

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Comment
9/3/2020 9:47	Rick Cohen	-----Original Message----- From: Rick Cohen <Cohen@xmission.com> Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 7:32 PM To: Dugan, Dan <Daniel.Dugan@slcgov.com> Subject: (EXTERNAL) Streets people Dan, could you ask the mayors office to get Streets to be safe? A loose wheelbarrow on a truck driving north on 900 East at 300 S. Really? Tnx.
9/3/2020 10:16	Sam Dugan	Hi Chris, I would be interested in giving input to the City Council as you all grapple with new policies and ordinances regarding the intersection of police and mental health. To begin, I'm a public defender at LDA. I also have my Master's in Social Work from the U (to be clear, I am not a clinician, I do not have my LCSW, just a Master?s). I am also one of the assigned attorneys in one of our two mental health courts. I know we have met casually in court a few times and I know you know what LDA does, but I wanted to underscore specifically how these City Council policies impact my clients, who are indigent and often mentally ill and/or struggle with drug addiction. Any sort of meaningful reform is useless without a fundamental shift in what we ask police to do. I am always skeptical when I see anyone posting that we need ?more social workers and more mental health resources because until recently, I have seen zero uptick in mental health/social work supports. I think now is the time to capitalize on the public?s newfound caring about how police interact with the public, specifically mentally ill folks. I have a lot of thoughts on the nature of policing in general, but I have a few tangible ideas about how Salt Lake City can go about decreasing what police are actually asked to do. 1. We need more permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness. It is absurd that we as a society request that the police address issues of homelessness (ie: going to the 500 South block and clearing out all the folks camping there every few days). That is not something police should ever need to address. There has been a complete failure on the part of the City and the County to create more affordable housing for individuals who are homeless. There are hundreds of high-density housing complexes being built in downtown right now. *Continued 1/7*

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	Sam Dugan	<p>Many of these housing complexes come with a rent that is \$800 more than my mortgage in my house. The point of this is: SLC is facing a housing shortage not just for middle-income citizens, but for folks with lower socioeconomic status as they keep getting squeezed further West. District 3 is truly an interesting study in social stratification as far as housing is concerned. Marmalade used to be a lot grittier 10-15 years ago and as more double income, no kids families move into Marmalade (me and my husband, for example), house values continue to increase (great for me, not great for folks who can't afford their property taxes in Rose Park). There are also the families who live in \$3 million homes on Capitol Hill and are largely inoculated from the uptick in foot traffic from when the Road Home was demolished and ORG forced persons experiencing homelessness to leave "the Block." There is also housing ran by the Road Home that the neighbors on NextDoor are just extremely upset about everyday in Marmalade. Ultimately, Operation Rio Grande served to disperse the homeless contingent without actually providing more resources for persons experiencing homelessness. At its core, the mission should have been how do we house people appropriately?? as opposed to, how many officers can we station down on the Block and arrest people for minor drug offenses and outstanding warrants so Greg Hughes feels like he actually did something?? My capstone project for my Master's was a project on How Do we House the Chronically Homeless?? I'd be happy to share my group and I's findings if you're interested. The bottom line is, it is expensive to continually incarcerate folks as opposed to housing them. Further funding police does not change any of the social conditions that we ask them to solve. Again, that is on local government to solve, not for police. 2. We need more permanent supportive housing for persons with mental health issues. This goes hand in hand with more affordable housing in general, but with the caveat that this housing is geared toward folks with mental illness who made need more support with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's). *Continued 2/7*</p>

