

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External Sender]Remove SROs from LAHS
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:20:00 PM

Honorable Members of the Los Altos City Council,

As a resident of Los Altos, I am writing in support of the Police Task Force recommendation to remove SROs from LAHS.

In a community that emphasizes the importance of quality education, we need to make sure that ALL students feel like they are able to learn in a safe and nurturing environment. According to the Nov 21, 2020 edition of the Los AltosTown Crier, individuals who spoke at previous City Council meetings reported "instances of officers mistreating students and staff of color, creating a pervasive fear of law enforcement on campus." I commend the individuals who told their stories, as it's not easy to voice these concerns in a majority white town like Los Altos. We need to listen to the voices of the BIPOC people in our community and we need to act in response to their concerns.

Instead of SROs, our community should fund increased mental health training for teachers, staff and police officers. As we all know, there is strong research that links the mental, social and emotional health of students to their academic achievement. Many BIPOC students do not feel safe with armed police officers on campus. Our community benefits as a whole when ALL students feel safe in their learning environment.

Please consider removing the SROs from the high school and replacing them with alternate support structures for the students.

Thank you,

Michelle Sturiale
186 Yerba Buena Ave
Los Altos, CA 94022

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Please Reconsider Removal for HS Resource Officer
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 7:16:01 PM

From: Maria Liu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:39 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Please Reconsider Removal for HS Resource Officer

Dear Council Members,

I was surprised to hear about the proposal to remove the Resource Officer at the Los Altos High School and put in a third party. Please reconsider as the SRO programs seem to be very positive and should require more thorough community comment. As a resident of the neighborhood for over 15 years, I have liked and respected our communities, such as school, to have close relations with our local police officers.

thank you
Maria Liu

From: [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Please Stop with Defunding Los Altos Police Agenda
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 8:37:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sincerely,



Andrea M. Chelemengos, MMC
City Clerk
City of Los Altos

1 N. San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA | 94022

Direct: (650) 947-2610

achelemengos@losaltosca.gov

Visit [City of Los Altos Website](#) for the most current community information.

From: Chris Jordan <cjordan@losaltosca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Andrea Chelemengos <achelemengos@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Please Stop with Defunding Los Altos Police Agenda

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Justena Tseng [REDACTED]
Date: November 24, 2020 at 5:16:33 PM PST
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: **Please Stop with Defunding Los Altos Police Agenda**

I am hearing disturbing news that there is an agenda to defund Los Altos police. This has to stop. As a long time resident of Los Altos and as a parent of kids who are growing up in Los Altos, the notion of defunding our police is the most misguided and disturbing idea I have ever heard.

Please stop listening to people who have an agenda to compare our excellent police department to that of a large city police department that experiences numerous problems. Back our community. Back our neighborhood police. It's the right thing to do.

Justena Tseng

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment Concerning 11/24 Townhall, Agenda #9
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:04:23 PM

From: Tori Kasik [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:01 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Concerning 11/24 Townhall, Agenda #9

Dear City Council,

Hello! My name is Tori Kasik and I am a 2nd generation Los Altos native who has been a proud student and alumna of MVHS and the MVLA school district. I would first like to thank the task force members and Judge Cordell for their dedication who have attended and participated in this process. In my experience, I have seen the amount of fear and intimidation that these officers perpetuate among students. My close friends have often felt stalked by the officers that patrol the school and confided in me their personal fear for their safety while on campus. As a witness to these school resource officers in action, it is clear from my experiences and those of others that reallocating funds from the SRO's to counseling, restorative justice, and other more beneficial student services is vital to the well being of our students. They have no direct benefit to the students or the school, and often generate fear among students of color and other groups that feel attacked in an environment touted as 'welcoming and positive for all'. I am calling in support of removing School Resource Officers from our campuses. The recommendations proposed by the task force should be strongly supported by the councilmembers without delay. Thank you.

