

Communication from Public

Name: Eoin Waxel
Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 07:05 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Peck

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 08:49 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a People's Budget that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the LAPD's well documented history of murdering Black people. We will no longer accept empty gestures and suggestions of "reform." This includes Mayor Garcetti's paltry 5% proposed cut with no clarity as to where these funds will be redirected, if at all. We are demanding that our voices be heard now, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. We demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of at-risk Angelenos during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowers the police forces that tear them apart.

Communication from Public

Name: Alfonzo C.

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 08:57 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, reallocate funds to a community based programs and provide housing and better education. Stop by military grade vehicles and equipment to wage war on your citizens. Hold police officers accountable and provide oversight from an outside source which is not in police union's pocket. Test police officers for anabolic steroids.

Communication from Public

Name: Joel

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 09:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: WE NEED TO #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE AND EVENTUALLY ABOLISH THE SYSTEM. WE NEED TO REALLOCATE THOSE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND PUT THEM BACK INTO THE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY, SPECIFICALLY BLACK COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE BEEN HARMED BY THE CORRUPT, UNJUST, AND RACIST POLICE SYSTEM FOR SO LONG.

Communication from Public

Name: Stacy Milbourn

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 09:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. We need resources that help people -- social services, education, resources for mentally ill and homeless people -- not harm people. I want to know that my tax money is going somewhere good, not somewhere that's going to abuse it.

Communication from Public

Name: Adrienne
Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 09:36 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #defundtgepolice

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan Ford
Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 10:31 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: Vignette Ching
Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 08:20 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Please Defund the Police and divert those funds to community health initiatives.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 09:30 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT DEFUND THE POLICE. WE NEED PROTECTION IN THIS CITY. ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW. NOT ALL COPS ARE BAD, JUST LIKE NOT ALL BLACKS OR WHITES OR HISPANICS ETC. ARE BAD. THIS IS THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING IVE EVER HEARD.

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Kirby

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 09:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles (CD-2) for over 50 years. I am active in the community give many volunteer hours each week working hard along with LAPD officers to help our neighbors make our city a better place to live. How many of you that have commented to defund the police have actually volunteered time in our community? How many of you have experienced firsthand the good things our officers do? Read the facts about the LAPD and the budget: Quoting: - Los Angeles is experiencing the lowest crime rate in many years and crime went down again last year. This year, crime is down in all areas except shootings and homicide victims. However, we are still talking about 100,000 part 1 crime victims per year. Is that enough? Is it time to pull back now? · Activists say that police officers are the wrong people to deal with mental illness, child abuse, elder abuse, homelessness, animal control issues, business regulation (illegal vending for example), and a host of other issues. Therefore, the funding should be removed from the police to deal with other issues. We only deal with these other issues because the entities in government that are meant to handle them have failed so utterly, that police have been deployed to fill the gap. There are many other services and crime related issues that police cannot get to or approach too sporadically because of these additional burdens. For example, illegal fireworks, traffic enforcement, graffiti, and fraud. · It's not just a matter of funding. Prop 63 has raised over a billion for mental health in CA. Has anyone seen any change? Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority funding has increased by a factor of 4. The City of LA's funding alone for LAHSA is now \$37 million and we are now spending hundreds of millions per year in the City and County on homelessness managed by LAHSA and the County. Has anyone noticed the reduction in homelessness? Here is a list of reforms that activists have demanded or have been considered short of disbanding Departments: o Civilian Oversight of the Police – LAPD has been governed by the Board of Police Commissioners since 1920. They have the power to discipline the Chief, make Department Policy, have access to every document and investigation in the LAPD, have an independent Inspector General, and are the only civilian board in the country that rules on uses of force. By comparison, the voters of LA County just voted this year to give the Sheriff's

Civilian Oversight committee subpoena power and the Sheriff has refused to comply. o Ban the chokehold – LAPD banned chokeholds in 1982 o Video Cameras on Cops – LAPD piloted video cameras in 2016 and went Department-wide in 2018. LAPD was the first Department with more than 100 employees to require video on all field officers. o More comprehensive Use of Force reporting of critical incidents – LAPD established Force Investigations Division in 2004 and is the only Department in the country that requires its Inspector General and the District Attorney to roll out on any critical force incident. o Eliminate unannounced police raids known as "no-knock warrants" - These warrants are traditionally very dangerous for officers. In 25 years, I have never participated in, or authorized one. They are used very rarely for illegal casinos or in locations where drugs can be destroyed before the cops can get to them. I would support their elimination. o The requirement for officers to report misconduct – Officers have been required to report misconduct since I have been on the job. Failure to report misconduct is itself, misconduct. LAPD is the most demographically diverse, large Department in the country and a great representation of the City: LAPD Diversity (2019) Hispanic: 49.15% White: 30.4% Black: 9.5% Asian: 7.75% Filipino: 2.46% Indian: 2.46% Other: 0.33% City of LA Diversity (2019) Hispanic: 48.6% White: 28.5% Black: 8.9% Asian: 11.6% Other: 2.4% Reading through the comments. I see the majority of those asking to "defund" the police don't list a reason and most don't list their name or only give a first name. People! Educate yourselves with the FACTS. Read about LAPD policies and procedures that have been instrumental in setting an example for other police departments around the country. I do not support a cut to LAPD funding. I support an increase. To quote a previous comment: "We are a city that spans 479 square miles, we have a population of over 4 million people and yet we have only 10k police officers. Part of what historically created a culture of them versus us was the fact the LAPD was understaffed. Perhaps we should look at other bloated systems in the city for reductions in spending." Another comment worth repeating: "I support additional spending on education, health care, and homeless services for the citizens of Los Angeles who need them but I fail to see the connection for increasing the funding at the expense of Public Safety.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 09:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Although I agree that the George Floyd incident was murder, and I'm very open to police reform. I don't support any cuts in police funding. I feel that a well-funded police force help keep Los Angeles safe. If other agencies need to have their budgets increased to help keep Los Angeles safe then increase taxes. Thank you.

Communication from Public

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Communication from Public

Name: Jahkay Logan

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 01:39 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please listen to the people advocating to defund the LAPD. There is a reason they feel this way. There are many reasons. Understand that if your child, your sibling, your parent, your loved one could die tomorrow in the hands of the police then you would act as fast as you could. The reason we must feel this way, and treat this issue as such, is because this is a reality for so many people in this great city. Someone will die again, understand that. Thank you for listening.

Communication from Public

Name: cindi kusuda

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 01:57 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I support Los Angeles adopting a People's Budget and defunding the police. I support and appreciate the police department but I don't think the police can do everything. Allocating more money to services that can directly help sections of our community that don't need police involvement would be more effective. To live in a peaceful and civil community we don't need to increase the police, we need to increase services that help people in need. Please help to make Los Angeles the city that other cities in our country look up to for guidance. In this time of uncertainty we need to set an example of how a successful, peaceful, and forward-thinking city can operate.

Communication from Public

Name: Savin Damkar

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 02:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police: divest some of LAPD's disproportionately large segment of the budget to aiding in communities, mental health, and infrastructure.

Communication from Public

Name: Corinne
Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 02:25 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: Sam
Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 02:33 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE RETHINK THE WAYS IN WHICH
WE APPROACH PUBLIC SAFETY

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Hockenson

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 04:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Reallocating LAPD funds so that the needs of our city's communities are better met seems like something worth trying out. We need a more nuanced approach to the myriad of issues that arise within a particular community, not just a catch-all, armed and quasi-militaristic approach. Furthermore, the public needs to be educated on how to contact the appropriate first-responders in situations where violence hasn't figured into the equation. Trust needs to be built in these marginalized communities. Expanding these social programs could create many meaningful jobs for people in the very same communities they would aim to help.

Communication from Public

Name: Jason French

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 04:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, and support the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Boliver

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 04:55 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I urge to you please defund the police and invest that saved money in low-income neighborhoods! Use the money to fund community services that protect the communities around us! Police have too much to do and if we divest that money towards city employees with training in mental health, social work, security, etc., we can allow police to focus on actual emergencies. Less people will fear the police force because they won't be out in every situation, including some bad situations.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 05:17 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund and reform the police. Put more money into lower income communities, organizations, and education. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Clara McCarthy

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 06:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE I was raised thinking that the police were supposed to keep me safe. I am heartbroken by the past few weeks. I am heartbroken as I learn more and more about this history of the police force and how this issue is SYSTEMIC. This was not one bad apple. WE NEED CHANGE. and it is not coming from a 150 million dollar budget cut. We will not stop fighting. DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan O'Hanlon
Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 06:35 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 06:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!!!!!! No reform, just defund. Listen to the people of this city. We are demanding it.

Communication from Public

Name: Jason Squiers
Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 07:40 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Sascha Heller

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 10:03 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. Our city will be better served by investing in robust and comprehensive social services - the ones that will negate the need for a multi-billion dollar police force.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/10/2020 11:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: J Gregor Veneklasen

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 12:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Good day -- I am a Los Angeles resident in the East Hollywood area. I absolutely do not support this hasty and vague drive to "Defund the Police", and find it profoundly misguided. LAPD has made HUGE progress in the last couple of decades, and the demonstrations are ignoring this. Our police force is roughly equal to our communities in diversity - very few cities and states can say this. WE ARE NOT MINNESOTA. Reallocate some additional resources to complement our already existing community partnering and engagement? Certainly. Ensure that the violent incident review process is transparent, consistent and just? Definitely. Take away massive funding from the LAPD entirely? Absolutely not. We would be deluding ourselves that the LAPD is extraneous to keeping order in our sprawling, active city. We must have someone to call when people do bad things to others, as they have always done over the course of human history. Please, do not get caught up in purely emotional, election-year "solutions" that destroy the department rather than adjust it. Sincerely, J Greg Veneklasen

Communication from Public

Name: Sally Prothers

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 09:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I do NOT SUPPORT the "defunding" of the police dept. The crime rate in LA County has been dropping for some years. While we do need to rationally examine reforms to eradicate areas of racism, defunding the police department is a HUGE step backwards - to forwards. Let's IMPROVE what we have --- not tear it down and necessitate starting over.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 06:51 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Do not defund the police. LAPD is spread too thin as it is. As a citizen of Tujunga, I see very little police presence here. However, Los Angeles does need reform in several areas. The programs that should be defunded are the primitive mental health systems currently in place. Their utter failure to improve conditions over the last several decades is unparalleled. Here is a report and recommendations to start things off in the right direction: <http://www.cchrstl.org/documents/cmhc.pdf>



COMMUNITY RUIN

Psychiatry's Coercive 'Care'

Report and recommendations
on the failure of community mental health
and other coercive psychiatric programs

Published by
Citizens Commission on Human Rights
Established in 1969





IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the Reader

The psychiatric profession purports to be the sole arbiter on the subject of mental health and “diseases” of the mind. The facts, however, demonstrate otherwise:

1. PSYCHIATRIC “DISORDERS” ARE NOT MEDICAL DISEASES. In medicine, strict criteria exist for calling a condition a disease: a predictable group of symptoms and the cause of the symptoms or an understanding of their physiology (function) must be proven and established. Chills and fever are symptoms. Malaria and typhoid are diseases. Diseases are proven to exist by objective evidence and physical tests. Yet, no mental “diseases” have ever been proven to medically exist.

2. PSYCHIATRISTS DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH MENTAL “DISORDERS,” NOT PROVEN DISEASES. While mainstream physical medicine treats diseases, psychiatry can only deal with “disorders.” In the absence of a known cause or physiology, a group of symptoms seen in many different patients is called a *disorder* or *syndrome*. Harvard Medical School’s Joseph Glenmullen, M.D., says that in psychiatry, “all of its diagnoses are merely syndromes [or disorders], clusters of symptoms presumed to be related, not diseases.” As Dr. Thomas Szasz, professor of psychiatry emeritus, observes, “There is no blood or other biological test to ascertain the presence or absence of a mental illness, as there is for most bodily diseases.”

3. PSYCHIATRY HAS NEVER ESTABLISHED THE CAUSE OF ANY “MENTAL DISORDERS.” Leading psychiatric agencies such as the World Psychiatric Association and the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health admit that psychiatrists do not

know the causes or cures for any mental disorder or what their “treatments” specifically do to the patient. They have only theories and conflicting opinions about their diagnoses and methods, and are lacking any scientific basis for these. As a past president of the World Psychiatric Association stated, “The time when psychiatrists considered that they could cure the mentally ill is gone. In the future, the mentally ill have to learn to live with their illness.”

4. THE THEORY THAT MENTAL DISORDERS DERIVE FROM A “CHEMICAL IMBALANCE” IN THE BRAIN IS UNPROVEN OPINION, NOT FACT.

One prevailing psychiatric theory (key to psychotropic drug sales) is that mental disorders result from a chemical imbalance in the brain. As with its other theories, there is no biological or other evidence to prove this. Representative of a large group of medical and biochemistry experts, Elliot Valenstein, Ph.D., author of *Blaming the Brain* says: “[T]here are no tests available for assessing the chemical status of a living person’s brain.”

5. THE BRAIN IS NOT THE REAL CAUSE OF LIFE’S PROBLEMS. People do experience problems and upsets in life that may result in mental troubles, sometimes very serious. But to represent that these troubles are caused by incurable “brain diseases” that can only be alleviated with dangerous pills is dishonest, harmful and often deadly. Such drugs are often more potent than a narcotic and capable of driving one to violence or suicide. They mask the real cause of problems in life and debilitate the individual, so denying him or her the opportunity for real recovery and hope for the future.

COMMUNITY RUIN

PSYCHIATRY'S COERCIVE 'CARE'

CONTENTS

Introduction: Harming the Disturbed	2
Chapter One: Community Mental Health Origins	5
Chapter Two: Dangerous Drug 'Treatment'	9
Chapter Three: A 'Cruel Compassion'	15
Chapter Four: Improving Mental Health	21
Recommendations	24
Citizens Commission on Human Rights International	25



COMMUNITY RUIN
Psychiatry's Coercive 'Care'



INTRODUCTION

Harming the Disturbed

With the rapid growth of government “Community Mental Health” programs for severely mentally disturbed individuals now costing billions of dollars, how is mental health faring in our communities today?

The U.S. New Freedom Commission on Mental Health issued a report in 2003 that claimed, “Effective, state-of-the-art treatments *vital* for quality care and recovery are now available for most serious mental illnesses and serious emotional disorders.”¹ [Emphasis added]

For those who know little about psychiatry and Community Mental Health, this appears to be great news. However, exactly what are these *vital* “treatments”?

They principally involve an *automatic*, one-for-one prescription of drugs called neuroleptics (from Greek, meaning “nerve seizing”, reflective of how the drugs act like a chemical lobotomy).

A 2004 report estimated the cost of neuroleptics for the treatment of so-called schizophrenic patients across the United States at over \$10 million (€8.2 million) a day.² Treatment is usually life-long.

Then again, what *should* we pay for quality, state-of-the-art care, for recovery, for the opportunity to bring these people back to productive lives?

According to several non-psychiatric and independent research experiments, the answer to that question is “Not much at all.” Quality care

resulting in recovery and reintegration can be very *inexpensive*, as well as rapid, permanent, and most significantly, *drug free*.