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	Sam Dugan	<p>One example is Valley Plaza or Valley Woods or the Denver Street Apartments ran by the VOA. There is also a new housing center (Central City Housing) that First Step House is opening (theoretically in August, but who knows). Even though there are some housing units folks can obtain here and there, it is not enough. The continuum of housing for folks with mental illness is important to understand. On the extreme end we have the Utah State Hospital. That is for individuals who have been found legally incompetent or have been civilly committed. It is a secure facility that they cannot leave until someone has been restored. On the other end of the spectrum is absolutely nothing. Somewhere in between we have places like Valley Woods/Valley Plaza/Denver Street for individuals to receive case management, med management, and therapy. CORE is a residential treatment center (different than permanent, supportive housing like Valley Plaza/Woods/Denver Street). CORE is a therapeutic environment and is focused more on treatment and managing mental illness/drug addiction than ADL?s. There are also short-term psychiatric facilities someone can stay in, usually up to 30 days (like Salt Lake Behavioral Hospital, Highland Ridge, or UNI). None of these are actual, long term housing other than Valley Plaza/Woods/Denver Street. This, again, is not enough. All of these programs also have different funding challenges, as well. The new Central City Housing is only available for individuals with Legacy Medicaid, for example (there are many forms of Medicaid, but that is a different story for a different day). I am very excited about CCH coming online and I hope it will help alleviate some of the issues, but this has been in the works for years and years. 3. We need more residential treatment programs for persons with mental health issues. There is nowhere near enough residential treatment for individuals who need mental health treatment. There is ONE treatment program in SLC that is geared toward addressing treating someone with a mental illness, and this treatment program also requires someone have a co-occurring substance use disorder (most folks have co-occurring disorders, but not all). Currently, Recovery International is building a new CORE-like treatment program (16 beds, males only), which is great. But that program is 16 beds.*Continued 3/7*</p>

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	Sam Dugan	<p>So when this opens, SLC will have in total, 16 beds for women and 24 beds for men for individuals who need mental health treatment. 24 beds is not near enough. 16 beds is not near enough. Here is an example of someone who needs appropriate residential treatment: I have a client in Mental Health Court with me who is in MHC on an Aggravated Robbery charge (amended to an attempt, so now it is a second and not a first). This client was in a psychotic episode and was actively suicidal. Client goes into a gas station with a knife and takes a box of cereal and milk. He kind of waves the knife over his head and leaves the gas station with the box of cereal and milk. He has no meaningful interaction with the gas station attendant. He then goes and sits in the grass outside and proceeds to eat the cereal and he also inflicts a few superficial wounds on himself with the knife. Police are called, he is taken into custody and charged with Aggravated Robbery, a first degree felony, which carries with it a five to life sentence if he were to be sent to prison. This client has no other meaningful criminal history (he has some intox, trespassing, homeless-type charges in his past, but nothing violent). The absurdity of the charges for the conduct aside, he has struggled in MHC. Why? one he is quite mentally ill, he also has learning disabilities which make some elements of treatment difficult for him, as well as a co-occurring amphetamine use disorder. Two, there is not enough treatment for him and for folks like him. He originally went to First Step House, but was discharged largely because FSH is not really equipped to treat folks for drug issues who also have schizophrenia. He went back to jail and has been in and out of jail while we wait for CORE to become available. The waitlist for CORE is often 8 or 9 months. MONTHS to get residential treatment for 16 beds. It is inhumane to jail folks with mental illness because we have nowhere else to put them. That is a failure of our City and County for not providing those resources, not of my clients with mental illness. While SLC does have quite a bit of funding for for drug treatment (Odyssey House, EPIC, First Step House, 7th Street, The Haven, etc), *Continued 4/7*</p>

