

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Chris Jordan
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: FW: [External Sender]Input: Police Task Force Recommendations

From: Tom & Laurel Olsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 4:54 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: [External Sender]Input: Police Task Force Recommendations

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to address the serious concerns I have regarding the Police Task Force and the influence they will have upon your future decisions regarding our police department.

I was employed as a public school educator in San Jose for 26 years; 12 of those years as an administrator. I have personally participated with the Gang Task Force, a drug unit, six sets of officers assigned to schools, off duty officers assisting with school safety and a variety of other police personnel.

I have lived in Los Altos for 34 years, I acknowledge our police department has many of the same challenges here in Los Altos. We are not isolated from 'San Jose's world', but due to the size of our community we are also not smothered by these challenges. My children experienced six years at Los Altos High School with a SRO and they felt the SRO's presence caused students to feel there was assistance and support readily available to maintain a safe environment on campus.


A Police Task Force comprised of those working to improve San Jose's situation comes with the eyes of those unfamiliar with our small town and with a set of preconceived problems and predetermined solutions they feel are 'appropriate' for Los Altos.

It is my sincere belief the results of this task force will escalate instead of remediate problems here in Los Altos.

I agree with others who recommend that our officers wear body cams. Body cams would definitely provide accurate evidence of appropriate or inappropriate actions and their existence would curb inappropriate behavior. The data gathered from the videos would be real Los Altos data and would direct the department's emphasis.

Defunding the police department is not something I or my Los Altos neighbors desire. Instead, analyze department expenditures and identify resources for the purchase of body cams. Or, consider starting a citywide drive to fund body cams. I would expect many would be interested in funding such an important tool.

Sincerely,
Laurel Olsen

From: 
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item #9 - November 24, 2020
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 2:50:59 PM

Honorable City Council members:

Regarding the final report of the "Policing Task Force":

I have attended several of the RingCentral meetings of the Task Force and read the recommendations. I have spent some time with the police in discussion of their training, even sitting all night in the 911 Call Center and a ride along on patrol. I am a sworn in Los Altos DSW (Disaster Service Worker) and member of the City Financial Commission. I am pleading that your discussion and decisions on changes consider:

1. The entire population is tense in light of Covid19, the "unfinished Federal transition" from the election and, tragically, the killing of George Floyd (remember that did not happen at the hands of Los Altos Police so don't punish the LAPD for this horrible act!)
2. We all will have to live with changes made to the SRO program. I am truly sorry a uniformed, armed police officer walking around LAHS is "intimidating" to students. This is analogous to a highway patrol car being intimidating to the speeder! Maybe the school should hold classes for parents to teach "respect" for one another. Do not "handcuff" the police officer by disarming him in the course of a response to a seemingly harmless situation with the possibility of escalation.
3. No doubt, there are possible improvements in interactions at LAHS, but I submit it starts at home and often now is a perception of police being the aggressor. Don't take out the horrible George Floyd killing on our Los Altos Police Force, especially in the tense world we all live in today.
4. Our tense Covid world will improve in the next months and we will have to live with your changes to the LAPD.

Respectfully,

Gary Kalbach
Los Altos Financial Commissioner

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Gary Kalbach
769 Orange Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022



From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); [Jon Maginot](#)
Subject: FW: Public comment on Item 9 of 11.24/20 Council Meeting - Policing Task Force
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020 5:05:35 PM

From: roger heyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2020 5:02 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Public comment on Item 9 of 11.24/20 Council Meeting - Policing Task Force

Dear Council -

Public record comments on the Police Task Force recommendations.

It is necessary to see some real statistics indicating the true scale of the problem Los Altos is addressing, and the number of people raising issues. Little has been provided to justify the effort of the task force, or the alteration of the status quo.

As recommended before, I think police should be issued body cams, and have them turned on during any encounters. That should clearly indicate the nature of the interaction, and if there is an escalation who initiated it. Knowing that the encounter is captured should engender better behavior by all, since there will be no arguing with the video.

Police Office Commendation/Intake Process

A fundamental flaw is the assumption that the issues Los Altos faces (30,000 residents), should be addressed in the same way as San Jose (1,034,000 residents). The type and scope of the problems are different, and the resources are different.

If you look at a rating site like 'areavibes.com', you will find that Los Altos has an 'A+' rating on crime, while San Jose has a 'D'. Adopting the failed San Jose policies and attitudes will likely just move Los Altos towards the San Jose relative performance, which is extremely undesirable. Better to follow the guidance of an 'A++' community, if one exists.

Instead of initiating an external process, the existing process can be augmented by appointed civilian viewers of the investigation and body cam videos. These participants can raise issues, if they have them, to Council or the media. Again, with the evidence of the body cam the situation should be fairly obvious. It does require rational, unbiased people be appointed to the civilian viewer group.

The requirement is for evidence, rather than for some external body to try to figure out who is telling the truth. Fix the problem, rather than establish an external entity to foist it on.

Preliminary Task Force Recommendations on SRO program

The High School, and the school system, are not a 'different world' from the rest of the community. It falls under the same laws and protection system, with likely additional rules from the school itself.

