



Public Comment <publiccomment@cityofsalida.com>

Public comment: police budget

1 message

Missy Brand <mbrand27@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@cityofsalida.com

Mon, Oct 5, 2020 at 10:36 AM

Council Members and Mayor Wood,

You have in your packet a letter submitted to you by your constituents that outlines three major requests for improving the Salida Police Department. All of them are substantiated by evidence, and rigorous studies.

These include the elimination of the position of School Resource Officer(s). There are multiple alternatives that are more effective in protecting our students through preventative measure, without criminalizing their behavior.

We at Central Colorado SURJ ask that the budget for SPD be frozen for the fiscal year of 2021. This will allow us time to collect and analyze data.

Moving forward, every penny needs to be justified. Police departments across the nation are no longer entitled to over 30% of municipalities' budgets.

We ask the department to collect and record all relevant information going forward. We'd like to work together, with an allowable amount of transparency, to establish accountability, trust, and cooperation. With adequate information, we can more appropriately allocate funds.

One immediate action we can take, while we wait on this prescient information, is to divert the \$53,500 for a new police car towards restorative justice organizations, and alternatives to punitive measures.

This country has been tough on crime for decades. As made evident by our absurd incarceration rates and thousands of innocent lives lost, the old way isn't working. Not surprisingly, systems founded on white supremacy act as agents of systemic racism.

It is going to take a lot of work to dismantle these archaic ways. We all need to put in the work to make Salida a safe space for BIPOC. Please start with these small steps. Do not be limited by lack of precedent or imagination. Lead our community in taking measures to be actively anti-racist.

Thank you,

Mary Melissa Brand