In an eight-year study, the World Health Organization found that severely mentally disturbed patients in three economically disadvantaged countries whose treatment plans do not include a heavy reliance on drugs—India, Nigeria and Colombia—found that patients did dramatically better than their counterparts in the United States and four other developed countries. A follow-up study reached a similar conclusion.³

In the United States in the 1970s, the late Dr. Loren Mosher’s Soteria House experiment was based on the idea that “schizophrenia” can be

overcome without drugs. Soteria clients who didn’t receive neuroleptics actually did the best, compared to hospital and drug-treated control subjects. Swiss, Swedish and Finnish researchers have replicated and validated the experiment.

In Italy, between 1973 and 1996, Dr. Georgio Antonucci dismantled some of the most oppressive psychiatric wards by treating severely disturbed patients with compassion, respect and *without* drugs. Within months, the most violent wards became the calmest.

Robert Whitaker revealed in his book *Mad In America* that the treatment outcomes for people with “schizophrenia” have actually worsened over the past 25 years. Today, they are no better than

“Psychiatry promotes that the only ‘treatment’ for severe mental ‘illness’ is neuroleptic [antipsychotic] drugs. The truth is that not only is the drugging of severely mentally disturbed patients unnecessary—and expensive—it causes brain- and life-damaging effects.”
— Jan Eastgate

they were in the early 20th century, yet the United States has by far the highest consumption of neuroleptics of any country.

What does all this mean?

As any self-respecting physical scientist will tell you, a theory is good only so long as it works. He knows that when he encounters facts that don't fit the theory, he must continue to investigate and modify or discard the theory based on the actual evidence discovered.

For almost 50 years, psychiatry has promoted its theory that the only "treatment" for severe mental "illness" is neuroleptic drugs. However, this idea rests on a fault line. The truth is that not only is the drugging of severely mentally disturbed patients unnecessary—and expensive, thus profitable—it causes brain- and life-damaging side effects.

This publication exposes that fault line, some of its constructs, the fraud, lies and other deceptions. Knowing this information makes it very easy to see why psychiatrists would attack any alternative and better solution to the problems of severe mental disturbance.

For the truth is, we are not just dealing with a lack of scientific skill or method, or even with a quasi-science. Seemingly benign statements, such as "There is clear scientific evidence that newer classes of medications can better treat the symptoms of schizophrenia and depression with far fewer side effects," are not backed up by evidence and constitute outright medical fraud.

Psychiatry's approach to the treatment of the severely mentally disturbed—the "state of the art," "scientific" and operational backbone of community mental health and other psychiatric programs—is



predicated on bad science and bad medicine but is very good business for psychiatry.

The simple truth is that there are workable alternatives to psychiatry's mind-, brain- and body-damaging treatments. With psychiatry now calling for mandatory mental illness screening for adults and children everywhere, we urge all who have an interest in preserving the mental health, the physical health and the freedom of their families, communities and nations, to read this publication. Something must be done to establish real help for those who need it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jan Eastgate". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jan Eastgate
President, Citizens Commission
on Human Rights International

IMPORTANT FACTS

- 1** Community Mental Health (CMH) has been promoted as the solution to institutional problems. However, it has been an expensive failure.
- 2** By the 1970s, enough neuroleptic drugs and antidepressants were being prescribed outside psychiatric hospitals to keep some three to four million Americans drugged full-time.
- 3** The Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction reported that the CMH program in Europe created homelessness, drug addiction, criminal activities, disturbances to public peace and order, and unemployment.
- 4** In Australia in 1993, federal Human Rights Commissioner Brian Burdekin announced that deinstitutionalization was a "fraud" and a failure. In 1999, British officials also acknowledged its failure.
- 5** Psychiatry's CMH care budget in the U.S. soared by more than 6,000% between 1969 and 1997. Today the estimated costs are around \$11 billion (€9 billion) a year.





CHAPTER ONE

Community Mental Health Origins

Community Mental Health (CMH) is a major psychiatric expansion initiative. It began in the United States in the 1960s and spread to other countries in the 1980s. It has netted psychiatry many billions of dollars over the last four decades.

Prior to this, patients had been warehoused in Bedlam-like psychiatric institutions, pumped full of drugs to make them submissive, and left to wallow in drug-induced stupors. Throughout the 1950s, pressure grew from all quarters to address the appalling conditions, the lack of results and the growing cost burden.

CMH was promoted as the solution to all institutional problems. The premise, based almost entirely on the development and use of neuroleptic drugs, was that patients could now be successfully released back into society. Ongoing service would be provided through government-funded units called Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). These centers would tend to the patients from within the community, dispensing the neuroleptics that would keep them under control. Governments would save money and individuals would improve faster. The plan was called "deinstitutionalization."

Psychiatrist Jack Ewalt hinted at a more global intent for deinstitutionalization at the time: "The program should serve the troubled, the disturbed, the slow, the ill, and the *healthy* of all age groups."⁴ [Emphasis added] In other words psychiatrists were to go beyond the mentally disturbed, obtaining a healthy clientele to drug.

From "Snake Pits" to "Snake Oil"

Author Peter Schrag wrote that by the mid-1970s, enough neuroleptic drugs and antidepressants "were being prescribed outside hospitals to keep some three to four million people medicated full-time—roughly 10 times the number who, according to the [psychiatrists'] own arguments, are so crazy that they would have to be locked up in hospitals if there were no drugs."⁵

Dr. Thomas Szasz, professor of psychiatry emeritus, declared that psychiatry's miraculous

"'Community mental health' would not merely treat people but whole communities; it would, if possible, take on the mayors and the people concerned about the cities ... as 'clients'; it would treat society itself and not merely its individual citizens ... and it was the drugs which gave it its most powerful technology."
— Peter Schrag, author of *Mind Control*

offerings were "simply the psychiatric profession's latest snake oil: drugs and deinstitutionalization. As usual, psychiatrists defined their latest fad as a combination of scientific revolutions and moral reform, and cast it in the rhetoric of treatment and civil liberties." They claimed that psychotropic drugs "relieved the

symptoms of mental illness and enabled the patients to be discharged from mental hospitals. Community Mental Health Centers were touted as providing the least restrictive setting for delivering the best available mental health services. Such were the claims of psychiatrists

to justify the policy of forcibly drugging and relocating their hospitalized patients. It sounded grand. Unfortunately, it was a lie.”⁶

Even the American Psychiatric Association (APA) publication *Madness and Government* admitted, “[P]sychiatrists gave the impression

to elected officials that cures were the rule, not the exception ... inflated expectations went unchallenged. In short, CMHCs were oversold as curative organizational units.”⁷

The truth is that CMHCs became legalized drug dealerships that not only supplied psychiatric drugs to former mental hospital patients, but also supplied prescriptions to individuals free of “serious mental problems.”

Deinstitutionalization failed and society has been struggling with the disastrous results ever since.

In 2001, Dr. Dorine Baudin of the Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction reported

that the CMHC program in Europe had created “homelessness, drug addiction, crime, disturbance to public peace and order, unemployment, and intolerance of deviance.”⁸

U.S. consumer advocate Ralph Nader called CMHCs a “highly touted but failing social innovation.” It “already bears the familiar pattern of past mental health promises that were initiated amid great moral fervor, raised

Community Mental Health is a “highly touted but failing social innovation.” It “already bears the familiar pattern of past mental health promises that ... raised false hopes of imminent solutions, and wound up only recapitulating the problems they were to solve.”

— Ralph Nader,
U.S. consumer advocate



Ralph Nader



false hopes of imminent solutions, and wound up only recapitulating the problems they were to solve.”⁹

In Australia in 1993, federal Human Rights Commissioner Brian Burdekin announced that deinstitutionalization was a “fraud” and a failure. In 1999, British officials also acknowledged the failure of community mental health care.¹⁰

Meanwhile, psychiatry’s CMHC budget in the United States soared from \$143 million (€117 million) in 1969 to over \$9 billion (€7.3 billion) in 1997—a more than 6,000% increase in funding, for a mere 10 times increase in the number of patients and, more importantly, no results. Today the estimated costs are around \$11 billion (€9 billion) a year.

If collecting these billions in inflated fees for non-workable treatments wasn’t bad enough, in 1990, a congressional committee found that CMHCs had diverted between \$40 million (€32.7 million) and \$100 million (€81.8 million) to improper uses; i.e., right into the pockets of psychiatrists.¹¹

Ironically, the psychiatrists have consistently blamed the failure of deinstitutionalization on a lack of community mental health funding. In reality, they create the drug-induced crisis themselves and then, shamelessly, demand yet more money.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FAILURE:

In 1963, the United States psychiatric research body, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), under psychiatrist Robert Felix (right), implemented a community health program which relied heavily on the use of mind-altering psychiatric drugs. Spawning an international trend, it sent drugged patients into the streets, homeless and incapable. After more than \$47 billion spent on it between 1969 and 1994 alone, the program is an abject failure.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Exorbitant Cost, Colossal Failure

Spending on Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs in the United States) has increased more than 100 times faster than the increase in number of people using CMHC clinics. Despite eating up taxpayer billions, the clinics have failed their patients and become little more than legalized drug dealerships for the homeless.

6,242%



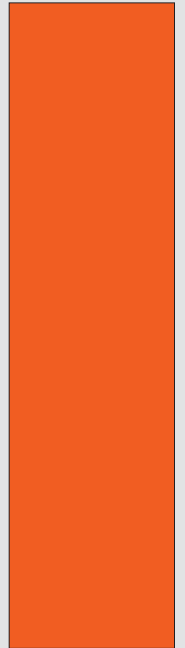
607%

Increase
in use =

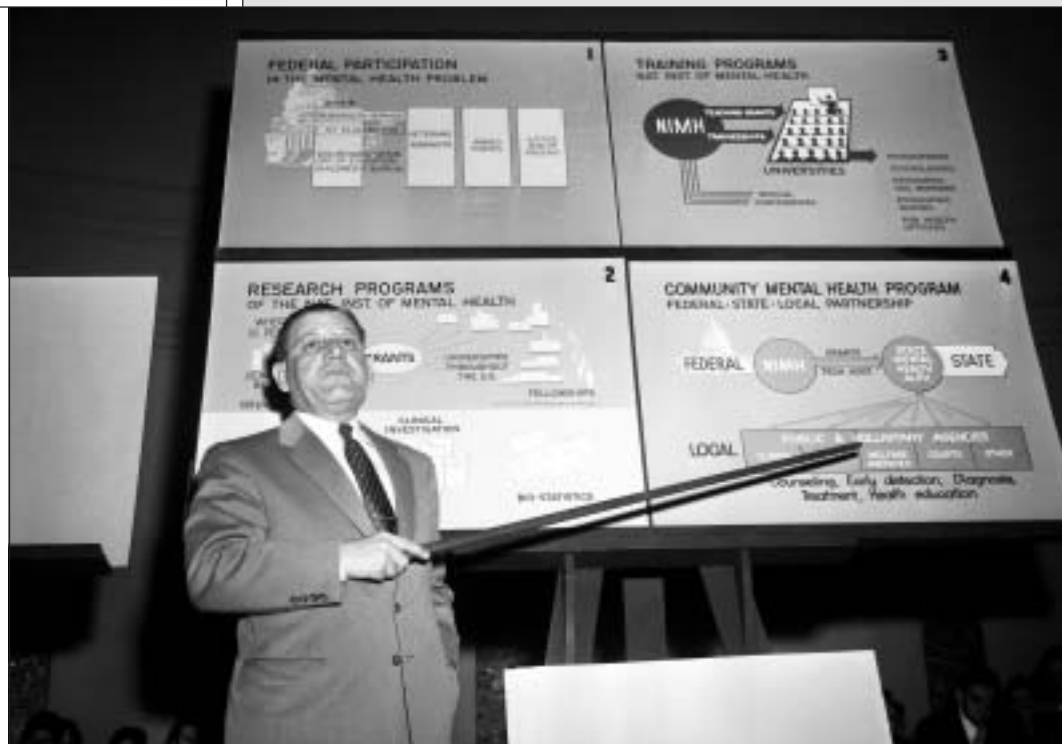


U.S. CMHC and
psychiatric outpatient
clinics increase in usage

Increase
in cost =



U.S. CMHC and
psychiatric outpatient
clinics increase in cost



IMPORTANT FACTS

- 1 Mind-altering neuroleptic drugs are the destructive mainstay of community mental health programs.
- 2 The drugs hinder normal brain function and produce pathology much like the lobotomy which psychotropic drugs replaced.
- 3 The homeless individuals commonly seen grimacing and talking to themselves on the street are exhibiting the symptoms of psychiatric drug-induced damage.
- 4 Newer neuroleptics (antipsychotics) have sold at significantly higher prices, in one case at 30 times the price of the older versions. One new antipsychotic drug costs \$3,000 (€2,456) to \$9,000 (€7,368) more per patient, with no benefit as to symptoms, side effects or overall quality of life.
- 5 The drugs can cause serious side effects, notably diabetes, in some cases leading to death. Between 1994 and 2002, 288 patients taking the new antipsychotics developed diabetes; 75 became severely ill and 23 died.
- 6 The drugs can also cause suicidal or violent behavior.





CHAPTER TWO

Dangerous Drug 'Treatment'

The advent of Community Mental Health psychiatric programs would not have been possible without the development and use of neuroleptic drugs, also known as antipsychotics, for mentally disturbed individuals.

The first generation of neuroleptics, now commonly referred to as "typical antipsychotics" or "typicals," appeared during the 1960s. They were heavily promoted as "miracle" drugs that made it "*possible for most of the mentally ill to be successfully and quickly treated in their own communities and returned to a useful place in society.*"¹² [Emphasis added]

These claims were false. In an article in the *American Journal of Bioethics* in 2003, Vera Sharav stated, "The reality was that the therapies damaged the brain's frontal lobes, which is the distinguishing feature of the human brain. The neuroleptic drugs used since the 1950s 'worked' by hindering normal brain function: they dimmed psychosis, but produced pathology often worse than the condition for which they have been prescribed—much like physical lobotomy which psychotropic drugs replaced."¹³

The homeless individuals commonly seen grimacing and talking to themselves on the street are

exhibiting the effects of such psychiatric drug-induced damage. "Tardive dyskinesia" (*tardive*, late appearing and *dyskinesia*, abnormal muscle movement) and "tardive dystonia" (*dystonia*, abnormal muscle tension) are permanent conditions caused by tranquilizers in which the muscles of the face and body contort and spasm involuntarily.

"In short, the drug-induced reactions are of such a nature that an observer could be forgiven for assuming the person so affected

was mentally ill and perhaps even dangerous. A person suffering from such a reaction, even to a minor degree, would experience great difficulty in being accepted by the man in the street as 'normal,'" wrote Pam Gorrington, author of *Mental Disorder or Madness?*¹⁴

Neuroleptic patients became sluggish, apathetic, disinclined to walk, less alert and had an empty look—a vacuity of expression—on their faces. They spoke in slow monotonous. Patients also

complained of drowsiness, weakness, apathy, a lack of initiative and a loss of interest in surroundings.¹⁵

Robert Whitaker, author of *Mad in America*, reported, "The image we have today of schizophrenia is not that of madness—whatever that might be—in its natural state. All of the traits that we have come to associate with schizophrenia—the

"The creation of a tale of a breakthrough medication could be carefully plotted. Such was the case with the [new neuroleptics], and behind the public facade of medical achievement is a story of science marred by greed, deaths, and the deliberate deception of the American public."

— Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine, and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill*



“The neuroleptic drugs used since the 1950s ‘worked’ by hindering normal brain function: they dimmed psychosis, but produced pathology often worse than the condition for which they have been prescribed—much like physical lobotomy which psychotropic drugs replaced.”

