

| Date/Time Opened | Contact Name | Comment |
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| 7/8/2020 15:17 | Karma Fry | <p>I am a resident of Salt Lake County. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. The Mayor has proposed a decrease in funding to the SLCPD, but it is not enough. Social services and education proven to better promote community safety than policing are stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me.</p> |

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| 7/8/2020 15:14 | Kaitlin Doolittle | <p>I am a resident of Salt Lake City. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. But instead, the Mayor has proposed an increase in funding to the SLCPD, while social services and education--proven to better promote community safety than policing--stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me.</p> |

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| 7/8/2020 15:12 | Emily Humes | <p>I am a resident of District 4. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. But instead, the Mayor has proposed an increase in funding to the SLCPD, while social services and education--proven to better promote community safety than policing--stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me.</p> |

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| 7/8/2020 15:07 | Conrad T | <p>I am a resident of Salt Lake City District 4. I am happy to see the council continue to discuss the role of police in our community as I believe there is a need for it to transform. I believe that for the safety of Black, Indigenous, and communities of Color we need to begin the process of disempowering and disbanding the SLCPD and replace it with a combination of pre-existing community services, non-government organizations, and new methods of community-focused transformative justice. Replacing the police with organizations which continue to funnel people into the criminal justice system is not an option. Those who respond to emergency calls should not be able to arrest the people they are serving, especially when the call is clearly related to a non-violent community member. I am in support of defunding the police and shifting that money to address inequity in the SLC budget, grant awarding, zoning, access to affordable housing, and access to public programs is a great way to begin empowering communities that are subjugated by systemic racism. This is important to me because each member of the Salt Lake community is an essential and valuable part of this city. None of our community members should ever be murdered by police. Everyone in Salt Lake City deserves to feel safe, empowered, and free to live in a city where the needs of our ENTIRE community are heard and addressed in order to lift people up, not tear them down. We have seen the impacts of police brutality in our community time and time again and there is no more tolerance for it. We must change to move forward upon a path built upon the prioritization of our communities needs.</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:11 | Ian McCubbin | <p>Hello Councilman Wharton, I read the summary of the June 11 council meeting. It looks like council is attempting to address the current situation of peaceful protest in our country regrading the murder of George Floyd, and the paramilitary approach of Law Enformcemnt here in Utah and accross the country. Yes, we do need transparent Police, Fire and EMS in SLC that are helping the community. It has not been my experience or observation that the public funding city Police, Fire or EMS are really trying to work with the community on improvements. We need to have them accountable to the tax payers who fund those agencies, and that they are helping the communities (in particular communities of color). I would like to find out more details on the Commision that is being formed, and hope that is a step forward. One place that funding from Police could be moved to is helping the growing homeless community. The homeless problem should be a priority for the City, as it is likely only going to get worse in the coming years due to the economic impact of COVID (recession/depression). Since the city has been having the Police and Fire departments as the front line to that community, which is primarily minority (Black, Hispanic and Native American), moving funding from the police to an agency that could actually help and empower a primarily minority community that is currently struggling in SLC. Dealing with the homeless with armed police is not helping, and only makes the situation more troubling. SLC would benefit with moving funds from the police to a city agency to help with social services and development of large city run homeless encampment with support services (showers, bathrooms, internet kiosks, and post). Let me know how I can help. Be Well, Ian McCubbin</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:09 | Matthew Kastellec | <p>Dear Council Member Wharton My name is Matt Kastellec and I am resident of SLC District 3. I am VERY pleased to see the council continue discuss the role and purpose of policing in our community. I want to reiterate points previously made that we need to always begin this process by centering those who are most harmed by our current systems - Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. In amplifying their voices, I echo the need to begin the process of disempowering and disbanding the SLCPD in it's current iteration and imagining new forms of keeping our communities safe that fall outside the current criminal justice system, including many of the ideas listed in the research you all have done on other cities including: - Creating new hotlines and organizations to address non-violent/non-urgent issues - Form specific intervention teams for mental health crises - Create greater transparent on discipline, conduct, and other records - Remove qualified immunity - Demilitarize the police force and return military equipment to the federal government These are important to me both because I strive to elevate voices of the marginalized but also because as a queer person myself I have never found the police to be a protective force. Rather, they have been sources of trauma in my life and have antagonized the queer community for generations. And while I know the budget has been set, I would also reiterate my desire as a citizen for money currently allocated to the SLCPD be moved over time to address housing, public programs, public healthcare, education supports, and other avenues that help reduce the subjugation of systemic racism in our city.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Matt</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:08 | Neisha Lockwood | <p>Additionally, here is a video with survivors of police violence telling their stories: https://youtu.be/RtAat911eAE On Tue, Jul 7, 2020, 12:24 PM Neisha Hello council, I'm again writing to discuss the necessary changes to our police department. I feel that you have each chosen to put your personal experiences and opinions above those of your community, and I am frustrated beyond words. You are not in this position to serve yourselves. You were elected to this position to serve as a mouthpiece, a tool of your constituents. Choosing not to listen, or to act in a way that undermines us, is a betrayal of your position. It is a betrayal of the trust we place in you. And most of all, it is a betrayal that will cost lives. Citizens lives, and since that doesn't seem to matter much, it will also kill the police officers you think you're helping. I would hope, but am extremely doubtful, that you have used your time to educate yourself on these issues. The institution of policing was created as a response to "runaway slaves," and expanded significantly in response to civil rights unrest. The racist nature of policing is not an accident, and it is not something that can be changed by oversight committees. As such, I've decided to send you this article. It is stuffed to the brim with resources, both with empirical data showing the urgent need to make drastic changes, as well as several personal accounts of police that demonstrate how pervasive this issue is and how it is impossible to fix from the inside. I beg you to read it, and to do so without defensiveness. It is only if you CHOOSE to listen and truly hear what we are saying that things will change. "Arthur Rizer is a former police officer and 21-year veteran of the US Army, where he served as a military policeman. Today, he heads the criminal justice program at the R Street Institute, a center-right think tank in DC. And he wants you to know that American policing is even more broken than you think." You have an opportunity to lead the country in significant, lasting change. *Continued 1/3*</p> |