Regards,
Tori Kasik

[REDACTED]

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: SRO Feedback
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 7:15:53 PM

From: Cameron Hamblin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:44 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: SRO Feedback

Dear Council,

I had the opportunity to interview for the task force to focus on SRO Recommendations but ultimately was not chosen. I have been following the information released from the committee for the last several weeks and I see that the topic is up for discussion tonight.

I would recommend holding off on making any long term decisions as I just am not sure the 6 week duration has been long enough to fully investigate both the pros and cons of this topic.

As a LAHS grad myself I have seen incidents of students partaking in activities defined beyond normal mischief and had an illegal element to much of it. We could have benefitted from an SRO officer at the time of my attendance, late 1980's for reference.

I believe that the role is vital to our ever growing high school population with many more influences beyond those of the 1980's with the internet, legalization of marijuana, new ways to disguise drugs and more theft among students and staff.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this topic.

Sincerely,
Cameron Hamblin
Covington Road, LA

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment on SROs
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:40:27 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: C Lenz [REDACTED]
Date: November 24, 2020 at 9:35:21 PM PST
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on SROs

Dear Los Altos City Council Members:

I am a parent and resident of Los Altos for the last 16 years and have also lived in this town from 1984-1991. I am writing to you today to support the elimination of SROs from Los Altos High School. It's clear from research and more importantly the testimony of dozens of current and graduated Los Altos High School students that the presence of SROs is not working.

I support the conclusion of the Los Altos Citizens' Police Task Force.

- Eliminate presence of SROs and Reallocate funds from SRO's to counseling, restorative justice, and other student services is vital to the well being of our students.
- SROs, police or security officers that are called into a school should not be involved in school discipline issues. They should only be responsible for responding to serious criminal law matters where there is a real and immediate threat of serious physical injury or where it is mandated by law that such offenses be referred to the criminal justice system
- Make the police officer feedback process more welcoming and transparent.
- Implement a method to file complaints against police officers online, and to allow for complaints to be made to an independent third-party auditor. Currently, complaints against the Los Altos Police Department are filed to the department itself. No data kept by police nor district on the success/effect of SRO program. This is unacceptable and there must be a record and police need to be held accountable.

A number of students of color have had negative experiences both off and on-campus with Los Altos police. Seeing armed police officers in what should be a safe place of learning is 'triggering' for students who already have had negative encounters with police off-campus.

Thank you for your attention and work to help make the high school a safe and welcoming place for students of all colors.

Best regards,
Christine Yum Lenz
Parent and Resident

.....
Christine Yum Lenz

From: [Chris Jordan](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Task Force
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:43:35 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Teresa Baer [REDACTED]
Date: November 24, 2020 at 11:36:22 PM PST
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Task Force

Dear City Council ,
I've lived here 30 years and both of my kids went to Los Altos High.
I listened to the whole meeting!
My daughter is Mexican and went to Los Altos High 3 years ago and I asked her
tonight her experience of the ERO and she said they were nice!

It seems like this is a Activist group with a lot of young adults who are tryIng to
push a false agenda of racism in Los Altos because it's the popular thing right
now!
Their main objective is to defund/abolish police eventually, I don't care how they
try and spin it!
Our police department does a great job and I don't feel they need to answer to a
3rd party.

I just found out about this Task Force. I think you need to reach out to the the
people that live in the community of Los Altos to see how they feel about this
issue instead of listening to a activist group!

Thank you,
Teresa Baer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 2:53:05 PM

My name is Sophia Sturiale and I am a lifelong Los Altos resident and a college student. Thank you to the task force members who attended and participated thoughtfully. The city and its community members have held multiple forums on police free schools this year. I'm writing in support of removing SRO's from our campuses. After leaning about the school-to-prison pipeline, it is clear that reallocating funds from SRO's to counseling, restorative justice, and other student services is vital to the well being of our students. SROs, police or security officers should not be involved in school discipline issues. They should only be responsible for responding to serious criminal law matters where there is a real and immediate threat of serious physical injury or where it is mandated by law that such offenses be referred to the criminal justice system.

