

Stephanie Lopez

From: Douglas Ridenour
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Stephanie Lopez
Cc: Ted & Jeri Brandvold; COUNCIL; Joe Lopez; Jose M. Sanchez
Subject: Please read into minutes

Dear Doug,

I am writing regarding the upcoming ULL decision before the City Council. I learned that there is a push to move this to the November ballot for the residence of Modesto. Additionally, I am just learning that if this is going to make it on the ballot a decision needs to be made by June 23.

According to information I've received from concerned citizens and landowners in the Wood Colony neighborhood a letter was sent by the Mayor of Modesto to get a feel for the opinions of those who live in this neighborhood. I never received the letter. I have since contacted my neighbors and none of them have received this letter either. I was told the Mayor wants transparency and wants to hear from us, but it seems odd that a considerable number of people have been left out of this process.

I am also very concerned that our voices really can't be heard. For starters, there has been a considerable delay in even informing anyone that a deadline was approaching. Also, with COVID we apparently will be kept out of the meeting where this decision will be made.

I just received the proposed line for the ULL. There are two things of great concern to me. First, Driver Farms on the south side of North Ave is colored Yellow. That indicates that they (we) are supportive in this ULL matter. We are not! Secondly, if you look at my neighbors to the west they also are listed as Yellow. This follows a meeting that they had with Bill Lyons. Why would Bill Lyons meet with someone to the west of us and basically talk them into being supportive. I have spoken with them and they have indicated they really should be neutral. They see both sides and to some degree are caught in the middle.

Being caught in the middle means that arbitrary lines are drawn which can affect property value. If there was no tension between speculative property values and farmland they would not be concerned. In the event that lines are drawn this way then there might be the devaluing of their property value. Who would want to buy farmland if you can't really farm? They are being forced to think this way.

Lastly, I would ask you to take a close look at the names of those who want this on the November ballot. It is obvious that land is being purchased (swallowed up) for speculative purposes. Few of those who want this live on the properties in question. Doesn't that tell you something?

If there are those who can strategize and manipulate a land grab for the purpose of profit now, then there can really be no reasonable conclusion that you can limit anything in the

future Why not demonstrate now what it really means to limit intrusion into one of the most productive farmland in the state and into the lives of people who actually live here. I hope you will look at this issue carefully. It seems easy to see what this really is.

Joel Richards

3043 North Ave.

Modesto, CA 95358

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sent from my iPhone

1010 TENTH STREET, 3RD FLOOR
MODESTO, CA 95354



Public Comment

RECEIVED PHONE: (209) 525-7660
MODESTO CITY FAX: (209) 525-7643
www.stanislauslafco.org

2020 JUN 23 AM 10:57

June 23, 2020

Mayor Brandvold & City Council
City of Modesto
P.O. Box 642
Modesto, CA 95353

6/23/2020
Council Mtg

SUBJECT: City of Modesto's Proposed Urban Limit Line

Mayor Brandvold and City Council:

LAFCO is in receipt of a letter dated June 9, 2020 regarding the City's upcoming consideration of an Urban Limit Line (ULL). Little information has been shared with our agency regarding the proposed ULL. While it appears the City Council will be continuing its discussion to the July 7th meeting, to date, LAFCO has not received the draft language of the ULL, the City's proposed General Plan Amendments, or a California Environmental Quality Act referral for the proposal.

LAFCO respectfully requests that the City Council direct its Staff to initiate the standard land-use planning process for General Plan amendments to accommodate the proposed ULL. This process, as outlined by statute, would include making the draft General Plan amendments and ULL available for a comment period in accordance with Government Code Section 65352(a). This would also allow time for preparation of the required environmental documentation and review. Doing so would provide a more reasonable opportunity for engagement with affected agencies and persons, and the addition of a Planning Commission review and hearing, prior to the City Council's adoption of a ULL and submittal to voters.

The proposed ULL is outside the current LAFCO-adopted sphere of influence for the area. In anticipation of an application to expand the sphere of influence to match or effectuate the ULL, LAFCO expects the land-use planning process to first be completed. While the letter we received is limited in its information about the proposed ULL, LAFCO Staff has prepared the following comments for the City's information in anticipation of such an application.

General Plan Consistency

As presented, areas of the proposed ULL located south of the unincorporated community of Salida and along North McHenry are outside of the City's General Plan area. Inclusion of these areas necessitates a General Plan amendment. Internal consistency amongst the various elements of the General Plan must also be ensured. As identified above, Government Code Section 65352(a) requires that prior to the City amending its General Plan it shall refer the proposed action to numerous agencies, including LAFCO, with a minimum 45-day comment period.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

City Staff has indicated that they have drafted a finding of conformance with the Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR) previously prepared for the City's General Plan. The proposed ULL includes areas beyond the planning area of the General Plan and is thus outside the scope of the Master EIR, as these areas and their associated impacts have not been analyzed.