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| | Neisha Lockwood | <p>You have instead chosen to give us a tiny, tiny concession which will not and cannot make the changes we need. Law enforcement is necessary, but not in the way it currently exists. The current system of policing is not only incredibly damaging to the public, especially minority populations or those with mental health issues, but it is also horrifically unjust to the officers who serve in it. They simply do not have the option to not participate in the existing corruption, because loyalty is paramount. They do not have the option to be a "good apple," because the barrel is rotten. "The mission and practice of policing is not aligned with what we know about how to keep people from acting on the kinds of implicit biases and mental shortcuts, he says. You could design a job where that's not how it works. We have not chosen to do that for policing. Across the United States, we have created a system that makes disproportionate police targeting of Black citizens an inevitability. Officers don't need to be especially racist as compared to the general population for discrimination to recur over and over; it's the nature of the police profession, the beliefs that permeate it, and the situations in which officers find themselves that lead them to act in racist ways."</p> <p>https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2020/7/7/21293259/police-racism-violence-ideology-george-floyd If you find that the effort to challenge your own experiences and interests is too difficult, we will vote you out and find people who do care about us and our safety. *Continued 2/3*</p> |

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| | Neisha Lockwood | <p>*Continued 3/3* Inaction or a consolation prize is completely unacceptable at this point. We aren't going to stop until we are ALL safe. City Council, I am extremely disappointed in the response to the outcries of your community. Why did we elect you if you aren't going to follow the will of the people? In view of the country, in a time of unprecedented pushes for change to our justice system, you have shown you care more about your own well-being than those of us who are less fortunate than you. People with disabilities, people with mental illness, minorities - we are all at risk and will continue to be because of your lack of support. I hope you consider what you have done carefully and the impact it will have on the actual community you serve. You are not helping us. You are helping the police. Period.</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:07 | Natalia Southam | <p>I am a resident of your salt Lake District . I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. But instead, the Mayor has proposed an increase in funding to the SLCPD, while social services and education--proven to better promote community safety than policing--stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me. Thank you for your time, Natalia Southam</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:06 | Karma Fry | <p>Hi, my name is Karma Fry and I am a resident of Salt Lake County. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. The Mayor has proposed a decrease in funding to the SLCPD, but it is not enough. Social services and education proven to better promote community safety than policing are stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:05 | Kaitlin Doolittle | <p>I am a resident of Salt Lake City. I am writing to demand that the City Council adopt a budget for the people, that prioritizes community wellbeing and redirects funding away from the police. We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. But instead, the Mayor has proposed an increase in funding to the SLCPD, while social services and education--proven to better promote community safety than policing--stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me. Thank you for your time, Kaitlin D.</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 16:03 | Jan Bigelow | <p>Hello, My name is Jan and I appreciate the Salt Lake City Council's willingness to allow time to gather information and make informed decisions about any changes with the police department funding, etc. I do have a few concerns and questions about the direction SLC is potentially moving in response to the recent concerns of racial equity and policing in the City. I looked over the staff report of what reforms and changes are being made around the country in relation to police depts and racial equity. My primary concern is that the report seemed to highlight cities with a much larger population and community unrest on a scale not seen in SLC. These cities are addressing their local issues, but I am unclear on what the local issues are that we are trying to address. Are there specific issues in the SLC Police Dept that we are trying to target with these efforts? What are the concerns with the SLCPD beyond general public (and our leader's) allegations of "systemic racism" and "implicit bias" in police depts? What exactly is biased or racist about the SLCPD? A problem needs to be identified before an effective solution can be found. Additionally, in this document there was no information on what the SLCPD already has in place to address racial concerns. What is the SLCPD currently doing in relation to transparency, racial equity, accountability, etc? What is broken and needs to be fixed, if anything? I don't believe defunding the police department is an appropriate solution. In addition, keeping good policies to allow our police officers to protect the community and themselves is essential. Please make your decisions about defunding our police department or making other policy changes based on facts and local issues/needs. Certainly, if specific issues are identified we should work to find solutions. But negative perception/public opinion alone do not warrant making drastic changes. I have spoken to many people in Salt Lake City who feel the same as I do regarding this subject. Thank you so much for your careful consideration of our