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	Sam Dugan	<p>these programs largely cannot house Seriously and Persistently Mentally Ill individuals (such as all of the folks in MHC). Ultimately, our monies should be focused on how we decrease police contact with mental ill folks, not calling the police every time someone behaving oddly in Pioneer Park. We decrease police contact by actually having enough beds for my clients to get treatment, because 16 beds is not enough by any stretch of the imagination. 4. We need a more comprehensive Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT). While SLC does have an MCOT unit, MCOT units are used sparingly. Let me give an example. I have a client currently who is charged with a class A assault on a police officer. Police were contacted by a crisis line that was not in SLC that told the police my client was suicidal and asked the police to go check on client. The police arrive at client's house. One of the police officers who responded was a rookie, so his field supervisor told him to go take point on talking to my client. At the prelim, the rookie testified he was NOT trained in crisis intervention in any way, shape, or form. Rookie cop knocks on the door of my client, client, while agitated, explains that they are not suicidal and they are not interested in talking to the police. Client repeatedly tells officers to not come into their home. Rookie cop cajoles client and client agrees to exit their house but that they would like to put shoes and a jacket on (it is October and chilly). Client turns around and goes into their house and 4 police follow client into house. Client freaks out and all four officers pin client to their couch and forcibly drag client out of their house and shove client into the back of a cop car. SHE is charged with MA Assault on a PO. this. should. not. have. happened. This was not the job for police, this was for a trained social worker to speak to the client whether over the phone or in person to assess whether my client was expressing suicidal ideation and if my client needed help or not. Mental health crises are not for police. The police have literally zero business in responding to mental health crises because they are not appropriately trained. While many officers are CIT-trained, a power point on how to de-escalate situations is not enough.</p> <p>*Continued 5/7*</p>

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	Sam Dugan	<p>There is a reason it takes LCSWs 2 years to get their license, because they need 2,000 hours of clinical (meaning in person) training before they can practice on their own. Unfortunately, there is also a nationwide shortage of social workers right now largely in part because they get paid like garbage to do a really hard job. At the end of the day though, these issues with how police interact with the public can't be solved by reform. SLC has reform. SLCPD has de-escalation training in their policies and procedures. SLCPD has a duty to intervene in their policies and procedures. And yet my clients are still killed by police. My clients are assaulted, man handled, and subsequently charged because police are seeking to enact control and compliance rather than to understand. I don't know that the City Council has the ability to fundamentally change the mindset from compliance to understanding. That being said, there are some successes in the SLCPD working with social workers. The Community Connection Center has been an important step in further linking social workers and police. There are really great social workers working there and really great officers who are actually capable fo de-escalating. The same is true for some of Utah Highway Patrol who patrol the former Pioneer Park area. However, social workers bringing cops to situations where someone is experiencing a mental health crisis often only serves to escalate. Here is another example: I had a client who was a young black man who moved to SLC from the South. He was profoundly mentally ill. He also had a lack of insight into his mental illness. One day, he had a stick that he considered his magic wand and was muttering incantations under his breath near Whole Foods in Trolley Square. Trolley Square security called the cops and the cops came and found my client. My client l'mediately runs from the police. That should have been the end of it. He left the property. He was gone. But no. SLCPD decides to call in multiple squad cars and chase my poor, homeless, mentally ill client all around the area. They tell him stop, police, but doesn't because he is scared. He does not know why the police are chasing him. Officers in cars are chasing him, and officers on foot are chasing him. *Continued 6/7*</p>

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	Sam Dugan	<p>*Continued 7/7* The chase comes to end about an hour later when officers tackle him in someone's backyard and repeatedly tase him while he cries for help and speaks in tongues. That body cam is to this day, one of the most horrific examples of police interacting with an individual with mental illness I have ever seen. He was charged with MA Assault on an officer and MA fleeing. The prosecutor finally watched the video and dismissed the case with prejudice. She was disturbed by it. I can't help but think how that would have gone if the cops had just left him alone and not interacted with him or if someone with actual training was able to gently urge him to leave the property because he was freaking customers out. I can guarantee you my client would not have spent months in jail after being assaulted by the police at a minimum. I have a lot more ideas about how money can be allocated but my main gig is: FUND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, NOT POLICE. Police are not social workers. They are not required to engage in 2,000 hours of training before they get to interact with the public without a supervisor. They just need a high school diploma or GED and to pass POST (another point: it should be harder to become a police officer). We ask police to go into situations they are not appropriately trained for with a mentality of enacting control, rather than "how can this person be helped"? I am not confident that the police can be reformed and change their mindsets, so I am setting my sights on urging the City and County to allocate money to places that decrease police contact with my clients. I'd be happy to talk in person about ways to go about funneling money appropriately. We could go on a dog walk, have a drink on a patio, or talk on the phone. A good resource is a book I'm listening to right now called The End of Policing by Alex Vitale, if you're interested. Thanks for taking the time to read this. The time was 50 years ago to appropriately provide services for individuals with mental illness, but 2020 can be a start. best, Sam Dugan</p>
9/8/2020 14:52	Susan Skankey	<p>Sidewalks Just want to say how pleased I was to know that the city will do a 50/50 deal on replacing a portion of my sidewalk where tree roots have raised it. I called that department and spoke to Mitch Hansen who kindly explained it all to me and then within 2 days was out to my home measuring and making plans to do the project when my turn comes around. He was very helpful and informative!!! Nice to see such good people working for us. Susan Skankey</p>
9/8/2020 16:00	Dave Svihart	<p>calling to say he was appalled by the recent police shooting. He mentioned you didn't need to call but if you want to he would like to talk to you. He said he looks to you to be his voice.</p>