Adoption of the ULL, amendments to the General Plan, and subsequent request for a sphere of influence expansion are all considered projects under CEQA that must be fully described and analyzed. As a Responsible Agency, LAFCO will rely on the City's preparation of environmental documentation during its review of the sphere of influence.

Relation to LAFCO Policies and Processes

While the City's letter describes its ULL as the City's self-imposed limit on growth, it currently represents an expanded area *beyond* the City's LAFCO-adopted sphere of influence. Therefore, LAFCO approval would be required to make the two consistent.

LAFCOs have the exclusive authority for designating a sphere of influence for a city. A sphere of influence is defined by Government Code Section 56076 as a "plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission." Stanislaus LAFCO has established policies that further describe the intent of a sphere of influence. These include promoting orderly growth and coordination of cooperative planning efforts among the county, cities, special districts, and communities. The sphere of influence is intended to be a twenty-year planning boundary for an agency. The Commission also designates a more near-term boundary known as a "primary area" within the sphere of influence of each city. Any subsequent annexation proposal must be consistent with these Commission-adopted boundaries.

When determining a sphere of influence for a city, LAFCO will consider its locally-adopted policies in conjunction with the factors set forth in Government Code Section 56425(e), including the present and planned land uses in the area, the impact to agricultural lands and the existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area. The City must also demonstrate how the proposal represents a logical expansion of its boundary that discourages urban sprawl.

There are two communities of interest that the City's proposed ULL, and presumably its proposed sphere of influence, would encroach upon—Salida and Wood Colony. Each of these communities should be discussed relative to LAFCO's adopted policy that states, "sphere of influence boundaries shall, to the extent possible, maintain a separation between existing communities to protect open space and agricultural lands and the identity of an individual community."

An expansion of the City's sphere of influence also requires City of Modesto representatives to meet with County representatives to discuss the proposed sphere and explore methods to reach agreement on its boundaries, development standards, and zoning requirements within the sphere *prior* to application to LAFCO (Government Code Section 56425b). Additionally, an update to the City's Municipal Service Review must be prepared prior to or concurrently with the sphere of influence expansion describing the city's ability to provide services as well as impacts to existing service providers in the area, including the Salida Fire Protection District.

Agricultural Resources

One of LAFCO's main charges, as set forth by the Legislature, is to protect and promote agriculture. LAFCO's Agricultural Preservation Policy encourages cities to develop methods or strategies to minimize the loss of agricultural lands. The Commission encourages cities to choose from a menu of commonly-used strategies in the Policy, including voter-approved urban growth boundaries. The Policy requires cities to complete an analysis in order for the Commission to make determinations including that insufficient alternative land is available within the current sphere of influence, that growth has been directed away from prime agricultural lands, and that the additional territory will not exceed the twenty-year period of probable growth and development.

The proposed ULL also includes lands with active Williamson Act contracts. The Williamson Act is considered a mechanism to preserve agricultural land in the long term. LAFCO policies for sphere of influence amendments and annexations both discourage the inclusion of Williamson Act lands within proposed boundaries.

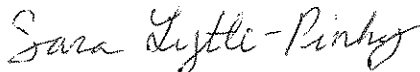
Additional Comments and Information Needed

Staff notes the following additional comments and information that would be helpful to include in future referrals regarding the project:

- The timeframe for the ULL was not specified in the letter provided to LAFCO and it is unclear whether it is intended to be consistent with the City's sphere of influence and/or Urban Growth Review.
- The intent of the open portion of the proposed ULL in the northeast Modesto area should be made clear.
- Please identify the "narrow legal exceptions" as referenced in the June 9th letter regarding exceptions for areas to be annexed outside an Urban Limit Line.
- Statements in the June 9th letter and the "What an Urban Limit Line Means" handout regarding making areas "easier to be annexed" do not identify required LAFCO steps and processes.
- The "Conceptual Urban Limit Line" map appears to inadvertently exclude the Mancini Park area (already within the City Limits) from the ULL and General Plan boundary.

LAFCO Staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City's proposal. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (209) 525-7660.