--

Sophia Sturiale
Pronouns: (She/her/hers)

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Betsygmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:25 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do not defund Los Altos police or Los Altos High Officer

As a longtime resident of Los Altos I do not support defunding the Los Altos police nor Los Altos High Resource Officer. No resident in Los Altos wants that. Our police force is wonderful and responsive. Please do not defund!!!

Betsy Mease
Live Oak Lane

Sent from my iPhone

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Tracy T. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:32 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do NOT Defund Police

Dear Los Altos City Council,

I am writing today, as i understand there may be a vote tonight regarding LAPD funding. I would ask you to please NOT vote to defund the Los Altos Police!

I would suggest you instead start by doing a city-wide survey to get a feel for what the community would support. I'm sure you'll find more are interested in adding funds rather than removing them. We want to keep the town safe, though additional funding may augment any such programs that funds would have otherwise been diverted to.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tracy

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Hattie Shieh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:27 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do not defund the Los Altos Police Department

Dear City Counsel,

My family and I have lived in Los Altos for over 25 years. We don't want the Los Altos High School Resource Officer removed or our Police department defunded or restructured.

Thanks,
Hattie and Sui Shieh

Sent from my iPhone

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Ken Baer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:25 PM
To: City Council
Subject: DO NOT DEFUND THE POLICE!

Dear City Council,

In behalf of my wife and me:

We do not want the Los Altos High School Resource Officer removed— or, our Police department defunded—or, restructured!!

Sincerely,

Ken & Teressa Baer
768 S. Springer Road
Los Altos

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Jill Levitt [REDACTED] h [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:39 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do not remove police from High school campus

We do not want the Los Altos Highschool Resource Officer removed or our Police department defunded or restructured.

Thank you, Jill Levitt

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Bea Sines [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Los Altos Police Department

Please do not defund our police department. And please keep the SRO in place. I have two sons who graduated from Los Altos High. Their presence is invaluable at the high school.

Bea Sines
Resident of Los Altos since 1981

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Imran Tusneem [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 6:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Police Funding

Hi,

I heard there is some movement to remove LA high school resource officer or defund the police department.

Please make sure that we keep our community safe with sufficient or increased funding for our police and security/resource officers. They are essential to the community -- not only protecting it, but keeping our liberties in tact.

With movements to defund the police in other areas, it is even more important to increase the funding of police in our area. Crime and anarchy can not be allowed to destroy our neighborhood and livelihoods.

However, those that are for defunding the police should be allowed to experience for themselves what a lack of security looks like... perhaps then they will have greater appreciation for it. If they do not want security, there are other neighborhoods that may be able to accommodate their disdain for our security officers.

Thanks,

Imran

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Teresa Baer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:29 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Teresa Baer
Subject: Police Taak Force

City Council Members,

I just found out about this Task force agenda and I am opposed to it.

I think our police officers do an excellent job and I don't want them defunded or restructured. I also think our Resource Officer is an asset to our Highschool and the students that attend Los Altos High School.

I heard this Task Force is also trying to compare Los Altos to San Jose Police Department which Los Altos gets a A+ and San Jose gets a D.

I want to continue to feel safe in my community and so I vote against any defunding or restructuring of the Los Altos Police Department.

Thank You,

Teresa Baer
768 S. Springer Rd
Los Altos
[REDACTED]

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Brian Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:52 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #9 - Nov 24, 2020

Council --

Here is a transcript of the comments I made during the public comment section.

Thank you.

-Brian Jones

My name is Brian Jones, I've been a resident of Los Altos for nearly 14 years, and both of my kids have come up through the Los Altos public schools.

I encourage the Council to adopt the Task Force recommendations.