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9/8/2020 16:01	Denise Taylor	<p>Recent scooter injury articles----food for thought for SLC Council https://www.medicaldaily.com/e-scooter-injuries-mounting-455674 "71,000 Reasons to Think Twice About Riding E-Scooters" Aug 31, 2020 11:16 AM https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043 "The estimated incidence of e-scooter injuries treated in EDs in the US nearly doubled between 2018 and 2019 despite various regulatory efforts and evidence highlighting this issue.1 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043#zld200100r1> ,2 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043#zld200100r2> Head injuries were the most common cause of visits to the ED, and traumatic brain injuries were prevalent among those injured. These results are troubling given that helmets are used by a minority of riders, helmet requirements have been eliminated in some areas, and riders often misunderstand road traffic laws that guide e-scooter use.1 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043#zld200100r1> ,4 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043#zld200100r4> -6 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770043#zld200100r4> Limitations of this study include possible underestimation of injuries, a lack of data outside ED visits, and the absence of information on helmet use." In the first article, the man riding the scooter was thrown over the handlebars after hitting a pothole. Can you imagine a possible future lawsuit against the city for not maintaining the roadways? Food for thought before voting to pass the ordinance. Denise Taylor MD</p>

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9/15/2020 9:32	Kaylin Weed	<p>-----Original Message----- From: Kaylin Weed Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 6:04 PM Subject: (EXTERNAL) the police continue to fail us! we demand police reform! 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, Kaylin Weed</p>
9/11/2020 16:23	Bradley Cruz	<p>I am a businessman who will not bring work to Salt Lake 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,</p>