Sincerely,



Sara Lytle-Pinhey
Executive Officer

cc: LAFCO Commissioners
Alice E. Mimms, LAFCO Counsel
Stephanie Lopez, Modesto City Clerk

CCpresentations

From: Heather Nonaca <hnonaca@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:45 PM
To: CCpresentations; ccmeetings@modestogov.org
Subject: Budget recommendations

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Heather Nonaca, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year by re-directing funds from the police department to much needed services and resources for our community. Doing so would bolster community services that would lessen the need for police intervention while also supporting our most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your time,
Heather Nonaca

4305 Crown Valley Way

Modesto, CA 95356

HNONACA@GMAIL.COM

209-324-3837

CCpresentations

From: Daley Perry <dhperry13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:34 AM
To: CCPresentations
Subject: Public Comment for Tonight's Council Meeting Re: Budget

Hello,

I would like to ask for the City Council to hold a public presentation to the community on the budget before it is adopted. I also fully support divesting funds from the police department and redistributing those funds to education (which will need all the help they can get post-COVID19), social services, health services, and youth programs. I would also like to see our school district adopt more Ethnic Studies to ensure our children are learning the true history of this country, specifically when it comes to our treatment of Native Americans and Black people. Let's set an example in the Central Valley of a city that challenges the status quo, that stands up to racism, and TAKES ACTION to make positive and lasting change in our community!

Sincerely,
Daley Perry

CCpresentations

From: Lisa Battista <lbattistalaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:45 AM
To: CCPresentations
Subject: comment for tonight's Council meeting during Public Comment period

Dear Mayor Brandvold: I again urge you to withdraw your endorsement of Ted Howze for Congress. A third round of Howze's insulting racist and xenophobic social media posts has now surfaced, making it even more clear than ever that Howze is not fit to be a representative of the diverse community that makes up this congressional district. Your loyalty to Howze is misplaced and an insult to the residents of Modesto who are opposed to the sentiments he has expressed in social media posts as well as those who are victimized by such hateful views and their manifestations. Leadership, and the demands of your position as mayor, require that you sometimes set your own preferences aside if they're going to hurt the people you have sworn to serve. Please show some leadership now, and publicly withdraw your endorsement of Ted Howze. Thank you.

--

Lisa Battista
209/996-3289

Stephanie Lopez

From: Cassandra Solorio <cassie_andra15@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Revise the Budget

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Cassandra, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from .

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,
Cassandra Solorio

Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Lopez

From: Liz Villasenor <lizvillasenor2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:32 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Defund the police

Importance: Low

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Lizbet Villasenor, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

You stop crime sure when it already has happened but who stops it from starting. You should but you dont how do you use 50% of Modesto budget on police when you neglect other sections. You forget you serve the people. We aren't being served. I urge you to change your plan defund the police or face leaving office. We the people have had enough you either change now or get ready for elections. We won't stand with a government that won't help its people. We need better programs for our children, we need mental health care, we need real trained emergency teams, mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. I'm asking you major, council members from districts 1, 3 and 6 you either make a plan that BENEFITS the COMMUNITY as a whole including the Brown and Black COMMUNITY or get ready to be kicked out of office during the elections. Its up to you make the change.

Thank you for your time,
Lizbet Villasenor (Figaro Ave Modesto CA 95351)
[lizvillasenor2@gmail.com]

Stephanie Lopez

From: Sabrina Mean <sabrinamean10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:30 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: DEFUND THE POLICE!!!

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Sabrina Mean, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,
Sabrina Mean
1020 Lombardy Drive
sabrinamean10@gmail.com
(209)614-2076

Stephanie Lopez

From: Sabrina Mean <sabmean2001@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: DEFUND THE POLICE!!!

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Sabrina Mean, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,
Sabrina Mean
1020 Lombardy Drive
Sabmean2001@gmail.com
(209)614-2076

Stephanie Lopez

From: Mi'Shaye <mishaye97@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Re: Modesto City Council Public Comment request

Here is my public comment:

“ My name is Mee-Shaye, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time, Mi'Shaye”

On Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 5:37 PM Mi'Shaye <mishaye97@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello my name is Mishaye Venerable. I would like to request a public comment request.

I will commenting on the City's budget. My number is (916) 717-8147.

Should I expect a call from you?

Thank you,

Mi'Shaye Venerable

--

MiShaye Venerable

Cell: (916) 717-8147
Email: Mishaye97@gmail.com

MISHaye Venerable
Cell: (916) 717-8147
Email: Mishaye97@gmail.com

Stephanie Lopez

From: Mi'Shaye <mishaye97@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Modesto City Council Public Comment request

Importance: Low

Hello my name is Mishaye Venerable. I would like to request a public comment request.

I will commenting on the City's budget. My number is (916) 717-8147.

Should I expect a call from you?