Students and teachers should get used to, or be used to, abiding by the laws and rules of society. They live in that real world most of the time, being in school only part of the day and part of the year. They will emerge to live full time in the real world, and should get used to it. If school is to be a true educational experience, that should be part of it. These are supposed to be young adults, after all.

Beyond that, it is not uncommon to hear about armed students in school. It is irrational to expect police to enter an environment unequipped to successfully address the most dangerous situation they might encounter. Their protection of students not initiating or involved the 'issue', as well as themselves, is of utmost importance.

Unless there is some extensive, factually validated issues with the current system, it should be retained. Emotion, and irrationality, should not be a major element of the decision process.

regards -- Roger Heyder

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Chris Jordan
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Jon Maginot; Public Comment
Subject: FW: Feedback on police task force

From: John Dilley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 8:34 AM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Cc: Gayle Dilley [REDACTED]
Subject: Feedback on police task force

I have reviewed several of the PTF documents and would like to share some observations and suggestions.

First, our experience with LAPD has been very positive following our move from San Jose.

Our prior home in Willow Glen was burgled while we were away. We reported to the SJPD and received no support for investigation or resolution. This left us disappointed with the performance and community support of SJPD, and concerned that a large city such as San Jose was unable to provide a reasonable level of community service.

We moved to Los Altos in 1995. Within a year, while preparing for a trip out of town we realized we left our daughter's coat at Children's Corner. A neighbor suggested calling the LAPD, since they have keys to all city properties. After our San Jose experience we never would have thought of this. A helpful officer met us there, verified the name written in the coat matched ours, and wished us a happy holiday.

Our second encounter involved a concerning internet chat between our daughter and someone she met online. Officer Anderson (I still remember her name) came to our house and met with our daughter and with us to discuss internet safety. They investigated the situation and followed up with us. We appreciated having a professional, supportive, and informed officer and department willing to take time with us.

With regards to some of the materials:

Item 1: Preliminary Task Force Recommendations on Police Officer Feedback Process

Is there a demonstrated need for a third party to audit the LAPD? Did the task force investigate the internal audit process, and indicate successes and failures of that processes?

Item 2: Preliminary Task Force Recommendations on School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

Eliminating the SRO takes away opportunity for students to interact with police in a non-confrontational environment. If interaction with the police is, "only for responding to serious criminal law matters where there is a real and immediate threat of serious physical injury..." then won't this prevent a more open, trusting view of our local law enforcement team?

I support having "peace builders and behavior interventionists" and so forth in the school -- the school counselor's office and staff seem appropriate to provide that role. I think an SRO is a nice addition to the counseling team.

I hope the steps we take as a community will maintain the high quality we have come to expect from our police. I encourage us to show faith in the integrity and value of our local police force, and work together with the chief and staff to address any opportunities to improve.

I'm wary bringing in third party auditors and processes if they will be seen as adversarial, or as steps to "defund" our police. Please don't let that happen.

Regards,
-jad-

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Los Altos police department
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:38:19 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barbara Sullinger [REDACTED] >
Date: November 23, 2020 at 10:07:59 PM PST
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: **Los Altos police department**

Hello,

My name is Barbara and I am currently a resident of Los Altos. I have two sons and a husband. We have been living in Los Altos for 10 years now and we love the neighborhood.

I know you will be voting on the police department changes and I really hope you will keep our wonderful police department intact. We feel safe and protected in our neighborhood and police department is truly wonderful. We had our alarm set few times by mistake and they came driving to check on the house.

Best,

Barbara Sullinger

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Chris Jordan](#); [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
Subject: Los Altos's December, 2017 Survey Implications for Police Task Force Recommendations
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 5:26:13 PM

Dear Honorable Council Members Bruins, Enander, Fligor, Lee Eng, and Pepper,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information that pertains to your Agenda tomorrow. My hope is that the City Council will base its decisions on the police complaint process and the School Resource Officer on the City's own data and not on rhetoric or emotion that is not based on objective data.

The City's statistically significant Godbe survey from 3 years ago revealed the will of registered Los Altos voters with respect to police and race relations:

- 92% of Los Altans were very or somewhat satisfied with Police Services.
- Only 1% viewed race relations as a top two issue to be addressed.
- Only 6 non-Caucasian respondents out of a respondent population of 116 non-Caucasians (and 446 overall) were somewhat/very dissatisfied with Police Services. 100% of these were of Asian descent.

Therefore, why has the Police Task Force developed recommendations to resolve racial and policing issues that have not been identified as a concern by Los Altos's own voters? To the contrary, an overwhelming majority of voters are satisfied with Los Altos police according to the City's own statistically valid survey.

The measures being contemplated will only demoralize our officers. Let's not tamper with an exemplary Police department that is highly regarded by the Los Altos community.

