

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Altschul

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 01:42 AM

Council File No: 13-1598

Comments for Public Posting: We, the people of Los Angeles, will no longer accept empty gestures and suggestions of incremental reform to our current policing system. The Minneapolis Police Department had adopted nearly all of the most progressive reforms being circulated now, and still: Philando Castile, George Floyd, and others are no longer living because down to its core, our nation's policing system is intrinsically and inextricably tied to upholding systems of White Supremacy. That is the conclusion the Minneapolis City Council came to yesterday when they made the pledge to dismantle the MSD and put in its place a “new transformative model for cultivating safety.” That is what we call on you to do today. Adopt the People’s Budget. Divest from the LAPD and invest in community wellbeing. For years, the police have been given more and more responsibilities in our city -- but they are not mental health workers, nor are they drug treatment specialists, social workers, nor de-escalators. We must reimagine what public safety looks like -- if there is a drug overdose, why send an armed police officer? That's the job of a medical first responder. If someone is sleeping on the street, why send an armed police officer? That is the job of a social worker to help find that person housing and get them back on their feet. If someone is having a manic episode, why send an armed police officer? That is the job of a mental health expert trained in defusing that situation and helping that person come back to stasis. Violence, too, is better deescalated with community interventionists - currently unpaid work. Moreover, if we invest in housing, healthcare, mental healthcare, and youth and community programs, crime **will** go down. People engage in crime when they are desperate. Help Angelenos in this time of great need. Invest in care, not cops and cages. Adopt the People's Budget.