Thank you,

Mi'Shaye Venerable

--

MiShaye Venerable

Cell: [\(916\) 717-8147](tel:9167178147)

Email: Mishaye97@gmail.com

Stephanie Lopez

From: Clara Silva <silva.c.2001@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment for Tonight's Modesto City Council Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello. My name is Clara Silva and I have been born and raised in Modesto. I care deeply about the effective use of taxpayer money and the effectiveness of our law enforcement's ability to aid justice. I am requesting that every member of the council consider appointing a commission comprised of both city councilmen and members of the community to review alternatives to how the police budget is allocated. I specifically request that the commission review reallocating funding from the police department to other departments that are more adequately equipped to handle certain cases such as mental health crises, domestic abuse, and drug abuse. I also specifically request that the commission review the possibility of forming a social worker unit that works hand in hand with the police to be the first responders to such cases (potentially with police back-up). Finally, I request that the issue of appointing such a commission be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Wakoli Wekesa <wwekesa@eastsidemosquito.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: FW: Input on the Urban Limit Line for the City of Modesto

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mayor Ted Brandvold,

I am writing in response to the recent letter dated June 9, 2020 in reference to the City Council consideration of the Urban Limit Line for the City of Modesto. The District Board of Trustees and I received a copy. I am current District Manager of East Side Mosquito Abatement District, which was established in 1939 and moved to its current location of 2000 Santa Fe Ave, Modesto in 1956. The District owns two small aircrafts routinely used in controlling mosquitoes in the rural and agricultural areas of Stanislaus County. These aircrafts are operated from our facility on Santa Fe Avenue. I would like to inform the Modesto City Council that any changes the City may contemplate to the eastern part of the City should consider the District's operations. The aircrafts the District operates are single engine airplanes that are restricted from flying directly over congested/city neighborhoods. Changes to the Urban Limit Line beyond the Santa Fe Avenue may impair our activities and almost curtail our mosquito control efforts. Any future considerations of such changes however should be communicated to the District promptly. The District may require years of planning to accommodate any changes to its operations, therefore it will be imperative for the City to consider the District interests and coordinate any changes, accordingly.

We appreciate your invitation to submit comments and look forward to the City's decisions.

Sincerely,

J. Wakoli Wekesa, PhD

District Manager | Entomologist
East Side Mosquito Abatement District
2000 Santa Fe Avenue, Modesto, CA 95357
T: 209-522-4098|C: 209-988-1525
wwekesa@eastsidemosquito.com

Stephanie Lopez

From: Stephanie Lopez
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Fwd: Please read into minutes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Douglas Ridenour <dridenour@modestogov.com>
Date: June 23, 2020 at 4:05:11 PM PDT
To: Stephanie Lopez <slopez@modestogov.com>
Cc: Ted & Jeri Brandvold <tectarchi@live.com>, COUNCIL <COUNCIL@modestogov.com>, Joe Lopez <joelopez@modestogov.com>, "Jose M. Sanchez" <jsanchez@modestogov.com>
Subject: Please read into minutes

Dear Doug,

I am writing regarding the upcoming ULL decision before the City Council. I learned that there is a push to move this to the November ballot for the residence of Modesto. Additionally, I am just learning that if this is going to make it on the ballot a decision needs to be made by June 23.

According to information I've received from concerned citizens and landowners in the Wood Colony neighborhood a letter was sent by the Mayor of Modesto to get a feel for the opinions of those who live in this neighborhood. I never received the letter. I have since contacted my neighbors and none of them have received this letter either. I was told the Mayor wants transparency and wants to hear from us, but it seems odd that a considerable number of people have been left out of this process.

I am also very concerned that our voices really can't be heard. For starters, there has been a considerable delay in even informing anyone that a deadline was approaching. Also, with COVID we apparently will be kept out of the meeting where this decision will be made.

I just received the proposed line for the ULL. There are two things of great concern to me. First, Driver Farms on the south side of North Ave is colored Yellow. That indicates that they (we) are supportive in this ULL matter. We are not! Secondly, if you look at my neighbors to the west they also are listed as

Yellow. This follows a meeting that they had with Bill Lyons. Why would Bill Lyons meet with someone to the west of us and basically talk them into being supportive. I have spoken with them and they have indicated they really should be neutral. They see both sides and to some degree are caught in the middle. Being caught in the middle means that arbitrary lines are drawn which can affect property value. If there was no tension between speculative property values and farmland they would not be concerned. In the event that lines are drawn this way then there might be the devaluing of their property value. Who would want to buy farmland if you can't really farm? They are being forced to think this way. Lastly, I would ask you to take a close look at the names of those who want this on the November ballot. It is obvious that land is being purchased (swallowed up) for speculative purposes. Few of those who want this live on the properties in question. Doesn't that tell you something?

If there are those who can strategize and manipulate a land grab for the purpose of profit now, then there can really be no reasonable conclusion that you can limit anything in the future. Why not demonstrate now what it really means to limit intrusion into one of the most productive farmland in the state and into the lives of people who actually live here.

I hope you will look at this issue carefully. It seems easy to see what this really is.