The police fill a critical role in our society to maintain peace and order. To enable them to fill that role, the government grants them a monopoly on the use of violence. It is no wonder that such an awesome responsibility should come with strict scrutiny and oversight from the citizens. To preserve our freedoms, this monopoly on violence should be constrained to the minimum set of circumstances possible, and it should be transparent to all.

The SRO program lacks a common set of goals, and as such, has no data showing it is meeting those goals. At the same time, a single incident where the state monopoly on violence is used to violate the freedom of a citizen is unacceptable. As Benjamin Franklin said, "it is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than that one innocent Person should suffer." The program should be eliminated.

The recommendation on citizen complaints should be accepted as well. There can be no transparency when the police are responsible for guarding themselves. Proper oversight of the monopoly on violence requires a third party.

I urge the Council to accept both recommendations.

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Sam Buhr [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 [REDACTED]:17 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 9 - 11/24/20

Hello,

My name is Samantha Buhr and I am a former student at LAHS (graduated 2016). I am writing in support of removing SRO's from our campus. After uncovering specific details about the school-to-prison pipeline, it is very apparent that the reallocation of these funds from SRO's to services such as counseling, restorative justice, and other student resources is imperative to the well being of our students. SRO's, police or security officers should no longer be called into school disciplinary action - rather they should only be responsible for serious criminal action where there is a present, real and immediate threat wherein such offenses need to be referred to the criminal justice system.

Regards,
Samantha

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Sreoshi Sarkar [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:51 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Comment at City Council Meeting

Hi!

I'm Sreoshi Sarkar, a recent graduate of Los Altos High School, and my audio wasn't working for the council meeting so I'd like to share my comment here:

It is so backward to invest in a program in an educational institution that is shown to traumatize, criminalize, and prey on black and brown students rather than to provide mental health resources and other forms of support to create a safe and nurturing environment for students to grow. Eliminating the SRO program at LAHS is a small first step, and I hope that this decision will be extended to the elementary and middle schools as well. Thank you to everyone who has shared their stories, and taken the time and put in the emotional labor of repeatedly sharing their pain to try and just to show you how harmful the SRO program is, and thank you to the task force for the depth of effort and research put into making this recommendation. I hope that the council will show them basic respect by quickly voting to put the task Force's recommendation into practice.

Thank you for your time!

Best,
Sreoshi

Andrea Chelemengos

From: Paul Schechter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:28 PM
To: City Council; Paul Schechter
Subject: Student Resource Officer (SRO)

Dear Council Members,

I am against terminating the role of SRO. The students in the school should have a police officer available who is trained for all scenarios including where violence may occur. Only the police have this unique set of well rounded skills and should be valued as a critical part of our community and government.

Paul L. Schechter
Los Altos Hills, Calif.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item #9 - 11/24
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:45:09 PM

Greetings City Council Members,

I'm Marie and have owned a home in Los Altos since 1976, and have lived here since then except for a 10-year period in the 1990's when we lived in Prunedale, Monterey County.

I write to encourage you to approve both police reform task force recommendations tonight based on my experiences as described here.

Re: canceling the SRO program at LAHS. While in Monterey County, I served for seven years on the North Monterey County (NMC) Unified School District Board of Trustees. At one point, we were concerned about gang activity in Salinas migrating north to our area. We considered establishing a police presence (potentially with metal detectors) on the campus of NMCHS, where my son was a student at the time. Ultimately we adopted the research-based recommendation of the school administration that the best way to ensure student safety and prevent undesirable behavior was for faculty and staff to establish and maintain **genuine relationships** with each and every student (1,200 at that time). It worked, and many students were also provided needed resources by those caring educators! By the way, it was during this period that I also learned about the limited, at best, effectiveness of D.A.R.E.