**— Vera Sharav writing in the
American Journal of Bioethics, 2003**

awkward gait, the jerking arm movements, the vacant facial expression, the sleepiness, the lack of initiative—are symptoms due, at least in large part” to the effects of neuroleptics. “Our perceptions of how those ill with ‘schizophrenia’ think, behave, and look are all perceptions of people altered by medication, and not by any natural course of a ‘disease.’”¹⁶

As for improving the patients’ quality of life, neuroleptics have produced a miserable record. A 1999 patient survey found 90% of neuroleptic patients felt depressed, 88% felt sedated, and 78% complained of poor concentration. More than

80% of people diagnosed with “schizophrenia” are chronically unemployed.¹⁷ In other words, despite decades of promised cures, none have ever materialized.

In the 1980s, with the patent protection expired and the drugs becoming available in much cheaper generic forms, the prices for the major brands dropped steeply, making them unprofitable.¹⁸ This all changed in the early 1990s, when newly patented neuroleptics known as “atypical antipsychotics” or “atypicals” were introduced with even more

fanfare than their predecessors. The old neuroleptics were suddenly tagged as flawed drugs.¹⁹

Expert psychiatric *opinion* was recruited to disseminate claims that, “There is clear scientific evidence that newer classes of medications can better treat the symptoms of schizophrenia and depression with far fewer side effects.” The opinions were tagged “Expert Consensus Guidelines” despite their complete absence of scientific analysis, study reviews or clinical trials.²⁰

With these guidelines in place, psychiatrists finally saw fit to publicly admit what they had always known: that the earlier drugs did not control delusions or hallucinations; that two-thirds of the drugged patients had “persistent psychotic symptoms a year after their first psychotic break” and that 30% of patients didn’t respond to the drugs at all—a “non-response” rate that up until the 1980s had hardly ever been mentioned.

The new antipsychotics have sold at signifi-

cantly higher prices, in one case at 30 times the price of the older drugs.²¹ Another new neuroleptic costs \$3,000 (€2,456) to \$9,000 (€7,368) more per patient, with no benefits as to symptoms, side effects or overall quality of life. Between 1991 and 2003, antipsychotic drug sales in the United States increased by 1,500%, from less than \$500 million (€409 million) to more than \$8 billion (€6.5 billion). International sales reached more than \$12 billion (€9.8 billion) in 2002.²²

DESTROYING LIVES

Neuroleptic-Induced Harm

Most people prescribed psychiatric drugs are rarely informed that they could suffer crippling facial and body spasms as a permanent side effect of many of these drugs. The major tranquilizers (antipsychotics) damage the extrapyramidal system (EPS), the extensive complex network of nerve fibers that moderates motor control, resulting in muscle rigidity, spasms, various involuntary movements (below right). The muscles of the face and body contort, drawing the face into hideous scowls and grimaces and twisting the body into bizarre contortions.

Psychiatrists are aware of the devastating nerve damage their drugs cause and the risk of the patient suffering neuroleptic malignant syndrome, a potentially fatal toxic reaction where patients break into fevers and become confused, agitated, and extremely rigid. This can and has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths.

Something else that psychiatrists do not mention is that they have diagnosed the drug-induced permanent damage inflicted upon patients as a “mental disorder” for which they can now “double bill” insurance companies to “treat.” The disorders include the “neuroleptic malignant syndrome” and “neuroleptic-induced Parkinsonism.”

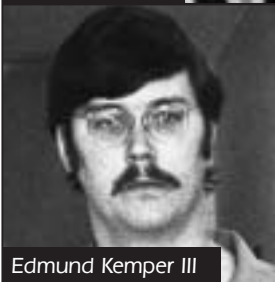
Not surprisingly, these chemicals are capable of throwing the minds of users into chaos and have a long and well-documented history of creating insanity in persons who take them.



There is no argument that the public must be protected from violent and psychotic or crazy behavior. However, the idea that this is the major risk we face from severely mentally disturbed patients, because of their mental condition, is a lie manufactured by psychiatrists themselves. So is the idea that we should minimize this "risk" by drugging patients with neuroleptics, against their will if necessary. The truth is that neither the absence of such drugs, or the failure to take them, is the problem. The drugs themselves *create* violent impulses.

Although the public may think that 'crazy' people are likely to behave in violent ways, Robert Whitaker found this was not true of "mental patients" prior to the introduction of neuroleptics. Before 1955, four studies found that patients discharged from mental hospitals committed crimes at either the same or a lower rate than the general population. However, "eight studies conducted from 1965 to 1979 determined that discharged patients were being arrested at rates that exceeded those of

Studies have concluded that moderate-to-high doses of one major tranquilizer made half of the patients markedly more aggressive. Patients described "violent urges to assault anyone near."



Many medical studies report evidence of psychiatric drugs inducing violent or suicidal behavior. The above murderers, from the U.S., Australia and Japan, committed brutal killings while undergoing psychiatric treatment involving psychiatric drugs.

the general population. ... Akathisia [extreme drug-induced restlessness] was also clearly a contributing factor."²³

Antipsychotic drugs may temporarily dim psychosis but, over the long run, make patients more biologically prone to it.²⁴

A 1988 study in *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease* on the use of neuroleptics in schizophrenics found a marked increase in violent behavior with moderately high dosages of a neuroleptic.²⁵

A 1990 study determined that 50% of all fights in a psychiatric ward could be tied to akathisia. Another study concluded that moderate-to-high doses of one major tranquilizer made half of the patients markedly more aggressive. Patients described "violent urges to assault anyone near."²⁶

According to a study of one minor tranquilizer, "Extreme anger and hostile behavior emerged in eight of the 80 patients treated" with the drug. One woman who had no history of violence before taking the tranquilizer "erupted with screams on the fourth day, and held a steak knife to her mother's throat for several minutes."

FALSE 'MIRACLES'

Life-Threatening Therapies

The new "miracle" neuroleptics (or "atypical antipsychotics") have not lived up to the media and professional hype.²⁷ Their story goes way beyond mere false advertising for the sake of maximizing profits.

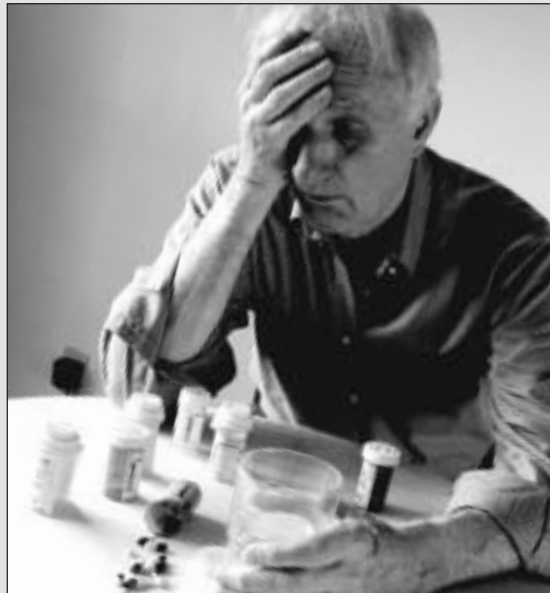
■ Using the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), science writer Robert Whitaker learned that the atypical drug trials did not support industry claims that the latest neuroleptics were safer or more effective than existing ones: One in every 145 patients who entered the trials *died*, and yet those deaths were never mentioned in the scientific literature and one in every 35 patients in trials for one atypical experienced a serious adverse event, defined by the FDA as a life-threatening event or one that required hospitalization.

■ In 2000, the *British Medical Journal* published the results of a multi-year study by Dr. John Geddes who had reviewed independent clinical trials involving over 12,000 patients, examining the effectiveness and dangers of the atypical and typical antipsychotics. The result: "There is no clear evidence that atypical antipsychotics are more effective or are better tolerated than conventional antipsychotics."²⁸

■ A study by Yale researchers published in the November 2003 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* also found no statistically or clinically significant advantages of these new drugs.²⁹

■ In 2003 the *New York Times* effectively retracted its earlier high praise for these antipsychotics, stating, "They were billed as near wonder drugs, much safer and more effective in treating schizophrenia than anything that had come before."

However, now "there is increasing suspicion that they may cause serious side effects, notably diabetes, in some cases leading to death."³⁰ Between 1994 and 2002, 288 patients taking the new antipsychotics developed diabetes; 75 became severely ill and 23 died.



■ The *New York Times* also referred to what had been known for more than 20 years, that one of these drugs had a record of causing a life-threatening blood disorder, and that patients required regular blood tests to monitor this side effect, *adding to its expense*.

■ Some of the newer drugs may be linked to pancreatitis, the article also said. Weight gain was a problem, with some patients gaining up to 65 pounds. Studies show that when patients stopped taking these

drugs, they improved.³¹

Rather than fewer side effects, the newer antipsychotics have more severe side effects. These include blindness, fatal blood clots, heart arrhythmia, heat stroke, swollen and leaking breasts, impotence and sexual dysfunction, blood disorders, painful skin rashes, seizures, birth defects, extreme inner-anxiety and restlessness, death from liver failure, suicide rates two to five times more frequent than for the general "schizophrenic" population, and violence and mayhem, especially in young patients.

Nor are physical effects the extent of the problem. Many patients complain that the drugs are spiritually deadening, robbing them of any sense of joy, of their willpower, and of their sense of being. While the exact danger and side effect profiles have changed, the atypical neuroleptics still operate as a "chemical lobotomy."³²

IMPORTANT FACTS

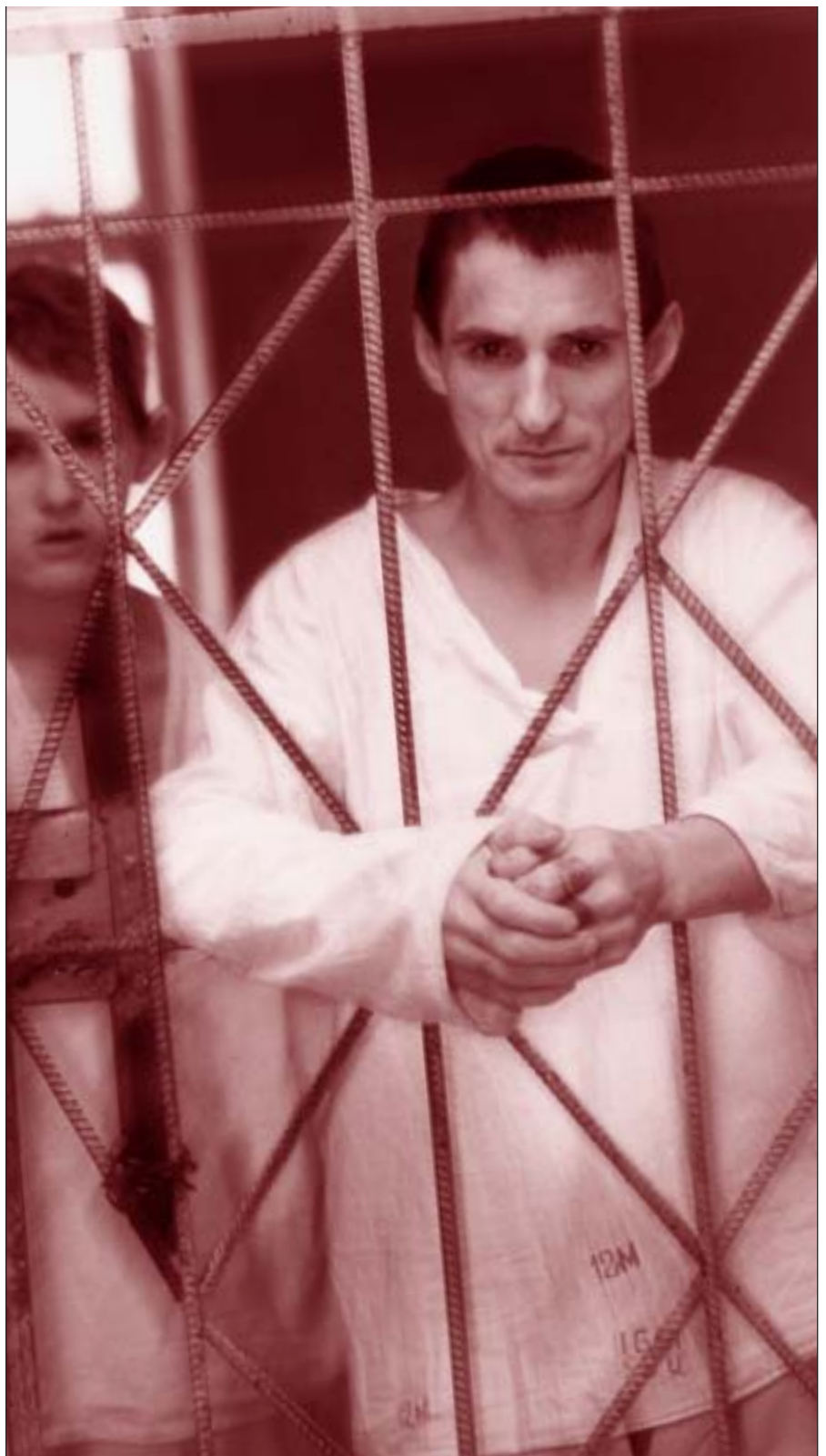
1 Before you finish reading this publication, 20 people—one of whom is perhaps a friend, a family member, or a neighbor—will have been committed to a psychiatric institution and, more often than not, brutally treated.

2 The committal process can keep a person indefinitely in the hospital for years. Upon release, patients may be saddled with mandatory community “treatment” orders.

3 Most commitment laws are based on the concept that a person may be a danger to himself or others if not placed in an institution. However, psychiatrists admit they cannot predict dangerous behavior.

4 The majority of involuntarily committed individuals have fewer rights and less legal protections than a criminal, yet they have not violated any civil or penal code.

5 Michael McCubbin, Ph.D., associate researcher, and David Cohen, Ph.D., professor of social services, both of the University of Montreal, say that the “‘right to treatment’ is today more often the ‘right’ to receive forced treatment.”²³





CHAPTER THREE

A 'Cruel Compassion'

Accompanying the psychiatrists' push for expanded community mental health is their demand for greater powers to involuntarily commit individuals.

Currently in the United States, one person is involuntarily incarcerated in a psychiatric facility every 1 1/4 minutes. In 2002, a study found increasing rates of involuntary commitment in Austria, England, Finland, France, Germany and Sweden, with Germany recording a 70% increase over eight years.³⁴

Before you finish reading this publication, 20 more people—perhaps a friend, a family member, or a neighbor—will have been committed and, more often than not, brutally treated.

Psychiatrists disingenuously argue that involuntary commitment in hospitals or the community is an act of kindness, that it is cruel to leave the demented or disturbed in a tormented state. However, such claims are based on the dual premises that: 1) psychiatrists have helpful and workable treatments to begin with, and 2) psychiatrists have some expertise in diagnosing and predicting dangerousness.

Both suppositions are patently false.

As already discussed, psychiatric neuroleptic "treatment" not only *creates* the sort of violence or mental incompetence that would give cause for involuntary incarceration or coercive community treatment under current laws, it places the patient at greater risk mentally and physically. As a result of enforced community mental health treatment to date, we now have millions of drugged and incapable individuals roaming homeless on the streets.

