

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Geoff Williams and I am a resident of Chatsworth (District 12). I'm submitting comments (separately) for Agenda items #3, #5, and #8. This comment is for item #5 (20-0730), regarding use of force and carotid holds. Banning chokeholds/carotid holds is (like body cameras), one of those reforms that sounds great in theory, but doesn't actually address the underlying issues of police violence, which are the lack of accountability/oversight and the policing culture & mentality in general. A chokehold ban sounds great, until you realize that these were already banned in places like Minneapolis and NYC, but we still see incidents like the death of George Floyd and Eric Garner, and very little in the way of accountability or justice. Three officers stood by and watched as Derek Chauvin applied a fatal (and banned) carotid hold. We just saw on Monday that the president of the Chicago Police Union saying that he would still use a chokehold if the city bans them, saying "I'm not going to give up my life because of some stupid department policy." You cannot reform these things, they are ingrained in the police mentality (Us vs. Them). You can only tear the system down and replace it. Defund the Police & implement the People's Budget.