Additional details follow below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Corrigan

Survey Questions and Results

1. Satisfaction with "Police Services" ([presentation slides 277-8](#))

a.
Very or somewhat satisfied

- i.
Overall: 91.8%
- ii.
Non-Caucasian: 85.3%
- iii.
Caucasian: 94.1%

b.
Very or somewhat dissatisfied

- i.
Overall: 3.1%
- ii.
Non-Caucasian: 6.9%
- iii.
Caucasian: 1.8%

c.
100% of dissatisfied non-Caucasian respondents in b) are of Asian descent.
(26% of total respondents were non-Caucasian)

- i.
2 of these respondents were very dissatisfied (0.4% of all survey respondents) and of Asian-Indian ethnicity
- ii.
6 of these respondents were somewhat dissatisfied and of Asian-Indian, Asian-Chinese, or Asian-Vietnamese ethnicity.

2.
What are the two most important issues facing Los Altos?

a.

“Race relations” were cited by 1.1% of Los Altans ([presentation slides 158-160](#))

b.

1.2% of Caucasians said it was a top 2 issue which is statistically indistinguishable from, but slightly greater than, that of non-Caucasians.

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Removal of SRO from Los Altos High School
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:38:00 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tanya Maluf [REDACTED] >
Date: November 23, 2020 at 10:05:02 PM PST
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Removal of SRO from Los Altos High School

Dear Mayor Pepper, Vice-Mayor Fligor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to ask that you follow the recommendation of the Task Force and remove the School Resource Officer (SRO) from the campus of Los Altos High School (LAHS).

The following cities in the Bay Area have already voted to remove the SRO(s) from their campuses:

[San Jose](#): Alum Rock and East Side Union School Districts

[Fremont](#): Fremont Unified School District - Also formed a Task Force that found a need for better mental health support and Restorative Justice programs.

[Oakland](#): Oakland Unified School District had its own police department and abolished it.

[San Mateo-Foster City](#): Elementary School District

[San Rafael - Marin](#): Relationship with the Police Department for over 20 years and still ended the SRO program

Some residents are confusing their support of the Los Altos Police Department with the SRO program. They are not one in the same. One officer received minimal extra training to be the designated SRO for LAHS and this program is not working. It is this program the Task Force is recommending ending.

Present and past voices have spoken. Did you hear the common theme? Each one talked of fear...fear of being singled out and then ridiculed by their peers afterwards; fear of encountering the SRO again on campus; fear of attending school events; fear of riding home by bike; a teacher expressing fear after supporting her student; fear as a teacher seeing a police officer on campus; fear of being a Black or Brown student on campus.

Systemic racism and police brutality are rampant in the United States. The evidence is there. The removal of the SRO from LAHS campus is indirectly related to both issues, but is primarily about the students of LAHS feeling safe on campus. If the majority do already, that is not enough. ALL students must feel safe attending LAHS.

I urge you all not to lose sight of the issue at hand. This is not about defunding the police. This is not a partisan issue. This is about some residents of this city currently not feeling safe when they leave their homes to go to school. This is about ensuring there are properly trained staff available on campus to address the more difficult disciplinary issues and the very real mental health issues and reserving calling the police to campus only for a true emergency that could impact the safety and security of the entire school population.

You created a Task Force to give recommendations related to the SRO program at Los Altos High School. You then selected those sitting on the Task Force via an application and a live interview. Those who you entrusted with this responsibility voted 7-2 to recommend removal of the SRO from campus of Los Altos High School. Please, follow their researched and deliberated recommendation.

Respectfully Yours,

Tanya Maluf

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." ---Angela Davis

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #9 - 11/24
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 7:05:06 PM

Hello,

My name is Trini Inouye and I am a former LAHS student. I am writing to ask the City Council to approve the recommendations put forward by the Citizens' Police Task Force.

I have seen first-hand the negative impacts of having SROs on campus and hearing from other former LAHS [students](#) and [teachers](#) during the task force's last few meetings has reaffirmed my belief that the community as a whole does not support the continuation of the SRO program. As you may already be aware, students, teachers, and alumni have [petitioned the MVLA board](#) to remove law enforcement from all campuses in the district. To date, the petition has close to 1,000 signatures. I also support the task force's recommendation to look into other student resources such as mental health services. As a student, I remember it was extremely difficult to get an appointment with the one school psychologist who worked there only part-time. Investing in mental health services clearly has the potential to help many more students than the SRO program, which--as [Principal Satterwhite](#) pointed out--has unclear benefits to begin with.

The task force's recommendation to have a third-party auditor to handle complaints would make filing a complaint less intimidating and the auditor's annual report would greatly increase transparency. Earlier this year when LAPD released their [arrest and citation data by race](#), I was alarmed to learn Black residents are 9.3x as likely to be arrested and 4.0x as likely to be cited as white residents. If racial profiling or unconscious bias played a role in some of these arrests or citations, it would be much easier to hold officers accountable if complaints were handled through an independent third-party auditor.

I would like to thank the City Council for approving the Citizens' Police Task Force and allowing them to do their work over the past six weeks with the help of police, school administrators, and Judge Cordell. The task force has put us on the path towards meaningful change and I hope you'll be a part of that change by voting to approve their recommendations.

Sincerely,
Trini Inouye
LAHS Class of 2014