Psychiatric detainment can become a life sentence. Apart from the fact that the committal process can keep a person indefinitely in the hospital for years, once released, patients may be under mandatory community "treatment" orders.

Robert Whitaker says that in this way, "States are asserting the right to demand that people living in the community take 'antipsychotic' drugs, which represents a profound expansion of state

control over the mentally ill."³⁵

Most commitment laws are based on the concept that a person may be a danger to himself or others if not placed in an institution. However, an American Psychiatric Association (APA) task force admitted in a 1979 Brief to the U.S. Supreme Court that, "Psychiatric expertise in the prediction of 'dangerousness' is not established."

"The accuracy with which clinical judgment presents future events is often little better than random chance. The accumulated research literature indicates that errors in predicting dangerousness range from 54% to 94%, averaging about 85%."

— Terrence Campbell,
Michigan Bar Journal, 1994

Terrence Campbell in a 1994 article in the *Michigan Bar Journal* wrote, "The accuracy with which clinical judgment presents future events is often little better than random chance. The accumulated research literature indicates that errors in predicting dangerousness range from 54% to 94%, averaging about 85%."

In 2002, Kimio Moriyama, vice president of the Japanese Psychiatrists' Association, expressed psychiatry's inability to foresee correctly what a person's future behavior might be: "A patient's mental disease and criminal tendency are essentially different, and it is impossible for medical science to tell whether someone has a high potential to repeat an offense."³⁶

Another psychiatric ruse is the claim that

involuntary commitment protects the person's "right to treatment." Quite aside from the fiction of "treatment," involuntary commitment laws are totalitarian.

According to Professor Szasz, "Whether we admit it or not, we have a choice between caring for others by coercing them and caring for them only with their consent. At the moment, care without coercion—when the ostensible beneficiary's problem is defined as mental

illness—is not an acceptable option" in professional deliberations on mental health policy. "The conventional explanation for shutting out this option is that the mental patient suffers from a brain disease that

As a result of enforced
community mental health
treatment to date, we now have
millions of drugged and incapable
individuals roaming homeless
on the streets.



annuls his capacity for rational cooperation.”

Professor Szasz says this is false. “All history teaches us to beware of benefactors who deprive their beneficiaries of liberty.”³⁷

Michael McCubbin, Ph.D., associate researcher, and David Cohen, Ph.D., professor of social services, both of the University of Montreal, say that the “‘right to treatment’ is today more often the ‘right’ to receive forced treatment. ...”³⁸

Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees, “Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.” The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recommends similar protections.

Yet every week, thousands are seized without due process of law as a result of psychiatric involuntary commitment laws. The majority of these citizens have fewer rights and less legal protections than a criminal, yet they have not violated any civil or penal code.

George Hoyer, professor of community medicine at the University of Tromsø in Norway, wrote, “Seriously mentally disordered patients neither lack insight, nor is their competency impaired.”³⁹

Depriving the liberty of a “mentally disordered” person by involuntary incarceration in a psychiatric facility and then forcing “treatment” upon him or her, especially after a person’s explicit refusal to undergo potentially dangerous treatment, violates the most fundamental freedoms that are enjoyed by all other citizens, including those undergoing medical treatment.

Violating Human Rights

How easy is it to be committed? Very easy. Consider the following examples:

■ Seventy-four-year-old William, suffering congestive heart failure and reliant on an oxygen tank to breathe, said, “Yes,” in 1992 when his homecare nurse asked if he felt depressed. Within 30 minutes, an attendant from a local psychiatric hospital arrived and when William refused to go with him, the atten-



LOST JUSTICE

Mental Health Courts

Mental health courts are facilities established to deal with arrests for misdemeanors or non-violent felonies. Rather than allowing the guilty parties to take responsibility for their crimes, they are diverted to a psychiatric treatment center on the premise that they suffer from “mental illness” which will respond positively to antipsychotic drugs. It is another form of coercive “community mental health treatment.”

Nancy Wolff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Mental Health Services and Criminal Justice Research, reports, “... there is no evidence to show that mental illness per se is the principal or proximate cause of offending behavior. ... Although believing in treatment as a protective shield is appealing ... most clients who were actively involved in assertive community ... treatment programs continued to have frequent contacts with the criminal justice system ... those clients who were the most criminally active were receiving the most expensive set of services.”

Wolff says further: “This type of special status for offenders who have mental illness holds the illness responsible for the behavior, not the individual, and, as such, opens the opportunity for individuals to use illness to excuse behavior.”⁴⁰

In a review of 20 mental health courts, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law found that these courts “may function as a coercive agent—in many ways similar to the controversial intervention, outpatient commitment—compelling an individual to participate in treatment under threat of court sanctions. However, the services available to the individual may be only those offered by a system that has already failed to help. Too many public mental health systems offer little more than medication.”⁴¹

In summary, there are clear indicators that governments’ endorsement of mental health courts and “community policing” (as it is referred to in some European countries) will see more patients forced into a life of mentally and physically dangerous drug consumption and dependence, with no hope of a cure.

dant called the police. The officers unhooked the oxygen tank, searched him for weapons, put him into a police car and drove him to a medical hospital which transferred him to a psychiatric facility. With no examination, William was committed as “suicidal,” and held involuntarily for 72 hours—for “observation.” The next day a psychiatrist said he needed to be detained another 48 hours and possibly as long as six months. William was “saved” only by the onset of a heart attack. He was transferred to a general hospital where a medical doctor determined that William had no need for psychiatric confinement. William’s health insurance was billed \$4,000 (€3,275) for four days in the psychiatric facility (even though he had only been there two days, and not by choice), and he was billed \$800 (€655) personally.

■ In 1997, Massachusetts parents rushed their 8-year-old epileptic son to a hospital for a medication adjustment after he experienced hallucinations. Instead of adjusting his medication, staff committed him to a psychiatric facility. It took the frantic parents an entire day to secure his transfer to a medical hospital for appropriate care.

■ In 1999, psychiatrists in Germany involuntarily committed a 79-year-old woman because neighbors



Professor Thomas Szasz has pointed out that “... psychiatrists have been largely responsible for creating the problems they have ostensibly tried to solve.” They are, therefore, the last people we should turn to for solving the problem of our homeless, of violence and of community mental health in general.

reported she had acted “strangely.” Despite her long-term diabetes and liver, kidney and heart conditions, she was prescribed between 5 and 20 times the normal dosage of powerful tranquilizers. Six days later the woman was rushed to a hospital emergency room, where she died. An autopsy determined that she died of breathing difficulties—a complication of tranquilizers.

■ When 19-year-old “Jo” was persuaded to admit herself to a psychiatric hospital in England while recovering from eating problems, she was told she would be able to rest, go for walks and receive counseling. “My psychiatrist’s idea of counseling was to put me on antipsychotic drugs, and whenever I had a problem” to increase the dose, she told a London newspaper in 2000. There was nothing to do but eat,

watch television and smoke. On the drugs, “I became aggressive, and for the first time, I started to cut my arms,” she said. “The longer I was in there, the less sane I became.” When she ran away, she was returned to the hospital and involuntarily committed. A patient raped her. But when she reported this to staff they told her the man was “just ill.” It took several months before Jo’s mother was able to secure her release. “Looking back it’s hard to believe what happened to me. I went in for a rest but came out a total wreck.”⁴²

INVENTED DISEASES

Diagnostic Pseudoscience

Underlying all of the problems discussed in this publication and more, is a system of diagnosis of mental disorders that is unscientific to the point of being an outright fraud.

The psychiatric bible for diagnosing mental disorders is the APA's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* or *DSM*. First published in 1952, the latest edition, the *DSM-IV*, lists 374 mental disorders. From this manual comes the diagnosis with which psychiatry labels a person. Since psychiatry cannot cure any mental disorder, as it doesn't know their causes, it is also a label that the person will be stuck with for the rest of his life.

"Unlike medical diagnoses that convey a probable cause, appropriate treatment and likely prognosis, the disorders listed in *DSM-IV* (and *ICD-10**) are terms arrived at through peer consensus"—a vote by APA committee members—and designed largely for billing purposes, reports Canadian psychologist, Dr. Tana Dineen.⁴³ There is no objective science to it.

Psychiatrists admit they cannot even define what they are "treating."

■ On the "schizophrenia" entry, the authors of *DSM-II* admitted, "Even if it had tried, the Committee could not establish agreement about what this disorder is; it could only agree on what to call it."

■ In *DSM-III* psychiatrists admitted, "... the etiology

[cause of mental disorders] is unknown. A variety of theories have been advanced ... not always convincing—to explain how these disorders come about."

■ *DSM-IV* states the term "mental disorder" continues to appear in the volume "because we have not found an appropriate substitute."

Dr. Sydney Walker, psychiatrist, neurologist and author of *A Dose of Sanity* warned about the dangers of relying upon the *DSM*: "Unfortunately, *DSM* can have a serious impact on your life. ... The manual's effects are felt far outside doctors' offices—in homes, business offices, courtrooms, and jails. *DSM* can be used to determine your fitness as a parent, your ability to do a job, even your right to support a particular political party.

"It can be used to keep a criminal in jail or to release a murderer back into society. It can be used to invalidate your will, to break your legal contracts, or to deny you the right to marry without a court's permission. If giving that much power to one book sounds scary,

it is. But it's no exaggeration. ...

"I believe, until the public and psychiatry itself see that *DSM* labels are not only useless as medical 'diagnoses' but also have the potential to do great harm—particularly when they are used as means to deny individual freedoms, or as weapons by psychiatrists acting as hired guns for the legal system."⁴⁴



*ICD-10: International Classification of Diseases, section on mental disorders

IMPORTANT FACTS

1 Psychiatry has never cured anything. Instead, as a consequence of its extensive use of dangerous antipsychotic drugs, it has created most of the mental ill health that now cries out desperately for cures.

2 Medical studies show that for many patients, what appear to be mental problems are actually caused by an undiagnosed physical illness or condition. This does not mean a "chemical imbalance" or a "brain-based disease," but a real physical condition with real pathology that can be addressed by a competent medical doctor.

3 A study published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* found that several diseases closely mimic schizophrenia, including drug-induced psychosis, complete with delusions of persecution and hallucinations.

4 A thorough physical exam of a patient, "Mrs. J," who was diagnosed as schizophrenic after she began hearing voices in her head, discovered she was not properly metabolizing the glucose that the brain needs for energy. Once treated, she recovered and showed no lingering trace of her former mental state.

5 Dr. Thomas Szasz, professor of psychiatry emeritus, advises, "All criminal behavior should be controlled by means of the criminal law, from the administration of which psychiatrists ought to be excluded."





CHAPTER FOUR

Improving Mental Health

If someone ran amok in the street, grabbing citizens because he disapproved of their behavior, locking them up and torturing them with mind-altering drugs or electricity, there would be a public outcry. The perpetrator would be charged with assault and mayhem and incarcerated for many years.

But because the perpetrator is a psychiatrist and the brutal acts he commits are obscured with terms such as “mental health care” or the patient’s “right to treatment,” the systemic social and mental crippling of millions of people each year is ignored. The innocent patient is locked up; the perpetrator of abuse is allowed to roam free to repeat his crimes.

When any psychiatrist has full legal power to cause a person’s involuntary physical detention by force (kidnapping), to subject him to physical pain and mental stress (torture) that leaves him permanently mentally damaged (cruel and unusual punishment), all without proving that he has committed a crime (due process of law, trial by jury) then, by definition, a totalitarian state exists.

In his book, *Psychiatric Slavery*, Dr. Szasz wrote, “When people do not know ‘what else’ to do with, say, a lethargic, withdrawn adolescent, a petty criminal, an exhibitionist, or a difficult

grandparent—our society tells them, in effect, to put the ‘offender’ in a mental hospital. To overcome this, we shall have to create an increasing number of humane and rational alternatives to involuntary mental hospitalization. Old-age homes, workshops, temporary homes for indigent persons whose family ties have been disintegrated, progressive prison communities—these and many other facilities will be needed to assume the tasks now entrusted to mental hospitals.”

“A physical disease incorrectly diagnosed as a mental disease can lead to a lifetime on psychotropic drugs, loss of productivity, physical and social deterioration and shattered dreams.”

— Dr. Sydney Walker III, neurologist and psychiatrist, author of *A Dose of Sanity*

Proper medical screening by non-psychiatric diagnostic specialists is a vital preliminary step in mapping the road to recovery for any mentally disturbed individual. Medical studies have shown time and again that for many patients, what appear to be mental

problems are actually caused by an undiagnosed physical illness or condition. This does not mean a “chemical imbalance” or a “brain-based disease,” but a real physical condition with real pathology that can be addressed by a competent medical doctor.

Ordinary medical problems can affect behavior and outlook. Former psychiatrist William H. Philpott, now a specialist in nutritional brain allergies, reports, “Symptoms resulting from vitamin B12 deficiencies range from poor

concentration to stuporous depression, severe agitation and hallucinations. Evidence showed that certain nutrients could stop neurotic and psychotic reactions and that the results could be immediate."

It is vital that mental health facilities have a full complement of diagnostic equipment and competent medical (non-psychiatric) doctors.

As for the dangerous person who is violent, he or she must be dealt with independent of psychiatrists. Dr. Szasz says, "To be sure some peo-

ple are dangerous." But "dangerousness is not supposed to be an abstract psychological condition attributed to a person; instead, it is supposed to be an inference drawn from the fact that a person has committed a violent act that is illegal, has been charged with it, tried for it, and found guilty of it. In which case, he should be punished, not 'treated'—in a jail, not in a hospital."

If a person commits a dangerous offense then criminal statutes exist to address this. Szasz states further: "All criminal behavior should be

WORKABLE TREATMENT *Real Help*

Dr. Giorgio Antonucci in Italy believes in the value of human life and that communication, not enforced incarceration and inhumane physical treatments, can heal even the most seriously disturbed mind.

In the Institute of Osservanza (Observance) in Imola, Italy, Dr. Antonucci treated dozens of so-called schizophrenic patients, most of whom had been

continuously strapped to their beds or kept in straight-jackets. All "usual" psychiatric treatments were abandoned. Dr. Antonucci released them from their confinement, spending many, many hours each day talking with them and "penetrating their deliriums and anguish." He listened to stories of years of desperation and institutional suffering.

He ensured that patients were treated compassionately, with respect, and without the use of drugs. In fact, under his guidance, the ward transformed from the most violent in the facility to its calmest. After a few months, his "dangerous" patients were free, walking quietly in the asylum garden. Eventually they were stable and discharged from the hospital after many had been taught how to work and care for themselves for the first time in their lives. Dr. Antonucci's superior



Dr. Antonucci treated his patients with communication, compassion and no drugs.

controlled by means of the criminal law, from the administration of which psychiatrists ought to be excluded."

There is no mystery about the increase in gratuitous violence, criminality, youth suicides, armies of homeless wandering our cities and numerous other negative mental health indices in communities today. But they are not an expanding *mental illness* problem demanding more community mental health "treatments." Rather they represent an expanding mental health problem *created* by psychiatrists and their treatments.

Psychiatry has never cured anything. Instead, and as a direct consequence of its extensive use of dangerous antipsychotic drugs, it has created most of the mental ill health that now cries out desperately for cures.