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9/15/2020 11:40	George Chapman	<p>On Mental Crisis Intervention: UTAH CREATES A MOBILE MENTAL CRISIS SYSTEM BUT RUINS IT I was unable to confi'm that SLC 911 dispatch effectively and efficiently works with MCOT (Mobile Crisis Outreach Team). The SLC Council should ensure that Dispatch and SLCPD create an effective plan to work with, coordinate with and utilize the effective MCOT system. Police/Fire and EMS should be coordinating services with MCOT. (Note that Versadex/CAD does not allow that.) Utah's attempt to create an effect mobile mental crisis system that is on call (sponsored by Rep. Eliason) is an important effort to create a cost effective and better system for handling mental health issues, especially suicide and depression patients. When police are called, the large response can make the situation worse due to the noise and massing of personnel. A one time MCOT (Mobile Crisis Outreach Team) visit that allows the patient to be treated at home costs \$380. The call center costs \$40 for a call. Hospital stays can be thousands of dollars. Rep. Eliason is working to increase Teams and effectiveness. The crisis number is 801 587 3000. Unfortunately many 911 systems are not passing callers to this number and service (this was discussed at the last Legislative session). Police response, as mentioned above, can make the situation worse. It can result in a major fight with significant injuries and in some cases, death due to poor training and a stressful situation. Other contact numbers for similar issues: WARMLINE: 801-587-1055 For residents in Salt Lake County who are not in Crisis but are seeking support in: support, engagement, and encouragement. Services are available 24/7 both locally and statewide as the Utah affiliate for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255 Callers may speak with peer specialists daily from 8 am to 11 pm Note that the limitations discussed at the last Legislative session include lack of qualified personnel (Legislature is working on that.), lack of 911 coordination (I will be discussing that at today's 130PM Public Utilities Interim Committee meeting on UCA 911 Audit.) and more teams (requiring more funding). On Demolition Ordinance: SLC should allow demolition of vacant buildings with minimal resistance, even if the result is a parking lot. The alternative, exemplified by the Zephr Club, is a vacant building that encourages crime. A parking lot, as much as this City hates surface parking lots, is better than a crime magnet vacant building. On State Street CRA: State Street historic buildings should be reviewed for cost effective/cost benefit analysis of reasonable saving/reuse. Otherwise demolish them. Do not acquire property since the city's properties actually tend to keep the area from redeveloping. Encourage mixed use, mixed income inclusionary form based zoning with impact fee reductions and flexible heights. Do not spend money on prettifying projects like lighting and trees until development is incentivized (which should be highest priority for funds). Develop Fleet Block as a park (as Michael Fife suggested) or half park and allow high rises around it. Sugar House development was due to open space not the rail (ask Planning). Midblock crosswalks should not be a priority. It discourages vehicle travel. Removing/moving car lots should be a priority, maybe to a block of car sales lots. State Street should not go to 20MPH nor have a road diet. Bus frequency should be 10 minutes and buses must go to the curb.</p>

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9/15/2020 10:01	Mike De La Mare	<p>From: Mike DeLaMare <> Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 4:53 PM To: Dugan, Dan <Daniel.Dugan@slcgov.com> Subject: (EXTERNAL) Body cams of Riots downtown Hi Dan, In my work at our title company we meet with all kinds of individuals who are selling, refinancing or buying properties. A few weeks ago I had the privilege of closing a member of the Salt Lake City Police Dept. During the closing I asked him about his duties and his view of the riots that had occurred. I was surprised to learn how dangerous it was for members of the police force to protect public building and the public. He mentioned they had asked There'superiors to release footage from their camera?s on the front line to show what was actually happening vs the news footage that was taken from a safe distance. He related to me that axes, hatchets, hammers, sledge hammers, bats, rocks any many other things were thrown at them. He said in all his years on the force this incident was the scariest for him. He did not understand why that footage wasn?t represented along with the news footage to show both sides of what actually happened. I completely agree and wonder what is the difference in showing the riot footage vs. the many shootings that have been shown by the media. Why was it not shown? Has this ever been discussed by the city council? I think they deserve to at least have their footage shown to the public to make us aware what was actually happening instead of the watered down media version. Help me understand the city's position. Mike Mike De La Mare</p>
9/15/2020 11:29	Kaylin Weed	<p>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, Kaylin Weed</p>