feedback. Sincerely, Jan Bigelow</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 15:10 | Cyan Larson | <p>I am a resident in SLC, I am glad that the council is continuing the conversation for the liberation on our communities of color through discussing the role of police. I believe that in order to forward the movement, the city must start defunding and decreasing the police; ultimately disbanding the police force/ SLCPD. What the council already has done in defunding the police is not very much, as most of the money is going back to the police department. Social workers can be part of a racist and deadly policing system; especially because these workers would be under the SLCPD. Many organizations lead by people of color that aren't Black Lives Matter Utah agree that police abolition will ultimately make a safer community for Black, Brown, Indigenous People of Color. Considering the awful history of police, abolition is the best route; reform has shown to be regressive and police keep getting away with murder. This first seed of abolition, which again is defunding and decreasing police, is important to me because I fear for my friends when they go out in public, and I have had bad police encounters too. If the council can agree on disbanding the police altogether, that would be amazing. Instead of police, invest in community members that believe in and practice transformative justice outside of the police department. Invest in better education and resources, invest in housing, and invest in healthcare in this crises. This is important to me because punitive measures do an outstanding amount of harm, so transformative justice would be great. It looks at the causes of crime, instead of using paternalistic measures to apprehend poor people and people of color. Thank you for your time, and I urge the council to look into transformative justice.</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 15:05 | Amaya Schindele | <p>We are in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence of policing, embodied by the SLCPD's well documented history of lethal force against residents of color. Empty gestures and suggestions of reform are unacceptable. I am demanding the voices of this movement be heard, and that real change be made to the way this city allocates its resources. Support for marginalized communities is necessary now, more than ever. But instead, the Mayor has proposed an increase in funding to the SLCPD, while social services and education--proven to better promote community safety than policing--stagnate. The SLCPD has seen a rise in overtime pay which, when too often paid out to officers responsible for harassing unhoused, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx residents, is deeply insulting. I am demanding that the City Council defund the SLCPD. I demand a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of impacted Utahans during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I demand a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear us apart. Although City Council has thus far avoided voting or revising Mayor Mendenhall's budget proposal, the document is back in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the SLC budget for 2020-2021 fiscal year, and to fund care, not criminalization and incarceration. You must adopt a budget for the people. Public opinion is with me.</p> |

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| 7/7/2020 15:02 | Celia Chadburn | <p>I am a resident of Salt Lake City District 5 and have lived in Salt Lake City for more than a decade. I am excited to see the council continue to discuss the role of police in our community! I believe that police need to have a lesser role for the safety of Black, Indigenous, and communities of Color and in order to ensure their safety (alongside everyone else's), we need to start by disempowering and disbanding the SLCPD to be replaced with a combination of pre-existing community services, NGOs and new methods of transformative justice that are focused on our community. We cannot replace the police with organizations that funnel people directly or indirectly into the criminal justice system. The people who respond to emergency calls should not be able to arrest the people that they are serving. This means they must be completely separate without potential conflict of interest by not having any part in power to arrest people who are being serviced in emergencies or calls for help. This is important to me because there are significantly higher proven numbers that Black, Indigenous, communities of Color, Queer, Trans and non-Binary people are in greater danger and at higher threat with police involvement. This includes among countless risks: possibilities of death at the hands of police, harsher incarceration sentences vs white people's convicted (and unconvicted) criminal cases, excessive use of unwarranted force, verbal and emotional abuse which directly leads to life-long trauma, sexual violence and rape by police officers, as well as from others in custody. *Continued 1/2*</p> |

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| | Celia Chadburn | <p>*Continued 2/2* One distinctive way to start empowering communities that are subjugated and minoritized by systemic racism is to defund the police and shift that money to instead address inequity in the SLC budget, grant awarding, zoning, housing, and access to public programs. This is important because SLC laws are not race-neutral and there is no such thing as race neutral laws. In order to make equity accessible to all races, we have to actively include anti-racist clauses and start by proactively addressing the inequities in our laws on a local level which requires more money to be put toward other services in our community. This starts with defunding SLCPD and instead using more money to address inequities throughout the SLC budget, grant awarding, zoning, housing, and access to public programs as an important and necessary first step. Thank you very much for your time and keeping an open dialogue for our entire community's benefit.</p> |