Joel Richards

3043 North Ave.

Modesto, CA 95358

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Lopez

From: Kathy Conrotto <conrottok@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Mayor Brandvold's Endorsement of Ted Howze

To the members of the Modesto City Council:

As a long time resident of Modesto, I am embarrassed and ashamed to be living in a city with a mayor, an elected official, who has endorsed a candidate for Congress, Ted Howze, who has voluntarily made racial remarks concerning people of color with no qualms, no indication of embarrassment, and no apparent desire to apologize for his comments; nor has he taken the necessary action to rectify his behavior! Both Candidate Howze and Mayor Brandvold are indeed sources of embarrassment, and a poor reflection on our community! We need to start rectifying this situation now by ensuring that we elect officials to represent us who truly believe in the dignity of all, and who are dedicated to working for the common good that benefits each and everyone of us who live in our community!

Sincerely,

Kathy Conrotto
2345 Scenic Dr. # 328
Modesto, Ca. 95355

Stephanie Lopez

From: Monica Johnson <moniebae91@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Public Comment- 6/23

Importance: Low

Last meeting I called in and asked about funding being increased to our social services and mental health departments to support our children and adults after experiencing 2 pandemics back to back. I was told that there was a meeting going to be held with the Director of Behavioral Health. I would like an update on that meeting and what funding will look like moving forward.

Monica Johnson
209-204-5379

Stephanie Lopez

From: Monica Johnson <moniebae91@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment- 6/23

Can the county do a presentation for the community on explaining the budget process before it is adopted? When is the budget locked in officially annually and can it ever be changed by the public?

Monica Johnson
209-204-5379

Stephanie Lopez

From: Melisa Koessel <mkoessel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: This is how we upend systemic racism

Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is Melisa Koessel-Verderame, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018. At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police. As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Thank you for your time, Melisa Koessel-Verderame, 122 Jones Street, mkoessel@gmail.com, (209)450-8599

Stephanie Lopez

From: Melissa Field <melissa.field.01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Comments for tonight's meeting

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to request Mayor Ted Brandvold formally address the meaning of "defund the police" at tonight's meeting. I have seen him bring this topic up several times without informing his constituents of what it means. Repeating the phrase without giving further context has only led to more confusion.

"Defunding the police" does not mean stripping the Modesto Police Department of its funding. What we want is a portion of the budget redistributed away from the police department to other government agencies funded by the local municipality.

To invest in our communities, particularly the ones that are underfunded, would mean greater support for mental health services, youth advocacy programs, neighborhoods without sidewalks, and so on. This is something that would help to improve the entire city of Modesto.

I support the Modesto Police Department and believe they are doing the best they can with the current situation. I also support defunding the police and investing in our diverse communities. These things are not mutually exclusive.

Thank you,
Melissa Field

Stephanie Lopez

From: Julissa Espindola <julissaespindola@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Defund the Police and Use that money for community programs

Hello All,

I am writing to you all in support of defunding the police in Modesto, California.

Many studies have shown that there is less crime when you fund communities and create social programs. By defunding the police, we can use that money for mental health, affordable housing, substance abuse prevention programs, and much more. This will create a stronger community, Modesto will become appealing, happiness will increase, but most importantly, we will have less crime.

If you want to keep your seats, you all better listen to your constituents. Modesto is shifting beliefs. We are not voting for people who do not serve us.

Have a great day and defund the police.

Best,

Julissa Espindola

Stephanie Lopez

From: Sierrah Stepps <sierrah.steps@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: 6/23 City Council Meeting

To whom it may concern:

Please do NOT approve the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget. My name is Sierrah and for the last 20 years I have been raised in Modesto. I see the way the MPD gets away with making the community scared and consistently have heard Police Chief Carroll excuse these behaviors of his men (he's even publicly posted it on Facebook). The fiscal budget for the 2020-2021 year was approved at yesterday's meeting, which allocates 46.7% of the budget to the police. This is an egregious amount of money to put into just one single department. We have a police officer stationed at every school, but the students of Modesto don't have consistent access to a school nurse, a counselor, or any mental health professionals. Our streets still don't have sidewalks. You plan to put millions into the police budget but refuse to spend money on rehabilitation programs to actually combat the non violent crime that occurs in Modesto. Defund the police and use some of this money to build the community to be better. The police aren't here to serve and protect; they're here to make people scared. Do your part and #DefundThePolice.

