

**From:** Jennifer Ghidinelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** Lindsay Lara <[Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org)>  
**Subject:** Comment for 6/15 City Council Meeting

Regarding the proposed citywide budget:

My name is Jennifer Ghidinelli and I am a 10-year Terra Linda resident. In response to the continued police violence against black people, cities and towns across the country are reconsidering their police budgets. But not in San Rafael. The police budget presented in tonight's proposed FY20/21 citywide budget is a carbon copy of last year's budget and a rubber stamp of the way our city has always policed. The police department is allocated a shocking 31% of total general fund expenditures. Higher than any other department, including the fire department, and unchanged from the FY19/20 budget as a percentage of total general fund expenditures. The proposed COVID-19 cost cutting measures include hiring freezes and furloughs for non-public safety employees, meaning the police department is spared. With a bleak financial forecast for the city of San Rafael, and the current social justice environment, why aren't we taking a harder look at the police department budget?

Both Mayor Phillips and Police Chief Bishop have marched with local protestors and are on record for committing to review and update the police department's policies. Saying you're committed to change is not enough. You must take action. Dr. Angela Davis said "it's not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist." So I am asking you, members of the City Council to be antiracist and take action. Don't just rubber stamp the same police budget as last year. Systematic racism is hard to change and doesn't happen overnight. But you can take the first step toward meaningful change, not just promises, by not approving the police budget. Tell the city to rethink their police budget which forces them to follow through on their word and actually rethink how we police.