The bottom line, as Dr. Szasz points out, is that "... psychiatrists have been largely responsible for creating the problems they have ostensibly tried to solve." They are, therefore, the last people to whom we should turn to solve the problem of our homeless, of violence and of community mental health in general.

results also came at a much lower cost. Such programs constitute permanent testimony to the existence of both genuine answers and hope for the seriously troubled.

A Haven of Hope

The following was written in 1999 by Dr. Loren Mosher, clinical professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego and one-time chief of the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health's Center for Studies of Schizophrenia.⁴⁵

"I opened Soteria House in 1971. ... There, young persons diagnosed as having 'schizophrenia'

lived medication-free with a nonprofessional staff trained to listen, to understand them and provide support, safety and validation of their experience. The idea was that schizophrenia can often be overcome with the help of meaningful relationships, rather than with drugs. ..."



Courage could be described as persistence to overcome all obstacles and communication as the heart of life. These two qualities were displayed in abundance by two remarkable doctors: Dr. Giorgio Antonucci (left) and Dr. Loren Mosher, who both literally helped to return life to hundreds of patients lost in the degradation of psychiatric hospitals.

The Soteria project compared their treatment method with "usual" psychiatric hospital drug treatment interventions for persons newly diagnosed as having schizophrenia.

"The experiment worked better than expected. At six weeks post-admission, both groups had improved significantly and comparably despite Soteria clients having not usually received antipsychotic drugs! At two years post-admission, Soteria-treated subjects were working at significantly higher occupational levels, were significantly more often living independently or

with peers, and had fewer readmissions. Interestingly, clients treated at Soteria who received no neuroleptic medication ... or were thought to be destined to have the worst outcomes, actually did the best as compared to hospital and drug-treated control subjects."



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

- 1** No person should ever be forced to undergo electric shock treatment, psychosurgery, coercive psychiatric treatment, or the enforced administration of mind-altering drugs. Governments should outlaw such abuses.
- 2** Insist that community treatment laws that rely upon mandatory and thereby coercive measures be abolished, and dismantle or prevent “mental health courts” which are another conduit for drugging our communities.
- 3** Housing and work will do more for the homeless than the life-debilitating effects of psychiatric drugs and other psychiatric treatments that destroy responsibility. Many of them just simply want a chance.
- 4** Install in psychiatric facilities a full complement of competent physical (non-psychiatric) doctors and diagnostic equipment to locate underlying and undiagnosed physical conditions.
- 5** Legal protections should be put in place to ensure that psychiatrists and psychologists are prohibited from violating the right of every person to exercise all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in other relevant instruments.
- 6** File a complaint with the police about every incident of psychiatric assault, fraud or illicit drug selling. Send CCHR a copy of your complaint. Once criminal complaints have been filed, complaints should also be filed with the state regulatory agencies, such as state medical and psychologists’ boards. Such agencies can investigate and revoke or suspend a psychiatrist’s or psychologist’s license to practice.
- 7** Establish rights for patients and their insurance companies to receive refunds for mental health treatment which did not achieve the promised result or improvement, or which resulted in proven harm to the individual, thereby ensuring that responsibility lies with the individual practitioner and psychiatric facility rather than the government or its agencies.



Citizens Commission on Human Rights International

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) was established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology to investigate and expose psychiatric violations of human rights, and to clean up the field of mental healing. Today, it has more than 130 chapters in over 31 countries. Its board of advisors, called Commissioners, includes doctors, lawyers, educators, artists, business professionals, and civil and human rights representatives.

While it doesn't provide medical or legal advice, it works closely with and supports medical doctors and medical practice. A key CCHR focus is psychiatry's fraudulent use of subjective "diagnoses" that lack any scientific or medical merit, but which are used to reap financial benefits in the billions, mostly from the taxpayers or insurance carriers. Based on these false diagnoses, psychiatrists justify and prescribe life-damaging treatments, including mind-altering drugs, which mask a person's underlying difficulties and prevent his or her recovery.

CCHR's work aligns with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the following precepts, which psychiatrists violate on a daily basis:

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Through psychiatrists' false diagnoses, stigmatizing labels, easy-seizure commitment laws, brutal, depersonalizing "treatments," thousands of individuals are harmed and denied their inherent human rights.

CCHR has inspired and caused many hundreds of reforms by testifying before legislative hearings and conducting public hearings into psychiatric abuse, as well as working with media, law enforcement and public officials the world over.



MISSION STATEMENT

THE CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

investigates and exposes psychiatric violations of human rights. It works shoulder-to-shoulder with like-minded groups and individuals who share a common purpose to clean up the field of mental health. We shall continue to do so until psychiatry's abusive and coercive practices cease and human rights and dignity are returned to all.

**Rosa Anna Costa,
Piedmont Regional Counsellor,
Commission for Health:**

"We must go on speaking for those who cannot. ... We must take the responsibility, as institutions, to lead the campaign, and I positively acknowledge CCHR for what it is doing in this field. There are situations that even we don't know about and it is important that associations like [CCHR] give us the chance to acquire knowledge about them ... I believe that [CCHR's work] should be expanded so that more people can learn what kind of abuses are being practiced by 'not-so-ethical' medical doctors. ... I want to thank the CCHR for what it does."

**The Hon. Raymond N. Haynes,
California State Assembly:**

"The contributions that the Citizens Commission on Human Rights

International has made to the local, national and international areas on behalf of mental health issues are invaluable and reflect an organization devoted to the highest ideals of mental health services."

**Johanna Reeve-Alexander,
Homeopathic Nutritionist,
Tara Health Center, Western Australia:**

"I have seen within CCHR a committed, caring, humanitarian team of dedicated professional people who are helping to bring to light the appalling truth behind some psychiatric practices. ... Without CCHR opening the gates and shining a torch on these practices via their literature, awareness campaigns, intervention at government levels and continual research, the public would be quite unaware of the malpractice at this level of medicine."

For further information:

CCHR International
6616 Sunset Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA, USA 90028

Telephone: (323) 467-4242 • (800) 869-2247 • Fax: (323) 467-3720
www.cchr.org • e-mail: humanrights@cchr.org

CCHR National Offices



CCHR Australia

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Australia
P.O. Box 562
Broadway, New South Wales
2007 Australia
Phone: 612-9211-4787
Fax: 612-9211-5543
E-mail: cchr@iprimus.com.au

CCHR Austria

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Austria
(Bürgerkommission für
Menschenrechte Österreich)
Postfach 130
A-1072 Wien, Austria
Phone: 43-1-877-02-23
E-mail: info@cchr.at

CCHR Belgium

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights
Postbus 55
2800 Mechelen 2,
Belgium
Phone: 324-777-12494

CCHR Canada

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Toronto
27 Carlton St., Suite 304
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1L2 Canada
Phone: 1-416-971-8555
E-mail:
officemanager@on.aibn.com

CCHR Czech Republic

Obcanská komise za
lidská práva
Václavské náměstí 17
110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic
Phone/Fax: 420-224-009-156
E-mail: lidskaprava@cchr.cz

CCHR Denmark

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Denmark
(Medborgernes
Menneskerettighedskommission
—MMK)
Faksingevej 9A
2700 Brønshøj, Denmark
Phone: 45 39 62 9039
E-mail: m.m.k.@inet.uni2.dk

CCHR Finland

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Finland
Post Box 145
00511 Helsinki, Finland

CCHR France

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights France
(Commission des Citoyens pour
les Droits de l'Homme—CCDH)
BP 76
75561 Paris Cedex 12, France
Phone: 33 1 40 01 0970
Fax: 33 1 40 01 0520
E-mail: ccdh@wanadoo.fr

CCHR Germany

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Germany—
National Office
(Kommission für Verstöße der
Psychiatrie gegen
Menschenrechte e.V.—KVPM)
Amalienstraße 49a
80799 München, Germany
Phone: 49 89 273 0354
Fax: 49 89 28 98 6704
E-mail: kvpm@gmx.de

CCHR Greece

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights
65, Panepistimiou Str.
105 64 Athens, Greece

CCHR Holland

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Holland
Postbus 36000
1020 MA, Amsterdam
Holland
Phone/Fax: 3120-4942510
E-mail: info@ncrm.nl

CCHR Hungary

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Hungary
Pf. 182
1461 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: 36 1 342 6355
Fax: 36 1 344 4724
E-mail: cchrhun@ahol.org

CCHR Israel

Citizens Commission
on Human Rights Israel
P.O. Box 37020
61369 Tel Aviv, Israel
Phone: 972 3 5660699
Fax: 972 3 5663750
E-mail: cchr_isr@netvision.net.il

CCHR Italy

Citizens Commission
on Human Rights Italy
(Comitato dei Cittadini per i
Diritti Umani—CCDU)
Viale Monza 1
20125 Milano, Italy
E-mail: ccdu_italia@hotmail.com

CCHR Japan

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Japan
2-11-7-7F Kitaotsuka
Toshima-ku Tokyo
170-0004, Japan
Phone/Fax: 81 3 3576 1741

CCHR Lausanne, Switzerland

Citizens Commission
on Human Rights Lausanne
(Commission des Citoyens pour
les droits de l'Homme—CCDH)
Case postale 5773
1002 Lausanne, Switzerland
Phone: 41 21 646 6226
E-mail: cchrlau@dplanet.ch

CCHR Mexico

Citizens Commission
on Human Rights Mexico
(Comisión de Ciudadanos por
los Derechos Humanos—CCDH)
Tuxpan 68, Colonia Roma
CP 06700, México DF
E-mail:
protegelasaludmental@yahoo.com

CCHR Monterrey, Mexico

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Monterrey,
Mexico
(Comisión de Ciudadanos por los
Derechos Humanos—CCDH)
Avda. Madero 1955 Poniente
Esq. Venustiano Carranza
Edif. Santos, Oficina 735
Monterrey, NL México
Phone: 51 81 83480329
Fax: 51 81 86758689
E-mail: ccdh@axtel.net

CCHR Nepal

P.O. Box 1679
Baneshwor Kathmandu, Nepal
E-mail: nepalcchr@yahoo.com

CCHR New Zealand

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights New Zealand
P.O. Box 5257
Wellesley Street
Auckland 1, New Zealand
Phone/Fax: 649 580 0060
E-mail: cchr@xtra.co.nz

CCHR Norway

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Norway
(Medborgernes
menneskerettighets-kommisjon,
MMK)
Postboks 8902 Youngstorget
0028 Oslo, Norway
E-mail: mmknorge@online.no

CCHR Russia

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Russia
P.O. Box 35
117588 Moscow, Russia
Phone: 7095 518 1100

CCHR South Africa

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights South Africa
P.O. Box 710
Johannesburg 2000
Republic of South Africa
Phone: 27 11 622 2908

CCHR Spain

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Spain
(Comisión de Ciudadanos por los
Derechos Humanos—CCDH)
Apdo. de Correos 18054
28080 Madrid, Spain

CCHR Sweden

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Sweden
(Kommittén för Mänskliga
Rättigheter—KMR)
Box 2
124 21 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone/Fax: 46 8 83 8518
E-mail: info.kmr@telia.com

CCHR Taiwan

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights
Taichung P.O. Box 36-127
Taiwan, R.O.C.
E-mail: roysu01@hotmail.com

CCHR Ticino, Switzerland

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Ticino
(Comitato dei cittadini per
i diritti dell'uomo)
Casella postale 613
6512 Giubiasco, Switzerland
E-mail: ccdu@ticino.com

CCHR United Kingdom

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights United Kingdom
P.O. Box 188
East Grinstead, West Sussex
RH19 4RB, United Kingdom
Phone: 44 1342 31 3926
Fax: 44 1342 32 5559
E-mail: humanrights@cchr.uk.org

CCHR Zurich, Switzerland

Citizens Commission on
Human Rights Switzerland
Sektion Zürich
Postfach 1207
8026 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone: 41 1 242 7790
E-mail: info@cchr.ch

REFERENCES

References

1. "Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America," The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Report, 22 July 2003, p. 68.
2. Paper written by Allen Jones, Investigator in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Inspector General (OIG), Bureau of Special Investigations, Law Project for Psychiatric Rights, Internet address: <http://www.psychrights.org>, 20 Jan. 2004, p. 31.
3. Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine, and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill* (Perseus Publishing, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2002), pp. 227–228, citing L. Jeff, "The International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia: Five-Year Follow-Up Findings," *Psychological Medicine* 22 (1992), pp. 131–145; Assen Jablensky, "Schizophrenia: Manifestations, Incidence and Course in Different Cultures, a World Health Organization Ten-Country Study," *Psychological Medicine*, Supplement (1992), pp. 1–95.
4. J.R. Ewalt, Foreword in Gryenebaum (ed.), *The Practice of Community Mental Health* (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1970).
5. Peter Schrag, *Mind Control* (Pantheon Books, New York, 1978), p. 45.
6. Thomas Szasz, M.D., *Cruel Compassion* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1994), p. 160.
7. Steven Foley and Henry Sharfstein, *Madness and Government* (American Psychiatric Association Press, Washington, D.C., 1983), p. 25.
8. Dr. Dorine Baudin, "Ethical Aspects of Deinstitutionalization in Mental Health Care," Final Report, Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction, Program No. BMH 5-98-3793, July 2001, p. 14.
9. Franklin Chu and Sharland Trotter, *The Madness Establishment* (Grossman Publishers, New York, 1974), pp. xi, xiii, 203–204.
10. Tony Jones and Adrian Bradley, "Sane Reaction," *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*, 10 June 1999.
11. Rael Issac and Virginia Armat, *Madness in the Streets* (The Free Press, New York, 1990), p. 98.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 156.
13. Vera Hassner Sharav, MLS, "Children in Clinical Research: A Conflict of Moral Values," *The American Journal of Bioethics*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2003.
14. "Psychiatric Drugs—The Need to Be Informed," Report on the Public Hearing on Psychiatric Drugs, presented by the NSW Committee on Mental Health Advocacy, Nov. 1981, p. 22, quoting Pam Goring, *Mental Disorder or Madness?* (University of Queensland Press, Australia, 1979).
15. *Op. cit.*, Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America*, p. 144.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 164.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 256.
18. *Ibid.*, pp. 257–258.
19. *Ibid.*, pp. 253–254.
20. *Op. cit.*, Allen Jones, p. 6.
21. *Op. cit.*, Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America*, p. 286.
22. "Leading Therapy Classes by Global Pharmaceutical Sales, 2003," *IMSHealth.com*, 2004.
23. *Op. cit.*, Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America*, p. 186.
24. *Ibid.*, pp. 183, 186.
25. John H. Herrera, Ph.D., et al., "High Potency Neuroleptics and Violence in Schizophrenics," *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, Vol. 176, No. 9, 1988, p. 558.
26. *Ibid.*
27. Erica Goode, "Leading Drugs for Psychosis Come Under New Scrutiny," *The New York Times*, 20 May 2003.
28. *Op. cit.*, Robert Whitaker, *Mad in America*, p. 282.
29. Rosei Mestel, "New Schizophrenia Treatment at Issue," *Los Angeles Times*, 26 Nov. 2003.
30. *Op. cit.*, Erica Goode.
31. *Ibid.*
32. Robert Whitaker, "Forced Medication is Inhumane. ..." *The Boston Globe*, 9 June 2002.
33. Michael McCubbin and David Cohen, *The Rights of Users of the Mental Health System: The Tight Knot of Power, Law, and Ethics*, Presented to the XXIVth International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Toronto, June 1999.
34. "Compulsory Admission and Involuntary Treatment of Mentally Ill Patients—Legislation and Practice in EU-Member States," Final Report, Mannheim, Germany, 15 May 2002, Introduction, pp. 2–8.
35. *Op. cit.*, Robert Whitaker, "Forced Medication is Inhumane. ..."
36. "Diet Mulls Fate of Mentally Ill Criminals," *The Japan Times*, 8 June 2002.
37. *Op. cit.*, Thomas Szasz, M.D. *Cruel Compassion*, p. 205.
38. *Op. cit.*, Michael McCubbin and David Cohen.
39. Thomas Szasz, M.D., *Liberation By Oppression* (Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, New Jersey 2002), p. 127.
40. Nancy Wolff, Ph.D., "Courts as Therapeutic Agents: Thinking Past the Novelty of Mental Health Courts," *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, Vol. 30, 2002, pp. 431–437.
41. "The Role of Mental Health Courts is System Reform" Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington D.C., Jan. 2003.
42. Sam Hart, "Mind Control, The Shocking Truth about Britain's Mental Hospitals, Exclusive Survey," *The Big Issue*, No. 412, 13–19 Nov. 2000.
43. Dr. Tana Dineen, Ph.D., *Manufacturing Victims*, Third Edition (Robert Davies Multimedia Publishing, Canada, 2001), p. 86.
44. Sydney Walker, *A Dose of Sanity: Mind, Medicine and Misdiagnosis* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc; New York, 1996), pp. 207, 225.
45. Loren Mosher, "Soteria and Other Alternatives to Acute Psychiatric Hospitalization: A Personal and Professional Review," *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, Vol. 187, 1999, pp. 142–149.