Stephanie Lopez

From: B Lopez <belen98lopez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: City Council Meeting:Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Agenda #7

City Council members,

My name is Belen Lopez, and I am a resident of Modesto District 2. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much-needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing, and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much-needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,

Belen Lopez

Stephanie Lopez

From: CAROL STARK <casrafter@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] mayor's endorsement of Howze

Importance: Low

To the council. I have just learned that our mayor is going to endorse Ted Howze for congress after he has made many racist comments on our immigrant population as well as our black and brown communities. This is just unconscionable from a candidate running for any office. Our country is populated with immigrants from all over for many years. If u want to go back in history the only true Americans are the Indians who were run out of town in a dispicable way.I would like to express my out rage that this type of behavior should not be condoned, let alone have our mayor endorse this man. I am sure my concerns will fall on his deaf bigoted ears but I want u to know I am not pleased and I am dismayed that we have a mayor who shows his true colors and promotes his prejudices. We are in a moment where I hope we are going to make racial justice a thing to be condemned with all of the anger we can muster. Sincerely, Carole Stark

Stephanie Lopez

From: Rev. Darcy Baxter <revdarcybaxter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Comments for Tonight's Meeting-- Please Redirect Police Funding

Dear Mayor Brandvold and City Council members,

My name is the Rev. Darcy Baxter and I serve as the minister to the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County. First, thank you all for your service and care for our community. I am sure you, like me, are wrestling with the events of these past weeks and the years of injustice that led to them.

I join with the thousands of people who so desperately want racism to end-- to have our Black and Brown siblings live with a sense of security too long denied to them. Based on data from 2016-2018, a Black person in Modesto was 3 times more likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person. In this moment of national moral reckoning, I believe we are called to reimagine community safety and the role of police.

After looking at the city's budget, I am broken hearted to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

I believe a moral budget is one that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during these trying times. I plead with you to develop a budget that redirects much of the policing funds towards community health, education, and social programs.

I believe you, Mayor Brandvold and City Council Members, who sit in a position of government authority, carry a weighty moral burden. For those of us who are part of a Christian tradition, we must be particularly mindful of allowing wrongful killing at the hands of a government agency-- for this is exactly how Jesus was murdered. Do not let the power of your office narrow your vision and blur your moral clarity.

I urge you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Darcy Baxter
2172 Kiernan Ave
Modesto CA 95356
minister@stanuu.org
209-788-3720

Thank you for your patience.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Chadwicke Adams <geophilosophe@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] General Public Comment 6/23/20

Importance: Low

Modesto City Council,

During recent weeks the extent of police brutality has been exposed in video after video, revealing to millions of Americans the deadly reality of abuse of force in our law enforcement agencies.

But if these recent scenes of violence are shocking to some of us, they are a daily threat in the lives of many of our fellow citizens. Black Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than whites. In addition, although black people make up only 12.5% of illicit drug users, they represent 29% of those arrested for drug offenses and 33% of those incarcerated for drug offenses. There is no explanation for such disparities but systemic racism built into the structures of our law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

In a city like Modesto—rich in cultural and ethnic diversity, but burdened by crises of poverty, drug addiction, and homelessness—it is simply negligent and irresponsible of us to allocate a staggering 46.7% of our civic budget to an institution that is built to respond with armed force. By simply reallocating a portion of those funds, we could solve both the problem of over-policing in our black and brown neighborhoods and, with time, create targeted community safety and health agencies built to address drug addiction, homelessness, and non-violent crime in ways that work on the problems instead of criminalizing their effects, and that protect and serve everyone equally. Please do the right thing.

Chadwicke Adams,
Modesto resident, district 5

Stephanie Lopez

From: DIANE KROEZE <dianek1205@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public comment for tonights CC meeting

Public Comment

My name is Diane Kroeze and a long time resident of Modesto.

I have called many times and emailed re: Our Mayors endorsement of Howze.

Howze has written on Social Media and then tried to hide his Racial slurs, hate, bigoted views on Muslims, Dreamers, Immigrants and in short, anyone that is not, in his view, worthy of living. These views are disgusting and do not reflect the majority of us in the County. No Elected Official should encourage hate, lies and unrest among it's people. Endorsement of a person like this, indicates an agreement of same views. This is not acceptable under any situation.

Please remove your endorsement PUBLICALLY, Mr Mayor!
Thank you for listening

Stephanie Lopez

From: Patricia Egenberger <pat.egenberger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Tonight's Meeting

Mayor Branvold and City Council Members,

I learned recently that about half of our current budget is dedicated to the police department.

I recognize that with white supremacist gangs, drug gangs, and robberies we have major crimes in our city. However, I have seen police involved in situations that could be dealt with in safer, cheaper ways, such as noise complaints.

I have also observed that even when crime goes down, law enforcement budgets go up.

