

August 19, 2020

Sent via email to: ccpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov

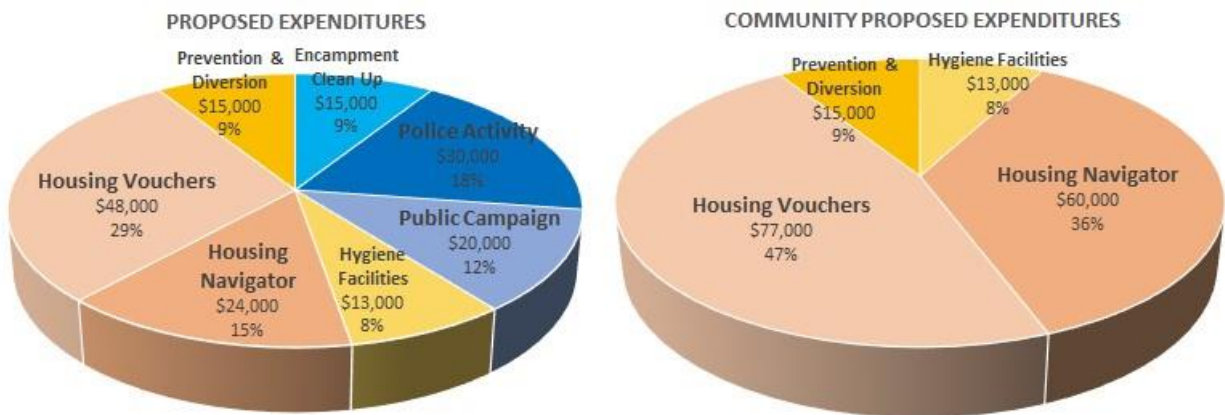
RE: Comment to Agenda 14, Homelessness Grant Award in the Amount of \$165,000

Please read aloud into the meeting minutes.

Dear Councilmembers:

We oppose using any portion of the \$165,000 for homeless services from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments on activities involving the South Pasadena Police Department. Services for the unhoused should not be a police function. As proposed, about 40% or \$65,000 of the grants will go toward supporting police sweeps, police contact with the unhoused, and a public campaign to promote police involvement in homeless services. Strategies involving the police to address homelessness are ineffective, as officers are not professionally trained to provide housing, mental health, and other social services. Please review the MOU and Scope of Work carefully; the report prepared by city staff summarizing the contract's tasks mischaracterizes the level of police involvement.

This proposal is completely out of touch with the ethos of our city in 2020. Our calls for racial justice—on the streets, in our listening sessions with you, and through numerous public comments—demand actual action by the Council to decrease the City's reliance on police powers to deliver social services.



As such, we request the Council to vote “no” and reject the City Manager’s recommendation to execute the MOU as proposed. Instead, the Council should direct staff to revise the scope of work consistent with the following principles:

- No amount of funding from these grants should be made directly to the police department.
- None of the funded activities from these grants should involve the police department.
- The City’s Project Manager for this MOU should not be from the police department.
- Maximize funding for housing vouchers, eviction prevention assistance, housing navigation services, and case management services.
- Allocate funding to make South Pasadena’s housing navigator a full-time position, rather than sharing her services with other cities.

Signed By:

1. Ella Hushagen
2. John Srebalus
3. Helen Tran
4. XX
5. XX

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