Citizens Commission on Human Rights

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Education is a vital part of any initiative to reverse social decline. CCHR takes this responsibility very seriously. Through the broad dissemination of CCHR's Internet site, books, newsletters and other publications, more and more patients, families, professionals, lawmakers and countless others are

THE REAL CRISIS—*In Mental Health Today*

Report and recommendations on the lack of science and results within the mental health industry

MASSIVE FRAUD—*Psychiatry's Corrupt Industry*

Report and recommendations on a criminal mental health monopoly

PSYCHIATRIC HOAX—*The Subversion of Medicine*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry's destructive impact on healthcare

PSEUDOSCIENCE—*Psychiatry's False Diagnoses*

Report and recommendations on the unscientific fraud perpetrated by psychiatry

SCHIZOPHRENIA—*Psychiatry's For Profit 'Disease'*

Report and recommendations on psychiatric lies and false diagnosis

THE BRUTAL REALITY—*Harmful Psychiatric 'Treatments'*

Report and recommendations on the destructive practices of electroshock and psychosurgery

PSYCHIATRIC RAPE—*Assaulting Women and Children*

Report and recommendations on widespread sex crimes against patients within the mental health system

DEADLY RESTRAINTS—*Psychiatry's 'Therapeutic' Assault*

Report and recommendations on the violent and dangerous use of restraints in mental health facilities

PSYCHIATRY—*Hooking Your World on Drugs*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry creating today's drug crisis

REHAB FRAUD—*Psychiatry's Drug Scam*

Report and recommendations on methadone and other disastrous psychiatric drug 'rehabilitation' programs

becoming educated on the truth about psychiatry, and that something effective can and should be done about it.

CCHR's publications—available in 15 languages—show the harmful impact of psychiatry on racism, education, women, justice, drug rehabilitation, morals, the elderly, religion, and many other areas. A list of these include:

CHILD DRUGGING—*Psychiatry Destroying Lives*

Report and recommendations on fraudulent psychiatric diagnosis and the enforced drugging of youth

HARMING YOUTH—*Psychiatry Destroys Young Minds*

Report and recommendations on harmful mental health assessments, evaluations and programs within our schools

COMMUNITY RUIN—*Psychiatry's Coercive 'Care'*

Report and recommendations on the failure of community mental health and other coercive psychiatric programs

HARMING ARTISTS—*Psychiatry Ruins Creativity*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry assaulting the arts

UNHOLY ASSAULT—*Psychiatry versus Religion*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry's subversion of religious belief and practice

ERODING JUSTICE—*Psychiatry's Corruption of Law*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry subverting the courts and corrective services

ELDERLY ABUSE—*Cruel Mental Health Programs*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry abusing seniors

CHAOS & TERROR—*Manufactured by Psychiatry*

Report and recommendations on the role of psychiatry in international terrorism

CREATING RACISM—*Psychiatry's Betrayal*

Report and recommendations on psychiatry causing racial conflict and genocide

CITIZENS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The International Mental Health Watchdog

WARNING: No one should stop taking any psychiatric drug without the advice and assistance of a competent, non-psychiatric, medical doctor.



This publication was made possible by a grant from the United States International Association of Scientologists Members' Trust.

Published as a public service by the
Citizens Commission on Human Rights

CCHR in the United States is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover: Mark Peterson/Corbis; page 4: Wally McNamee/Corbis; page 6: Reuters/Corbis; page 7: Bettmann/Corbis; page 10: Peter Turnley/Corbis; page 13: The Sankai Shimbun; page 12: Corbis; same page: Reuters News Media Inc./Corbis; same page: NewsPix (NZ); same page: AP Wide World Photos; page 14: Peter Turnley/Corbis; page 16: Doug Menuez/Getty; page 17: Bill Ross/Corbis.

*"It is dishonest to pretend
that caring coercively for the mentally
ill invariably helps him, and that abstaining
from such coercion is tantamount
to 'withholding treatment' from him. . . .
All history teaches us to beware of
benefactors who deprive their
beneficiaries of liberty."*

— Thomas Szasz, Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus

Communication from Public

Name: Willman Morcillo

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 09:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I don't think the police should be de-funded. I know there will always be mistakes and some bad people, but I'm confident that the majority of officers want to do well. In addition, I appreciate what you all do and how you sacrifice for the good of the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Brian Harris
Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 10:14 PM
Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of LA County and a registered voter. I plead with the LA City elected officials to base any decision of reducing the LAPD budget on the real facts of the situation. An emotional response to this serious issue will surely lead to a disastrous outcome which will be of no benefit to anyone, regardless of race, living in the LA County area. While there is always room for improvement, making changes in response to unwarranted police bashing by vocal minorities is not a smart way to move forward. I urge Mayor Garcetti and all elected officials to carefully review the facts relating to crime reduction over the past 5 or so years and the role that effective and dedicated policing has played in this significant turnaround. It is a certainty that any budget enforced reduction in police services will lead to increased crime in all areas of the City and an increased level of anxiety and fear for all of us residents. I believe that many of the arguments being made by the advocates of reducing the police budget are based on false and inaccurate facts. As leaders of our City you have a responsibility to make major impact decisions such as this on the basis of the most accurate information. Any standard for a decision that is less than this will surely be an incorrect one and one that will adversely impact the lives of all of us residents and voters for many years to come. I urge you to get the real facts and not bend to the inaccurate and emotion-based arguments being made by many of the advocates for a reduction of the LAPD budget. Thank you for using your common sense and deliberative wisdom in this matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Raiken

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 04:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am an active registered voter in Los Angeles and have been for over 25 years. I am also a teacher in the private sector. I strongly believe we cannot make a rash decision to slash one budget to assist another. The reaction to this may be to privately fund a police force, and you can imagine what that might create. Let open discussions and votes from all of the people occur before we just # the idea of "defunding." This is not something to be decided by a few political powers or the reactionary group think of social media.

Communication from Public

Name: William Moon

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 04:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Given the statistics of public safety for LA, which are good, the 'defunding' business will only make us less safe. This is an emotional overreaction without taking the time to analyze the impact of the action. Please stop and view the facts of the matter and the impact of your decisions.

Communication from Public

Name: David Wilson

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 05:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Why are we looking to apply solutions formulated for another police department to the LAPD which has already implemented almost all these reforms over the last 20 years and with excellent results in terms of crime reduction. While there will always be the occasional person who cracks under the pressure of being an officers that is no reason to punish the city and particularly the most crime ridden areas with a reduction in police funding and support. One should first ask where are these ideas coming from and who's agenda is being forwarded by them. Also, who has been paying for such an organized assault on the idea of policing?

Communication from Public

Name: Juan lopez

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 05:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Why is the city of Los Angeles turning it's back on the men and woman who have given their blood for the safety of all the people who live in Los Angeles, it's true there are some bad apples in the department but every department being city or private sector has bad apples , I think that better training is the answer for helping out with a very stressful job , it's not easy wearing a badge , especially when there is less respect for the police ,and by the city turning it's back on our police ,is moving backwards , we should stand firm and just ,please don't punish those that are always there to protect and to serve ,

Communication from Public

Name: Ken Baker

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 07:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of the City of LA living in Lake Balboa. Please do not cut the budget of the LAPD!

Communication from Public

Name: Larisa Krass

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 08:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I totally support Police and consider the whole situation as a war against decent people who want to be protected , Respect and support to LAPD

Communication from Public

Name: Jean Dale Glass

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 08:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I do NOT SUPPORT the "defunding" of the police dept! Our country does need to look at systemic racism and to police reform but that is NOT done by cutting back resources. This is important for the city of LA. My church is located in Los Angeles. My three sons live in Los Angeles. Keep LA Safe! Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Vadim Krass

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 08:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: All police cars in Los Angeles are called "black-white". For me it does not matter who is inside the police car white or black officer , I know that the people inside any police car will come to my protection , therefore I support all police officers, they are front liners.

Communication from Public

Name: Elena Krasnyanskaya

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 08:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am a civilian US Army retiree (military translator/interpreter, professor (Ret.) of the Defense Language Institute.) I know the work of the police officers rather well, because I attended a police department in Monterey regularly with my students, who translated into Russian what police officers told about their service in English. I support police officers completely and sincerely, because it is they, who provide our security and we feel safe thanks to them. Current riots should not lead to any negative changes in their service or attitude towards them. Drug addicts, alcoholics, scum and alike must be persecuted and punished regardless of any race and ethnicity. We must be thankful to the police officers (and I am sincerely) for their service and they together with the local authorities should stop current riots. My experience shows that American police officers are an example to be followed in their appearance, behavior, and responsibility. Professor (Ret.) Elena Krasnyanskaya, Ph. D.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 11:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: "Too little, too late. #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE"

Communication from Public

Name: Memoree Joelle

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 11:53 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support any defunding of the police. I am a resident of the city of Los Angeles and we need a well-funded police force to keep citizens safe. These funds are needed for training and we already have one of the most diverse police forces in the country. In the Mayor's press conference, he indicated that he wants to divert these funds for programs benefiting the education, mental health, health, jobs and homelessness in communities of color. All but one of these issues, in the public sphere, are the responsibility of either LAUSD or LA County. Therefore, unless we are going to redirect all the budget cuts to jobs, we will be involved in mission creep instead of holding other, responsible, elected and tax funded entities accountable for their failures. Defunding the police is NOT what the real residents of Los Angeles want or need!

Communication from Public

Name: Emma Barrie

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 12:01 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE and invest in communities!! We need money for education, healthcare and infrastructure, NOW. We must reassess our values for the sake of humanity.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Bellotto
Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 01:28 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the LAPD!

Communication from Public

Name: Nina Mabry

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 02:16 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police and redirect that money to programs that support and lift up our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Hagit Raviv Ron

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 03:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: The LAPD from my experience have been very pro community/Police partnership. Having been on Clergy councils and CPAB meetings in the last 3 years reveal to me the dedication and very on purpose individuals who want the community to be safer and better. They are doing just that, and the statistic of crime are reducing from year to year. We need their courage and dedication in our society. They need to be awarded and not penalized. I'm a resident in LA.

Communication from Public

Name: Mrs. B Wilson

Date Submitted: 06/11/2020 04:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I AM A REGISTERED VOTER IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY I believe that the LAPD have been working to improve our community. I have personally been helped by their work. I DO NOT vote for taking money out of the LAPD budget because an officer of another state in the USA abused his position. I support the full budget funding of the LAPD. I do not see the money that has been earmarked for use by the state for "homeless" and "mental health" and "education" has helped our needy communities. If it had, we would not be seeing this amount of protest. Change needs to happen in the above areas, but it is not by cutting the LAPD out of the picture. This change need to happen by making effective those with an established budget in the areas of "homeless" and "mental health" and "education". More effective solutions are out there, they just need to be implemented. DO NOT COMMIT THIS LOSS OF LAPD FUNDS WITHOUT A VOTE BY THE CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES

Communication from Public

Name: Bre Gibson

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please defund the police! We need more than your most recent budget cuts to the LAPD. We need an overhaul of the budget and a reallocation of funds to the homeless and mental health resources!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: As a general public comment, I urge the city of Los Angeles to defund the police and to hold the department, DA, and individuals accountable for the perpetuated racism and brutality on black and brown people in LA. Take a step in the right direction by divesting in police, pointed reform and cuts, and investing in black and brown communities intentionally. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Tonjie Reese

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Reallocate police funds to community programs that prevent crimes from happening. If you are proactive and take care of the needs of the community first, you will reduce the need for law enforcement, and reduce the number of people murdered by the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Kaitlyn

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police! Re-invest in our community's resources, especially in primarily black and brown areas within our communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please defund the police. Your revised budget is completely disproportionate in police spending. Please fund housing for the homeless instead. Please fund clean energy transportation instead. Please create a budget that is fair and balanced #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Garima Verma

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Los Angeles is a city that so many across the country look to as an example of leadership. It is crucial in this time that we set the right example. It is crucial that we as a city stand in solidarity with our Black community and show with our actions that we believe Black Lives Matter, so the rest of the world may follow suit. We need to defund the police, dismantle our systems that are infected with systematic racism, and reallocate these funds into addressing the foundational issues facing our communities. Reform isn't enough. We cannot keep putting a bandaid on the same issues over and over again only to experience the racism and trauma in different ways. We need to acknowledge our shortcomings as a city. We need to recognize that the systems were built under the guise of white supremacy and the oppression of Black people and the only way forward is to create new systems that work for everyone, not just a select few. I've been proud to live in Los Angeles for nearly a decade. I'm proud of my city for standing up. I want to be proud of our government for setting an example for everyone else. I want to see us create a better world for our Black community and restore everyone's faith in this incredible city. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. 601 names is too many. Not one more.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #defundthepolice and help our people

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please #DefundThePolice so our communities can thrive and flourish. We are tired of being harassed by police , there are no laws a cop won't break as we have seen recently.

Communication from Public

Name: Sivan M Silver-Swartz

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Angelenos are demanding City Council do the right thing and defund the LAPD! Not just a measly 150 million but a full defunding and restructuring of the department to take money and power away from a racist institution and put that money into investing in community services that bring healthcare, housing, jobs, and education to this city. 54% of the budget to the LAPD is absurd and downright immoral. Defund the police and enact a people's budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Evan Cummings
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:44 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. General Public Comment

Communication from Public

Name: Micki Boden

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. We need care, not cops. We need a people's budget, now. Black lives matter. Once again - defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Rae Brigham

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:45 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: The actions of the LAPD towards the citizens it claims to protect have been reprehensible during both the recent protests and the constant terrorization and abuse of black people within the county. A system cannot be reformed to serve those it was never intended to protect. DEFUND the LAPD now, and give that money back to the communities that have been gutted by your refusal to act. \$150 million dollar cuts are offensive, give the whole \$3 BILLION dollars back.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE DEFUND THE POLICE DEFUND
THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Erin Weinstock
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:46 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #Defundthepolice

Communication from Public

Name: Mone't Cardenas

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defunding and abolishing the LAPD while creating community led public safety is a MUST. It will indefinitely lower the crime rate in the city and keep more people coming home to their families. ABOLISH THE POLICE!!

