselves, while causing the least amount of harm. We DO need to develop a peer review system that would encourage officers to speak up to other officers when they see things getting out of hand or escalating, and attempt to diffuse it. What we DO NOT need to do is to punish the entire organization for the errors of a few, just to get your name on a trending tweet. Optics and CYA are not for the good of the many, only just a few, and absolutely not worth the damage this defunding idea would cause.

Sincerely,

Tim
To whom it may concern,

As a native Salinas resident I have always been thankful for everything our Police Department does for its citizens. They put their life on the line every single day and do a job that most of us would never choose to do no matter how much pay. I understand with what is currently going on why there is demand for reform, however defunding is not the solution. Please consider the many other victims that need police help - of which may I add are also people of color. Please let's remember those who need the police departments help too which includes but is not limited to:

Child Abuse
Domestic Violence
Sex Trafficking
Human Trafficking
Drug Abuse/War
Gang Violence
Mass Shootings
Vehicle Accidents
Drunk Drivers

We need the police to keep our residents safe and help others in need - these cases listed above include victims that are often forgotten. Please don't forget them - continue supporting our police force so all residents can benefit - especially our most vulnerable community.

As a fellow person who works manages compliance work every day just as a personal help, I would HIGHLY suggest a strategy to mitigate discrimination that would include enhanced training be included in the police departments policies. And please document, document, document! If you did not write it down it did not happen. I recommend using as much preventative strategies as possible. I also would recommend some reforming of the police academy with a longer or more focused training on brutality and discrimination. Anything you can do to help prevent problems for the future. Also know and realize rules and laws are in place to bring justice to the 5% or less of people who choose to follow them. Every industry has bad apples - but do not discriminate or stereotype everyone in that group or industry because of the few bad ones. If we truly want to be open, understanding and accepting of all people we need to break down the stereotypes we create.

Thank you for your consideration. Please remember all the other important reasons, especially here in Salinas with our history of homicides and gang violence, why we need a strong police force.

Sincerely,

Jynel Gularte
Good afternoon,

Please do not defund SPD, as a life long member of Salinas, I fear defunding of our police department will encourage increased crime.

I would be worried for the safety of my family and Salinas citizens if our police department was defunded. Please keep SPD fully funded.

Respectfully,

Donna Sutton
To whom it may concern,

Please keep the Salinas Police Dept. fully funded. The city of Salinas needs SPD to help keep us safe!

Thank you,

Karen E. Perez
Salinas, Ca 93901
To whom it may concern,

As a native Salinas resident I have always been thankful for everything our Police Department does for its citizens. They put their life on the line every single day and do a job that most of us would never choose to do no matter how much pay. I understand with what is currently going on why there is demand for reform, however defunding is not the solution. Please consider the many other victims that need police help- of which may I add are also people of color. Please lets remember those who need the police departments help too which includes but is not limited to:

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We need the police to keep our residents safe and help others in need- these cases listed above include victims that are often forgotten. Please don't forget them- continue supporting our police force so all residents can benefit- especially our most vulnerable community.

As a fellow person who manages compliance work every day just as a personal help, I would HIGHLY suggest a strategy to mitigate discrimination that would include enhanced training in the police departments policies. And please document, document, document! If you did not write it down it did not happen. I recommend using as much preventative strategies as possible. I also would recommend some reforming of the police academy with a longer or more focused training on brutality and discrimination. Anything you can do to help prevent problems for the future. Also know and realize rules and laws are in place to bring justice to the 5% or less of people who choose not to follow them. Every industry has bad apples- but do not discriminate or stereotype everyone in that group or industry because of the few bad ones. If we truly want to be open, understanding and accepting of all people we need to break down the stereotypes we create.

Thank you for your consideration. Please remember all the other important reasons, especially here in Salinas with our history of homicides and gang violence, why we need a strong police force.

Sincerely,

Jynel Gularte
Please do not cut funding for Salinas Police.

Krystle Bravo
To whom this may concern,

My name is Tallie McDermott and I am a resident of Salinas, CA. I am writing this to you today in hopes that my voice will be heard.

We need police in our city. As a lifelong resident of the city, I have seen the police department do great things for our community. I am very concerned to hear that people want to defund the department. This will only heighten crime in our city and worsen the gang violence. Our police officers work day and night risking their lives to keep us safe and expect nothing in return.

I am urging you to see the greater good in our community’s police force. I propose our city to explore different concepts to make our current and future officers have more training.

Thank you for you time,
   Tallie McDermott
To whom this may concern,

My name is Hayden Gray and I am a citizen of Salinas, CA. I am writing this email today to say that we need police in our city. For the past 21 years of my life, I have been surrounded by police officers that have become my role models. I have been a lifelong resident of Salinas and my voice deserves to be heard. I am very concerned about this because we have one of the greatest police departments in California. Lets give these officers more training instead of the disbandment.

Hayden Gray
Good Evening,

Please keep our Salinas Police fully funded. Our city needs our Police. The Salinas Police are a huge benefit to our community.

Thank you,

Melissa McDougal a concerned Salinas Resident