

From: [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
To: [Jon Maginot](#)
Cc: [Angel Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Citizen's Police Task Force meeting of Nov 20, 2020 public comment
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 7:04:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Please see below.

Sincerely,



Andrea M. Chelemengos, MMC

City Clerk

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From: roger heyder
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 6:23 AM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>; Andrea Chelemengos <achelemengos@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Citizen's Police Task Force meeting of Nov 20, 2020 public comment

Hello,

This is public comment on the Nov 20, 2020 Citizen's Police Task Force meeting.

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.

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.