Communication from Public

Name: Shannon

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #defundthepolice the numbers make clear that our current structures for protecting the citizens of this city do not work and endanger members of our community

Communication from Public

Name: Jaclyn Allen
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:53 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Seffel
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:55 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police. You would never allow Doctors to treat all illness with the same prescription; policing is not the appropriate prescription for all our community's needs.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin Zimring
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:57 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund The Police

Communication from Public

Name: Kelsey
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:01 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Dani Haberman
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:02 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!

Communication from Public

Name: Kendra
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:06 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, there are better ways to improve our community with that money!!

Communication from Public

Name: Jenny Sonenberg
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:07 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: We must DEFUND THE POLICE. Let's put that money back into the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Nick koenigs

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:07 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police! That money could be used in such better ways to help communities rise above poverty which will end crime and a need to police these communities. Let's put our money into services that help communities instead of paying a violent police state which brutalizes people of color. Defund the police Now!

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:08 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!! \$150 million taken away from a 3 billion dollar budget is NOT ENOUGH!

Communication from Public

Name: Angelica Davila
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:08 PM
Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: We need to DEFUND THE POLICE as soon as possible. Our communities need CARE NOT COPS. If mental health professionals, social workers, or crisis negotiators were sent to 911 calls instead of armed, biased police, not only would innocent lives be saved, but the community would actually be lifted and protected. Crime would decrease, and the economy would grow across all sectors. Armed police officers trained to shoot first are NOT a solution to our communities' struggles. They are a tool of a racist system designed to keep communities of color at a disadvantage. DEFUND THE POLICE, but don't just cut the budget. Defunding the police means REALLOCATING THE FUNDS. DEFUND THE POLICE and INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES: Take those billions of dollars and invest them into our schools--LA has one of the largest school districts in the country and it is in desperate need of resources. Take those billions of dollars and invest them into mental health services--jailing citizens who suffer from schizophrenia/bipolar disorder/etc. helps no one. Take those billions of dollars and invest them into housing projects--the homeless population of LA has grown at an exponential rate in the last few years. If we provided citizens with housing and gave them the tools to find a job, we could support them as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. If a government does not do everything in its power to support and protect its citizens, then it is no longer serving its purpose. So serve your purpose, and DEFUND THE POLICE.

Communication from Public

Name: Miranda
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:13 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: De-fund the police!!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:13 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Shawn
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:15 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #Defundthepolice

Communication from Public

Name: Andy Tagliasacchi
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:15 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Acker

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police! They do not need 50% of our city budget. As a taxpayer in LA I want to see my tax dollars going to affordable housing and community investment, not police. I do not think we should disband the entire department, I just believe that the police can function with significantly less than 50% of the budget. I also would like to know what the LAPD budget is going towards: is it going towards investing in body cameras, building community relationships, training officers on how to deescalate situations with minimal force, recruiting more officers of color, and making institutional changes that will reduce violence against our communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:20 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: M Long

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:20 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police. Redirect money away from making arrests and into programs addressing source problems (poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, youth centers, etc.). Referring people to services that meet their basic needs improves public safety more than arresting people for minor offenses.

Communication from Public

Name: Sandy B

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice This does not mean eliminate all police funding. This means: Police will be funded. Police will not be over funded. Redistribute the city budget. Everyone gets a fair share. Because: Police should focus on crimes and criminals. Police are not mental health counselors. Police are not social workers. Police are not medical professionals. Police are not education specialists. Police should not be responsible for everything. Emphasizes: Reassessing our values. Investing in our communities. Investing in our people. Funding our schools. Funding our hospitals. Funding our services. Funding our infrastructure.

Communication from Public

Name: Jack Levinson
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:21 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Ellen Rock

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: \$100-150 million in reduction to our police force budget is an embarrassingly obvious attempt to placate over enacting anything that resembles real, meaningful change. This is an entirely unacceptable 'effort' to take when it comes to police brutally abusing the people of LA, particularly BIPOC residents who are being systemically murdered by the state. We are not fooled with your 0.5% concession – It is an insult. We see your actions, and continued lack thereof, and will respond accordingly when time to vote. History will remember you long past this round of elections, which side would you like to sit on? #DefundThePolice
#PeoplesBudgetLA

Communication from Public

Name: Rudy Falagan

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:24 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police. \$150 million dollars is a joke in comparison to the billion+ dollars it receives. This is a matter of black lives and the safety of our communities. Do Better.

Communication from Public

Name: Emma Kragen
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:25 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundthePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Ackerman
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:26 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, please! Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Shannon O'Hara
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:28 PM
Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing my comment today to demand Mayor Garcetti defund the police now and enact the People's budget. The defunding of the police would create a gradual system of community protection and allocate funds to social services so the burden of mental health crises, etc isn't placed on the police department, who are ill-equipped and not trained in deescalation. The people have spoken -- which side of history would you like to be on? I'm ashamed how long it has taken the Mayor and LA council-members to enact this but will never stop fighting for change! I'm attaching a guide from MPD150, an organization, who clearly explains how to build a police-free system. Thank you!

BUILDING A POLICE-FREE FUTURE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



presented by
MPD150

MPD150 is an independent, community-based initiative challenging the narrative that police exist to protect and serve. In 2017, on the 150th anniversary of the Minneapolis Police Department, the group produced a performance evaluation of the MPD based on historical research and interviews with community members. Read the full report at www.MPD150.com.

We believe in the power, possibility, and necessity of a police-free future. We also understand, however, that this is a new idea for many people. What follows are some frequently-asked questions, and our responses.

WON'T ABOLISHING THE POLICE CREATE CHAOS AND CRIME? HOW WILL WE STAY SAFE?

Police abolition work is not about snapping our fingers and instantly defunding every department in the world. Rather, we're talking about a gradual process of strategically reallocating resources, funding, and responsibility away from police and toward community-based models of safety, support, and prevention.

The people who respond to crises in our community should be the people who are best-equipped to deal with those crises. Rather than strangers armed with guns, who very likely do not live in the neighborhoods they're patrolling, we want to create space for more mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors and friends- all of the people who really make up the fabric of a community- to look out for one another.



BUT WHAT ABOUT ARMED BANK ROBBERS, MURDERERS, AND SUPERVILLAINS?

Crime isn't random. Most of the time, it happens when someone has been unable to meet their basic needs through other means. So to really "fight crime," we don't need more cops; we need more jobs, more educational opportunities, more arts programs, more community centers, more mental health resources, and more of a say in how our own communities function.

Sure, in this long transition process, we may need a small, specialized class of public servants whose job is to respond to violent crimes. But part of what we're talking about here is what role police play in our society. Right

now, cops don't just respond to violent crimes; they make needless traffic stops, arrest petty drug users, harass Black and Brown people, and engage in a wide range of "broken windows policing" behaviors that only serve to keep more people under the thumb of the criminal justice system.



BUT WHY NOT FUND THE POLICE AND

FUND ALL THESE ALTERNATIVES TOO?

WHY IS IT AN EITHER/OR?

It's not just that police are ineffective: in many communities, they're actively harmful. The history of policing is a history of violence against the marginalized- American police departments were originally created to dominate and criminalize communities of color and poor white workers, a job they continue doing to this day. The list has grown even longer: LGBTQ folks, people with disabilities, activists- so many of us are attacked by cops on a daily basis.



And it's bigger than just police brutality; it's about how the prison industrial complex, the drug war, immigration law, and the web of policy, law, and culture that forms our criminal justice system has destroyed millions of lives, and torn apart families. Cops don't prevent crime; they cause it, through the ongoing, violent disruption of our communities.

It's also worth noting that most social service agencies and organizations that could serve as alternatives to the police are underfunded, scrambling for grant money to stay alive while being forced to interact with officers who often make their jobs even harder. In 2016, the Minneapolis Police Department received \$165 million in city funding alone. Imagine what that kind of money could do to keep our communities safe if it was reinvested.



“WE’RE ASKING COPS TO DO TOO MUCH IN THIS COUNTRY... EVERY SOCIETAL FAILURE, WE PUT IT OFF ON THE COPS TO SOLVE. NOT ENOUGH MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING, LET THE COPS HANDLE IT... HERE IN DALLAS WE GOT A LOOSE DOG PROBLEM; LET’S HAVE THE COPS CHASE LOOSE DOGS. SCHOOLS FAIL, LET’S GIVE IT TO THE COPS... THAT’S TOO MUCH TO ASK. POLICING WAS NEVER MEANT TO SOLVE ALL THOSE PROBLEMS.”

--FORMER DALLAS POLICE CHIEF DAVID BROWN

WHAT ABOUT BODY CAMERAS? WHAT ABOUT CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS, IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES?

Video footage (whether from body cameras or other sources) wasn't enough to get justice for Philando Castile, Samuel DuBose, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, and far too many other victims of police violence. A single implicit bias training session can't overcome decades of conditioning and department culture. Other reforms, while often noble in intention, simply do not do enough to get to the root of the issue.



History is a useful guide here: community groups in the 1960s also demanded civilian review boards, better training, and community policing initiatives. Some of these demands were even met. But universally, they were either ineffective, or dismantled by the police department over time. It's time to try something new.

THIS ALL SOUNDS GOOD IN THEORY, BUT WOULDN'T IT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO?

Throughout US history, everyday people have regularly accomplished “impossible” things, from the abolition of slavery, to voting rights, to the 40-hour workweek, and more.

What’s really impossible is the idea that police departments can be reformed against their will to protect and serve communities whom they have always attacked.

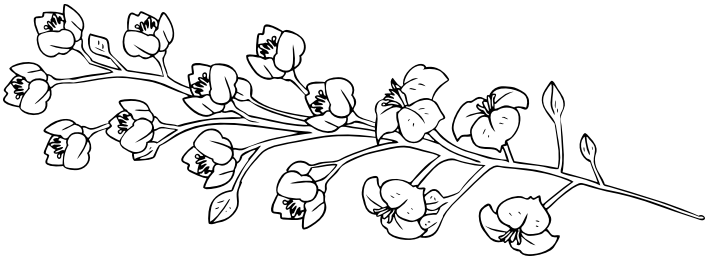
The police, as an institution around the world, have existed for less than 200 years- less time than chattel slavery existed in the Americas. Abolishing the police doesn’t need to be difficult- we can do it in our own cities, one dollar at a time, through redirecting budgets to common-sense alternative programs.

Let’s get to work!



A FEW RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING AND ACTION

Find the full MPD150 report, as well as extended interview excerpts, ways to get involved, and more at www.MPD150.com.



A Reading List:

- The End of Policing (Alex Vitale)
- The New Jim Crow (Michelle Alexander)
- Are Prisons Obsolete (Angela Y. Davis)
- Abolition Now!: Ten Years of Strategy and Struggle Against the Prison Industrial Complex (Anthology)
- 13th (documentary - Ava DuVernay)
- The study guide at aworldwithoutpolice.org
- A big list of accessible, online articles and essays in the "resources" tab at www.MPD150.com

Communication from Public

Name: Molly Zalman
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:31 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Ali A

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police! We have too much money going toward an organization that terrorizes people rather than taking care of them - protecting and serving. Instead, we need to redirect these funds into places that are better suited for bettering our communities. Making our city safer does not mean putting more cops on the street, it means investing in education, mental health, art, and community programs.

Communication from Public

Name: Isabella Gadsby-Connick
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:42 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley Calderon
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:45 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE Invest in the People's Budget. We need investment in community-and-health-centered initiatives, such as housing security for all, mental health and wellness, & public health and healthcare.

Communication from Public

Name: Elisabeth Serna

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police, it's time for something new. We need more funding for our schools, housing, mental health services, and more!!

Communication from Public

Name: Stephen Nigro

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #Defundthepolice Please defund the police and redirected the funds to inclusive services that will strengthen our communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Cassandra Nguyen
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:51 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Gabriella
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:52 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!

Communication from Public

Name: YS

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the LAPD and take direction from the People's Budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Collin J Evenson
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:52 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundthePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Ramya

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:54 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please Defund the police. We should divest MORE from the police budget and invest MORE into services that benefit the black and brown communities. 80% of killings by LAPD in the past 20 years have been Black and Latino people. There's clearly a problem here.

Communication from Public

Name: Brian Cohen

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:56 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police and use those funds in a positive way to help to community. Police officers are trained for VIOLENCE. Rather than have a public figure who is trained for violence, and then trust them into a position where they need to de-escalate violence...how about we have a group of public officers whose ONLY job is to de-escalate?? Rather than send a police officer to question the homeless man sleeping in Grand Park, send a team that can check on the person and help them to get the services they need! We can be using our tax dollars so much more efficiently and SAFELY than we currently are!!! Finally, I advocate for the PEOPLE'S BUDGET!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Bo Belanger

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please #DefundthePolice and use those funds to support marginalized communities of color instead. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Linke
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:11 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Maguire
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:15 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE DEFUND THE POLICE DEFUND
THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Melanie DiRamio

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE! Enough is enough. Protect our black citizens!

Communication from Public

Name: a walker
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:33 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!!

Communication from Public

Name: Joely James Maples

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Communication from Public

Name: Dylan P
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:37 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #defundthepolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: General Public Comment for City Council - Defund the police and adopt the People's Budget LA. We need to direct funding for police to community programs that will actually give aid to those who need it. The police dept does not need the amount of funding they currently have. They should not be responding to homelessness, domestic disputes, etc. These issues all need a deeper solution. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniella Algarate

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:44 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police! I am asking that you support the People's Budget. Los Angeles Law Enforcement is too heavily funded. As you know, 3 billion of our tax dollars go to the LA Law enforcement while the overall budget of the Mayor is as follows: Fire department receives 16.5%, public works: 7.7%, recreation and parks: 6.1%, library: 4.6%, city attorney: 3.1% THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. The police department should NOT receive 54% of the \$5.4 billion of the mayor's budget. And although the Mayor pledged to remove \$150 million from the LA law enforcement, this is NOT ENOUGH. It has already been proven that allocating law enforcement budget to reformation does not work. That money ends up funding law enforcement services that neither protect nor serve our community. That being said, I believe the budget should prioritize as follows: Universal Aid and Crisis Management: 44.25% Built Environment: 25.8% Reimagined Community Safety: 24.22% Law Enforcement and policing: 5.72% I am not the only person who feels this way. As civil servants, you must listen to the people who live in the LA county. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH of police brutality and abuse of power not only in Los Angeles, but around the country. PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Lina korer
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:46 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: SueEllen Mancini
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:46 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Eli
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 02:50 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, now. Invest in the community, now.

Communication from Public

Name: Mimi Nguyen
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 03:02 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Meredith Murphy

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 03:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE. It is a great step that Mayor Garcetti is taking away 1.5 million from the LAPD, but it is not enough when their budget is in the BILLIONS. Training programs need to be longer then six months after you are chosen to complete the LAPD academy. We should not be allowing police 10 and 12 and 30 chances to be "better cops." Most jobs have a 3 strikes and you're out policy. Let's flip the rules on cops. The Clinton admin. put through a three strikes and your in prison for life, so now it should be 3 strikes and you're off the force!!! This brotherhood in blue mentality is toxic and dangerous. IT MUST COME FROM WITHIN THE LAPD. More funding should be put into communities. Police Chief Moore needs to resign. The whole force needs to be completely restructured. The LAPD were the first to militarize our police, we need to be the first to demilitarize, defund and restructure.