Re: making it easier to file complaints about police. For twelve weeks, an African-American woman lived with us while completing a fellowship at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, my employer at the time. While my family and I have had nothing but positive experiences during our few interactions with LAPD (we are white), Carla arrived home on more than one occasion reporting that she'd been stopped by LAPD simply for "driving while black". Accordingly, the reports of our neighbors of color ring true, and anything that makes it easier to capture their experiences formally is a good thing.

More generally, I believe that when the Council appoints a task force/commission and that body takes its work seriously and does it thoroughly, the Council owes them the duty of adopting their recommendations unless those are wildly off base - which these two most certainly are not.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Marie Young
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #9 - 11/24
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:40:31 AM

November 24th, 2020
Los Altos City Council
1 N. San Antonio Road,
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: Citizens' Police Task Force Recommendations

Honorable Members of the Los Altos City Council:

As a resident of Los Altos, I'm writing to ask the city council to approve the task force recommendations in their entirety without delay.

I specifically support the recommendation that the School Resource Officer (SRO) position be **removed** from Los Altos High School.

The task force worked very hard and diligently to craft these solid recommendations. The task force also reflected a diverse segment of Los Altos, both in racial diversity and age diversity.

As 2020 has shown us, these are voices we often don't hear from in city council.

We heard loud and clearly - at the town hall that many residents of color have concerns with policing in the town.

Residents of color want to feel safe and they want that extended to their children at Los Altos High School.

School Resource Officers are police officers. They are not counselors or social workers.

The intended role of the SRO is very loosely defined and there is no clear data on the effectiveness of the SRO's presence within the Los Altos High School Community. The school and police disagree on its main aim, and students are not aware of the "resources" the officer is supposed to provide for them.

Schools are designed to be community hubs that are welcoming, supportive, and nurturing.

Police presence in a school environment does not fully support a welcoming, supportive, or nurturing environment.

Everyone does not feel comforted or safe when they see a police officer.

For many, a police presence causes stress, tension, and anxiety.

Suggesting to students that they can go to an SRO for counseling (when the SRO can report their conversations as part of a criminal investigation) is ineffective, damaging, and can lead to negative consequences.

Even the [American Federation of Teachers](#), one of the country's largest teacher unions, passed a resolution calling for the separation of school safety and policing.

I started my career as a high school teacher in 1994 (in Illinois). Each building I worked in had an SRO. The SRO roamed the halls and left an intimidating wake amongst the students. Many of the students complained that the SRO's presence made school feel punitive. Some students felt like the SRO was monitoring them for bad behavior – when they were just being teenagers. They did not feel supported.

I have worked in schools in 3 different states – and that energy has not shifted much from 1994 until now. The SRO position is not value added for students.

There needs to be alternative support structures provided for our students.

The focus should shift away from having an SRO - and move towards restorative justice programs, having mental health counselors available, and other support staff on hand to support the student community.

The SRO job description states, “The SRO balances the role of a law enforcement officer with that of a counselor and an educator and is also trained as a certified D.A.R.E. instructor to handle public speaking events. The SRO is also highly trained in internet predator safety and cyber bullying.”

Nowhere in the job description does it require the SRO to have specific diversity/inclusion training or exposure to culturally responsive communication. This is very problematic and puts a segment of the Los Altos High School community at a disadvantage – and causes great harm.

Eliminating the SRO position will show a good faith effort by the Members of Los Altos City Council to foster and maintain the City of Los Altos as a great place to live and to raise a family – for all of our citizens.

Until the SRO position can have clear and measurable objectives – this position needs to be removed.

Sincerely,
Kanasha Baynard
Educator and Parent

-

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #9 - 11/24
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:31:53 AM

Hello,

I'm Fionce and a former Bay Area student/resident. Please vote to approve the task force recommendations in whole. The task force did deep research dives into these topics, with the help of police and school administrators, and the task force came to a consensus on both of these recommendations. They also had an expert facilitator in Judge Cordell, who provided a wealth of knowledge to the task force. These recommendations are fantastically researched and should be accepted without delay.

Thanks,
Fionce