And I have seen police overreach with people they know are too poor to afford an attorney and thus accept a plea bargain for something that would not likely hold up in court. I often wonder if the District Attorney has a quota so she can show she is "tough on crime." I wonder if the police here have quotas as they do for traffic stops in some towns. I have witnessed police harassment of black teens. I am concerned about police who themselves are white supremacists. I hope that our department will do a better job of weeding these people out to protect officers committed to serve the public good. I presume most officers enter the force because they want to serve. Unfortunately, it appears they are sometimes pressured to protect "rogue" colleagues.

I know police suffer a lot of stress. Two of my friends who were married to officers are now divorced.

We must do a better job of dealing with the root causes of crime, one of which is poverty and another, the lack of opportunity. The wages for many in our community are so low that families have to share rentals, if they can find them.

Tonight you have a chance to redirect a portion of these police funds toward community health, education, and social programs. The proposed budget for Modesto for 2020/2021 would budget \$72.6 million dollars for the police department out of the city's total budget of \$146.5 million dollars. That is just a little under 50% of the city's budget going towards the police department. This certainly seems like a skewed budget to me considering the economic challenges of our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Egenberger
1444 Warfield Avenue
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 534-4567
pat.egenberger@gmail.com

Stephanie Lopez

From: Louie Gee <luis33gomezf2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:05 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Defunding the Modesto Police Department

Dear sir/madam,

It is unfair and unjust that the city of Modesto has an overfunded police department. It has become clear nationwide that increasing the police budget only does more harm than good. Especially to marginalized communities. If you truly respect ALL citizens of Modesto equally, then you would prioritize most of your city budget into public education, jobs, housing, infrastructure, etc. instead of the police. We beg you to do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Luis

Stephanie Lopez

From: Maggie Strong <magdalinejane@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:05 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public comment for meeting June 23rd 5:30pm

My name is Maggie Strong, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. These past few weeks, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that for the proposed city budget 46.7% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which is proposed to receive \$72.6 million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,
Maggie Strong
magdalinejane@gmail.com 562-505-9274

Stephanie Lopez

From: Elizabeth Krieger <e_c_krieger@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Defund the Police

Dear City Council members,

My name is Elizabeth Krieger, and I am a resident of Modesto, California. This past week, our nation has been gripped by protests calling for rapid and meaningful reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness. Based on the population of Modesto, a Black person was 3.1 times as likely to have deadly force used on them than a White person from 2016 - 2018.

At a time when people are calling for an end to racially motivated murders by armed police, in order to reduce police brutality with weapons, there should be a defunding and demilitarization of police. In order for police to be less likely to use deadly force, their access to guns, tear gas, pepper spray and tanks should be limited or completely cut off. After looking at the city's budget, I am appalled to learn that 50% of Modesto's general fund expenses is dedicated to funding the police department with only up to 28% of the budget explicitly dedicated to projects, departments, and programs that invest in community well-being.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of homelessness in our city and the ongoing problems of access to much needed resources around mental health, healthcare, housing and violence prevention, support for communities in need is necessary-- now more than ever. We demand that the City Council defund the Modesto Police Department, which receives at least \$69.5 Million, and redirect that money to much needed services and resources for our community. I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of vulnerable Modesto locals during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. We demand a budget that supports community well-being rather than empowering the police.

As the City Council, the budget proposal is in your hands. It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to completely revise the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Krieger
2708 Surrey Avenue Modesto CA 95355
e_c_krieger@yahoo.com
209-541-6822

Stephanie Lopez

From: Adriana Uchishiba <adriana869800@my.yosemite.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public comment on defunding police forces

Modesto City Council,

I am Adriana Uchishiba, one of the many, concerned citizens of Stanislaus County. We the people demand Modesto to become a City that gives every person an equal opportunity to strive for their future. Our civic rights are being ignored by the City Council, who is proposing to spend 46.7% of the budget on the police department. First off, you are proposing to spend only \$243,425 on veterans' services out of a 149.5-million-dollar budget. We the people demand you increase their funds. Secondly, only .11% of the budget is going towards the CSA's County Children's Fund, which is \$176,491. We the people demand an increase of funds to at least 5% as well. Modesto's infrastructure and environment are at stake when you propose to only spend \$29,171 on beverage container recycling and \$86,858 on oil recycling. Our City deserves more respect than what you give it. Lastly it is unacceptable and highly wrong to only spend \$12,840,214 while you are supplying the city's police forces with that riot gear that nearly destroyed your citizens and downtown area on May 31st. Why is \$72.6 million dollars being proposed to spend on the police department while our schools, roads, and healthcare systems suffer? We the people demand that our city focuses on spending our taxes towards human resources, parks and neighborhoods, public works, and community development. The district lines are distinctive enough to see a pattern with how you spend the people's taxes. You are neglecting our rights if you do not defund the police. We the people demand a new city budget proposal.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Elizabeth Sanchez <esanch33@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment for 6/23 Budget Meeting-Invest in Community, Defund MPD

My name is Elizabeth, and I am a community member of Modesto. These past few weeks, we have seen thousands of folks from all over Stanislaus County come together to unequivocally support the Black lives matter movement, calling for a deep reevaluation of the role of policing in our communities and an end to racism and anti-Blackness.