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9/15/2020 11:08	Chantel Cook	<p>Hello, Firstly I want to thank the council for being so responsive last time I sent in comments. It's good to know these things are being read. My comment this time is in regards to the shooting of Linden Cameron. I understand that the council's actual influence over the police department is limited, however I am reaching out to any and everyone I can to express how deeply deeply wrong it is that a child can be shot in his home by the police after his mother called for help. And this happened this week, in our city. It's an absolute shame. It is unjustifiable and it is not a unique incident. This is the norm. The recent changes to the police budget didn't prevent this from happening. This pattern of carelessness, incompetence, gross negligence, abuse of power and all too often cruelty is ingrained in our national police identity. Starve it out. Dismantle the system. Take those resources and give them to professionals that could have actually handled Cameron's situation. I truly hope that the continuing feedback that you are no doubt receiving from your community, your city, motivates you to be bold in deciding next years budget. don't reward bad behavior with new toys. Starve the police. Take away their ability to do harm. The people of this city and this nation are begging you.</p>
9/15/2020 11:11	David Fernandez	<p>Friends, Utahans, countryman ? I try to be in the center on most political issues. Consequently, I don't have many friends anymore. I still talk to acquaintances both on the right and the left but, being friends is difficult. I still remember a time when I was registered as an independent and voted for both Bob Bennett and Karen Shepherd and felt good about both choices. Bygone days, before Orange became the New Republican and the Bros ran the DNC. Both on the same page to Defund the Swamp. I hope the leaders in Utah have thought through the Vice Presidential debates in Salt Lake City. I hope this was not a monetary decision or an optimistic attempt to present Salt Lake City as a hip and trendy metropolis. The debates are not the Olympics, where warring nations come together and lay down their arms in the spirit of peace, to compete honorably and with malice towards none. No, this is American politics, divisive, petty, and full of hate on the fringes on both sides of the aisle. I hope that the Salt Lake City Mayor and City Council have come to terms with the Police Department and the Utah State Legislature. If not the special help from the Federal level will be much more vigorous than what was seen in Seattle. The big difference is this is a solid Red State. No pollsters can seriously consider Utah a swing state. The majority of people in this State support the Police and even the bad apple tactics promoted by a few. Furthermore, they have weapons, lots of them. It is not hard for me to imagine the majority demonstrating their right to protest by doing burnouts with their Dodge Chargers on the Black Lives Matter mural in front of City Hall. History is rife with examples of what usually happens when people with weapons collide with those that have few. I hope, because I am neither an elected official nor a leader in the community. I don't have access to the halls of government where these decisions are usually made, out of sight of the public's unknowing eye. *Continued 1/2*</p>

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	David Fernandez	<p>*Continued 2/2* I am just a citizen who sees the messages from both parties and recognizes there is no common ground in the rhetoric. Yet, as someone who was not born or raised here but, has come to call this place home, I see in my neighbors the weariness to come together with some common sense. As divided as we are in Utah, I want to believe this exists here as compared to Charlotte, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, Kenosha or Rochester. I hope that this place will come together in a uniquely Utah way. Not slick and polished as a Madison Avenue add campaign or as brash and obscene as a Motorcycle Rally. I'm not optimistic enough to believe the entire SLCPD will take a knee defending the mural at the City Hall or that the BLM organizers will welcome the National Guard to Sugar House Park, but I can hope. I don't think we can all get along, but I have a dream that we won't kill each other. Even though I might not make it to the mountains to see those dreams come true. I hope; but, hope is not a plan. I want to believe that my leaders are looking outside their ?bubbles? to address the wave of opposing opinions coming to Salt Lake City. Unlike the national conventions that just wrapped up, the opposition will be directly across the stage. Having these opposing forces in such close proximity to each other is inherently dangerous. It will take strong leadership on both sides to keep the peace. Especially, since all the outside influences will be prodding to create conflict. If it bleeds it leads. It will be up to all of you to determine if Salt Lake will be remembered as a place where blood was shed or a place where a new standard of democratic compromise and peace was realized. I hope you are up to the task. I hope, This is the Place. Thank you for lending me your ears.</p>
9/15/2020 11:32	Annette Gregg	<p>Not all people of color believe that there is systemic racism. please stop following what the Democrats are trying to make everyone believe. How about you start making a plan to bring people together and help one another? Stop allowing BLM demands to happen. The BLM will never stop with the violence if you don't start doing your job to protect the tax payers.</p>
9/15/2020 11:26	Alison Craven	<p>I am a resident of your city, and I want to let you know that I appreciate the heroic efforts of our police force. In the current climate of hostility towards the police, I am concerned that the silent majority are not being heard only the vocal anarchists -- but We, The People are grateful for the services our police force provides. I don't want our law enforcement defunded! This may be a ploy by certain factions to militarize the police, and to justify martial law. My family and I do not want this, and we want to stand up FOR the police! There's a bad cop here and there, but we know they are the rare exception, rather than the rule. Law enforcement is necessary, and worth the money we spend for our own security against crime and lawlessness. We know that 99% of cops are good people who want to do a good job. Please do not defund our police force.</p>