Communication from Public

Name: April

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 03:15 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE. We want to see the majority of our city budget allocated to addressing the homeless issue, infrastructure issue, EDUCATION, MEDICAL, social services, housing, transportation and other public sectors that provide more benefits to our people and the youth than the police. Why were we, as citizens, donating masks to our nurses and doctors during COVID, and why was this money allocated to the police but not taken from them? Why are the police testing out luxury cruisers when those of us who take public transit sit in a cesspool of germs and experience constant transit issues? We want the people's budget and NOT the budget set forth by the mayor.

Communication from Public

Name: Jazmyn Strickland

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 03:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. The budget for the PD should be shrunk. The history of police violence against communities of color and ESPECIALLY THE BLACK COMMUNITY CANNOT BE REFUTED! The police institution has proven it cannot be trusted with limitless power and no accountability. Funds are better spent serving the community through other organizations that are trained to address mental illness crises, social work, addiction, homelessness and to provide programs that offer residents a way up and out of their situations rather than criminalizing them and throwing them into the Criminal [Un]Justice System.

Communication from Public

Name: Sam Roseman

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 12:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to demand that at today's budget meeting city council make changes to the 2020-2021 budget to reflect the priorities listed in the People's Budget LA. The Mayor's budget, which — even after cuts and proposed reapportionments — allots more than half of unrestricted funds for LAPD. By contrast, the Peoples Budget LA allots only 5.7% to the police. Survey takers prioritize universal needs (such as housing, childcare, healthy food, clear air and water), pandemic recovery, environment, and reimagined public safety over police presence. We need services that can productively engage with all communities rather than devastate them. This applies especially to Black and Indigenous communities, which are at a starkly elevated risk for police brutality and murder. It is your responsibility to create a budget that serves ALL Angelenos, not just rich or white communities. Over the past two weeks, our city has come together to demonstrate its overwhelming support for defunding the LAPD. It has made clear — through both physical and digital actions— that it is far past time for LA to start using its budget money in a fundamentally different way. A majority of the city council of Minneapolis has already pledged to dismantle its police department and replace it with a service that actually supports public safety. Now, LA must follow. During the mass protests that have occurred across LA over the past few weeks, the police have reacted with extreme violence and created unwarranted escalation towards peaceful protestors and unhoused Angelenos. LAPD Commander Cory Palka flashed a White Power signal on television. Chief Moore blamed the police murder of George Floyd on LA protestors. In every story I have heard, the protests are peaceful until the LAPD arrives. I have seen horrifying videos of police trapping protestors so they cannot safely exit the protest and then hitting them with batons, spraying them with tear gas, and shooting them with rubber bullets. This entirely unnecessary police brutality creates chaos that makes it all the more likely for covid-19 to spread among protestors. An unknowable number of police officers have hurt, abused and maimed innocent people. LAPD must be defunded now. Listen to your city and support the People's Budget LA. Thank you for your time

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 12:29 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE LAPD- and by more then their last pay/ salary increases. 1-INVEST THESE MONIES IN YOUNG PEOPLES' PROGRAM AND TRAIN THEM TO BE SELF SUFFICIENT! Their services can be returned into the communities To help people survive/ heal from years of injury. 2-EST. Police oversight committees made of CIVILIANS FROM THE COMMUNITY 3-FIRE THE OLD, REHIRE, RETRAIN, RESET!!!! THE OKD MUST GO!! For good!

Communication from Public

Name: Stacie Balcacer
Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 12:37 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Refund the Police!

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine O'Keefe

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 12:38 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the LAPD, and use those funds to invest in education

Communication from Public

Name: Brianna Bloom

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 12:48 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am an Angeleno and I live in District 11. I am writing to demand that at today's budget meeting city council make changes to the 2020-2021 budget to reflect the priorities listed in the People's Budget LA. The Mayor's budget, which — even after cuts and proposed reapportionments — allots more than half of unrestricted funds for LAPD. By contrast, the Peoples Budget LA allots only 5.7% to the police. Survey takers prioritize universal needs (such as housing, childcare, healthy food, clear air and water), pandemic recovery, environment, and reimagined public safety over police presence. We need services that can productively engage with all communities rather than devastate them. This applies especially to Black and Indigenous communities, which are at a starkly elevated risk for police brutality and murder. It is your responsibility to create a budget that serves ALL Angelenos, not just rich or white communities. Over the past two weeks, our city has come together to demonstrate its overwhelming support for defunding the LAPD. It has made clear — through both physical and digital actions— that it is far past time for LA to start using its budget money in a fundamentally different way. A majority of the city council of Minneapolis has already pledged to dismantle its police department and replace it with a service that actually supports public safety. Now, LA must follow. During the mass protests that have occurred across LA over the past few weeks, the police have reacted with extreme violence and created unwarranted escalation towards peaceful protestors and unhoused Angelenos. LAPD Commander Cory Palka flashed a White Power signal on television. Chief Moore blamed the police murder of George Floyd on LA protestors. In every story I have heard, the protests are peaceful until the LAPD arrives. I have seen horrifying videos of police trapping protestors so they cannot safely exit the protest and then hitting them with batons, spraying them with tear gas, and shooting them with rubber bullets. This entirely unnecessary police brutality creates chaos that makes it all the more likely for covid-19 to spread among protestors. An unknowable number of police officers have hurt, abused and maimed innocent people. LAPD must be defunded now. Listen to your city and support the People's Budget LA. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Belinda C. Bresnahan

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 02:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Line item #1 and General Public Comment My name is Belinda Campos Bresnahan. I am Program Manager at Public Health Advocates and we strongly support the Healthy LA and People's Budget's coalitions. We urge you and the rest of the city council to reject the Mayor's proposed budget. The City's proposed budget does not reflect the priorities and values of Los Angeles residents. In this time of global pandemic and the fight to end systemic racism, the city budget should invest in communities, not policing. Prioritize your constituents who are suffering under historically racist systems and need more relief. We support the People's Budget LA in demanding the defunding of police, and the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the funding of needed housing programs.

Communication from Public

Name: Joelle Corey

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 02:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Garcetti and LA Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Joelle Corey, I am a resident of Angelino Heights in LA county and I demand a complete defunding of the LAPD. I am personally traumatized by the constant police presence in our city: the cruisers, helicopters, car searches with no warrants, and abuse I see coming from the police patrolling my neighborhood. I have never felt safe nor protected by the police. But my experience as a white woman with the privilege of living in white skin in no way compares to the daily reality of living in black and brown skin. I call for reallocations and reparations of funds to restorative justice programs, social and health services, housing for the homeless, rent relief, education, parks, etc. which support black and brown communities. I call for all LAPD funds to directly support black and brown communities which have been at the receiving end of police violence, institutional racism, environmental racism, redlining, and food racism for as long as Los Angeles has been a city. I demand the LAPD be defunded to at least the extent laid out in The People's Budget LA. I demand a continued decarceration of our city and county jails and prisons, which disproportionately incarcerate black and brown people. Policing and incarceration is racist and unjust, its roots in the first slave patrols, but it is also expensive and a massive waste of our individual and collective resources. For far too long, we have actively supported and stood by as the police force has manipulated its ever growing power to corrupt our city government. Each member of the city council has run an election campaign funded in part by the police union. I will not sit down silently and complicity as over half of my tax money goes toward the criminalization, brutalization, and traumatizing of black and brown communities. We fund the police in the name of "public safety" and "law and order" and yet we see that the police value private and public property over the lives of people (and further, the lives of white people over black people). LAPD has killed 601 people in the past 8 years and not one of those cops has been prosecuted. The presence of the police at our recent protests has not contributed to the "public's safety." The police, with their bullet proof vests and weapons of war have brought more violence to the protests. The curfews criminalized our lives and our bodies and our rights to protest. The police, empowered by the

massive funding provided by their over-inflated budget, are far overstepping their power and terrorizing our city. Mayor Garcetti has proposed a \$150 million cut to the LAPD. This is an insult to the tens of thousands of people asking for a defunding of the police through the People's Budget LA. Though \$150 million may sound like a lot and Garcetti can pretend like he's making changes, it is a tiny drop in the huge ocean of the LAPD's \$3+ billion budget. Over half of our city's budget will still go to the LAPD. I demand that Mayor Garcetti and the members of this board and city council LISTEN to the people and DO MORE. Now is the time to use your white privilege and power for good. Defund the police. Implement the #8cantwait initiative via Campaign Zero. Stop paying the LAPD to uphold a racist and white supremacist police force. Put money back into the black communities it was stolen from. Now is the time to face our racist past, apologize for our mistakes, and begin the work of reparations and repair. Thank you for reading. Joelle Corey

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 11:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am a resident of Los Angeles California. I want the city council to vote to defund the police. The suggested 5% budget cut is not nearly enough! We the people want a 60% decrease and we want to see it dispersed into public education, and healthcare systems for all.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:39 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police. #defundthepolice

Communication from Public

Name: Miranda Keala
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 01:25 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 05:17 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Dylan Joyner
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 10:45 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:07 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: Alexxa T Gotthardt
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:08 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police now.

Communication from Public

Name: Mekenzie Kay Schneider

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE! We can do better! We are a city of creatives for gods sakes. And we care about each other.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Renee Brown
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:09 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundthePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Jolynn Braswell
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:09 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE.

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Rose Smith

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police now. This budget is ridiculous. The people of LA deserve better. Invest in education and services, not trigger happy, under-trained cops.

Communication from Public

Name: Craig Lee Thomas

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police NOW. The proposed budget gives an absolutely egregious amount of money to LAPD that would be better served in social programs and reinvesting in the community, especially with the LAPD's deplorable actions over the last few weeks of peaceful protests. The people demand change.

Communication from Public

Name: Victoria McCabe
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:10 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police!

Communication from Public

Name: Natasha
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:10 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!

Communication from Public

Name: Andrea Dallas

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles needs to DEFUND the police! Black communities are living in persistent fear of being killed by state authorities like police, immigration agents or even white vigilantes who are emboldened by state actors. Despite continued profiling, harassment, terror and killing of Black communities, local and federal decision-makers continue to invest in the police, which leaves Black people vulnerable and our communities no safer. Where could that money go? It could go towards building healthy communities, to the health of our elders and children, to neighborhood infrastructure, to education, to childcare, to support a vibrant Black future. The possibilities are endless. We call for defunding of police and for those dollars to be rerouted to create a public national healthcare system and public social services.

Communication from Public

Name: Joseph Hines
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:10 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Haley Bixler
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:10 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: MAC
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:11 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!!!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:11 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:11 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:11 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the Police

Communication from Public

Name: Laura
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:12 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:12 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DefundthePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Salina Nasir

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:12 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice #PeoplesBudgetLA #BlackLivesMatter

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Nobis
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:13 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Brendan Dyer
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:13 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police. It's that easy.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE. The people have spoken, and we refuse incrementalist reforms and non-solutions that continue to funnel money into government-sanctioned violence. There's no way to reform a system that fundamentally relies on brute force to enforce social order, in service of protecting property over the lives of our citizens. Have the vision to invest in non-violent solutions to improve the material living conditions of Los Angeles residents instead of terrorizing them.

Communication from Public

Name: Aaron Ford

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: The LAPD police budget is disproportionately funded in comparison to other social services. Many of these services could make a huge impact in the lives of LA citizens, especially those in POC communities that have been targeted and heavily oppressed by the police force. The proposed LAPD budget cuts are a great start, but there is so much more to be done. I hope that the future of the LA budget involves a heavier emphasis on community outreach. That's what the citizens need. Sincerely, Aaron

Communication from Public

Name: Audrey
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:15 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE!

Communication from Public

Name: Michael O'Brien
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:16 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police immediately. #defundthepolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:16 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Casey Beck
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:17 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice and reallocate those funds to those who are directly in need. Whether it's for social services, education, the arts, health, HOUSING....anything but more money to the LAPD. Please!! The time to act is now!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:17 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police and use those crucial dollars to invest programs that uplift our communities: mental health, food access, social services, health care, education. Give our city what it really needs for a healthy and equal future for black lives!

Communication from Public

Name: Phillip Z.
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:18 AM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund The Police

Communication from Public

Name: Erin

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:19 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting:

DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND
THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE
POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE!
DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND
THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE
POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE!
DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND
THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE
POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE!
DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND
THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE
POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE!
DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND
THE POLICE! DEFUND THE POLICE! DEFUND THE
POLICE!

Communication from Public

Name: Carolyn LaHorgue

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:19 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: It is imperative that we defund the LAPD and redirect those funds towards programs making our communities stronger and safer such as education, health services, and homeless services. Until we restrict funding from the LAPD we cannot ensure that this city treats all its residents equally and justly.

Communication from Public

Name: Molly Larkey

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I demand that the City Council Defund the Police Department.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 11:26 AM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police, and invest the money into housing, black communities, education, and community self-governance programs! You have the chance to be in the right side of history. Be there.

Communication from Public

Name: Alyssa
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:17 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Shari Almario
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:17 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:19 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE. There is no justification for the police department to be insanely more funded than our SCHOOLS. Invest in our community and we won't need "policing."

Communication from Public

Name: Ben
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:19 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DefundThePolice

Communication from Public

Name: Stan Wu
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:20 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!

Communication from Public

Name: Andy Park
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:21 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE

Communication from Public

Name: Max Kennedy

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking that you defund the police and adopt The People's Budget. We cannot simply reform a police force that is inherently racist. There is no amount of killing by police that should be acceptable. We need to invest in our communities instead, and create real public safety for all. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth von Mehren
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:21 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund The Police!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Tasia Judd
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:25 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: #DEFUNDTHEPOLICE #THEPEOPLESBUDGET

Communication from Public

Name: Gabriel Smalley
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:26 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: It's time to dramatically reduce funding for LAPD and reinvest those resources into the public good. Please adopt the Peoples' Budget proposal currently under discussion.

Communication from Public

Name: Jonah

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please defund the police. That money should be used to create entities that actually improve and promote public safety and the well being of all citizens.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police

Communication from Public

Name: Lydia Hardy
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:27 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund The Police

Communication from Public

Name: Austin Siegemund-Broka

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please consider aggressively defunding the enormously (over)funded LAPD. Whether this takes the form of disestablishing the department as Minneapolis has taken steps to do or drastically reducing and reorganizing it, the amount of money going to the LAPD that could be used for education, homelessness and poverty, drug addiction and mental health issues, is nonsensical and unproductive, as we have glaringly seen in recent days. Almost everyone I am friendly/close with lives, spends and votes in Los Angeles. This speaks for all of us.

Communication from Public

Name: Shoshana Bean
Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:33 PM
Council File No: 20-0692
Comments for Public Posting: Defund. The. Police. The proposed changes are NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:34 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Defund the police!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: Please reject the mayor's budget, adopt the People's Budget, defund the LAPD who have continued to prove that they refuse to reform in their daily acts of brutality against communities of color and peaceful protestors, and put money into resources and programs that actually HELP communities. We need CARE not COPS. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/09/2020 12:35 PM

Council File No: 20-0692

Comments for Public Posting: DEFUND THE POLICE