I stand with community leaders such as those of the NAACP, El Concilio, the Latino Community Roundtable, and Faith in the Valley, who believe that Modesto must redirect the massive funds spent on police to pressing social needs such as youth and mentoring programs, drug and alcohol treatment, affordable housing, job training, and mental health services. We can start by reevaluating how non emergency calls are addressed.

Modesto Police Department's proposed city budget makes up almost half of the general fund expenses while only 28% of that budget is explicitly dedicated to projects, departments and programs that invest in community well being. What does that say about Modesto's priorities?

Alongside defunding, we need accountability and transparency. The most recent annual report from MPD available on their website is from **2017**. There is a lot of work to do and as a community we have the tools to come together and find a real solution. This is a call to action to the city council to do the right thing and invest in our communities by defunding the police. It is your duty to represent your constituents.

Elizabeth Sanchez
209.581.4864
esanch33@gmail.com

Stephanie Lopez

From: Elizabeth Navarro <elizabeth.navarro01@sjsu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Addressing City Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council,

We have approximately 1,400 homeless people in the city of Modesto. As you know, the city had taken initiative in trying to provide services for the homeless population by establishing the Modesto Outdoor Emergency Shelter (MOES) which has recently closed as the city attempted to shelter these individuals at the Salvation Army's Berberian Center located at Ninth and D streets. However, many homeless individuals do not consider shelters as an option due to their mental health conditions among a plethora of other issues. According to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, People experiencing unsheltered homelessness perceive staying in an encampment as a safer option than staying on their own in an unsheltered location or in an emergency shelter. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, "shelters can be very difficult places to live for those people who have languished on the streets for years. They are tight quarters with many rules and regulations, which can be confusing. Nearly all municipal shelters for homeless single adults have barracks-style dormitories with as many as 100 beds in a single room, and these arrangements often do not suit the needs of homeless people living with serious mental illnesses like PTSD or mood disorders".

For homeless individuals that avoid shelter, the best option for them would be a place such as MOES where they would have access to services should they decide to receive services. Not only would services be more accessible to this population but it would prevent the traumatization that goes along with dismantling outdoor illegal encampments. When encampments are dismantled personal possessions, including medicines and necessary medical devices, are routinely thrown away. According to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, "evidence suggests that this response of clearance without support results in disruption and trauma for inhabitants of the encampments but does little to resolve the problem. Encampments are quickly reestablished in a new location or even back on the recently cleared site." This can be prevented if the city reopens MOES. Where the homeless situation stands at this point having some homeless individuals live outside seems unavoidable as this is not a problem that can be solved overnight. MOES could serve as an entry point to services for individuals that avoid shelters as it could provide the time individuals need to stabilize and come around to the idea of accepting services.

-Elizabeth Navarro

Stephanie Lopez

From: Gavin Bruce <gavinbruce57@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Council Meetings

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Evening,

As you know, over the last few weeks, we have seen thousands of Americans mobilize and rise up in protest in a way not seen in quite some time.

The senseless murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department has incited demonstrations across our country and around the world.

But this movement goes far beyond George Floyd and the City of Minneapolis. Systemic racism is, and has been, a cancer in American society and culture since before our founding. It is not isolated to one city or region. Even in a progressive state like California, our systems are fraught with racism and inherent bias.

Modesto is no different and classism and racial bias is evident everywhere. One of the most blatant examples is the apparent lack of funding and infrastructure in South Modesto and the Airport Neighborhood. Many streets in these neighborhoods don't have sewer systems or even sidewalks. When it rains, the streets flood. What kind of message does it send to a community when the city won't even provide basic amenities? Furthermore, the government jurisdictions in these neighborhoods are literally all over the map. It is unclear whether any given city block is within the City of Modesto, City of Ceres, or unincorporated Stanislaus County. When it is unclear whose responsibility lies where, it is easy for local governments to shirk responsibility and point fingers. Fight for these neighborhoods like you would your own!

As you decide how to address the budget shortfalls in the wake of the devastation wrought by COVID 19, I urge you to confront your own biases and ask yourself if you or your friends and loved-ones would accept such disrespect and lack of infrastructure in your own neighborhood. If you wouldn't tolerate it for you, why are you so complacent accepting it for others? Make it a top priority to invest in our neighborhoods that need it the most, not just brutally cracking down on the inevitable crime that results from this underinvestment!

Thank you,
Gavin, Modesto resident