

Stephanie Lopez

Public Comment

From: Jason Kishineff <bluebasilisk@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: item 7

Hello, my name is Jason Kishineff. You need to ask yourselves whether you want to combat crime or whether you just want to arrest more people. I suspect that you may have a deal with GEO Group, the world's largest corporate prison company, which is incentive to just arrest people without trying to fix the actual problems. If you want to combat crime, do not sink more money into a bloated police system. Instead, invest that money in the community. Find a way to create some jobs or something. More weapons for police aren't going to make crime go down. A better standard of living will!

Thank you,

Jason Kishineff

Stephanie Lopez

From: CACC Pastor <pastor@cacc-ucc.org>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Comment for City Council Meeting 7/7/20

Dear Ms. Lopez,

I would like to submit the statement below during the public comment section of tomorrow's City Council meeting. Thank you so much for your service!

Pastor Michael Schiefelbein

I admire our City Council for publicly decrying hatred last year. And Mayor Branvoldt, I admired your statement against hatred at last year's interfaith vigil at St. Paul's Church. I urge you, Mr. Mayor, to continue supporting the Council's commitment and expressing your personal commitment to denouncing hatred by removing your endorsement of congressional candidate Ted Howze, whose social media posts have included hateful remarks about Muslims and other citizens in our community. Your leadership matters so much! Thank you for your service to our city.

Rev. Michael Schiefelbein
Pastor of College Avenue United Church of Christ
209-596-9538

Stephanie Lopez

Public
Comment

From: Sabrena Rose <brenakab@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: 7/7 Council Meeting

Dear City Council,

I have concerns about the proposed law enforcement and fire fighter cuts. I agree with Mayor Brandvold that a temporary "freeze" would be better. I was unable to find how these reductions would affect our fire departments but am concerned what cuts would do to their ability to keep up with demands.

I understand we have reduced revenues due to the lockdown. I say lockdown because the pandemic has caused none of our financial concerns, our nation's response has.

We need to open our city back up and get our people back to work. Yes, our counts will go up, yes, people will continue to get sick and yes, we will lose some. However, the damage staying shut down is causing, has long lasting economic ramifications for everyone, not just those who are most at risk for COVID-19. I don't say this to be callused, nor do I say it lightly, I have loved ones in the highest risk categories, but even they had to go back to work to make ends meet.

People have forgotten it is not our government's job to protect our health, that is OUR job. Governments can provide guidelines to follow, but as this virus, like influenza, isn't going away, we as a society, have to find a way to live with it. Staying closed down out of fear helps no one. We will have a learning curve, but will have to learn how to protect others and ourselves.

Sincerely,
Sabrena Rose

Stephanie Lopez

Public Comment

From: Ken Schroeder <kschroeder70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: COVID19

Many of our local leaders in government and law enforcement, including several of you, have been in gatherings and in public without wearing facemasks or practicing distancing. As COVID19 cases and hospitalizations spike in Modesto, county public health, state public health and the CDC all agree that we must take the precautions of masks and distancing to prevent its spread. When you ignore those mandates, you set an example for others to do the same. I ask each of you to state whether you are committed to use a facemask and practice distancing in public and in gatherings. If you are not committed to those practices, please explain why not.

Ken Schroeder
Modesto

Stephanie Lopez

From: super3plusmom <super3plusmom@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 11:36 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Do NOT reduce police officers

My husband and I are 100% against the cutting of any police officers.

We are both voters, landowners, and proud citizens of Modesto. We love this community.

Modesto's crime rates are high, and the upcoming release of prisoners in California will affect Modesto.

Please, find another way to handle the budget. Our city must have ALL our police officers. Truthfully, we need more officers.

Our community faces tough times now and ahead, we must have our police force intact.

Thank you,
John and Genelle Wincentzen

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

Public

Stephanie Lopez

From: Virginia Hammond <vmhammond@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Comment on Item 14 New Business

Comment

July 7th
Item 14 ULL Comment

From Virginia Hammond

First, regarding Sphere of Influence. There are two in this discussion. A planning or visionary Sphere of Influence in the City's general plan and a legal Sphere of Influence adopted by LAFCO. The Legal Sphere of Influence does not place Modesto west of highway 99 north of Shoemake Ave.

Urban Service Areas or Urban Limit Lines must occur within the LAFCO Sphere of Influence. This ballot measure proposal is being presented in the context of the City's visionary general plan sphere of influence, and the ULL is partially outside the City's own visionary boundaries. An Urban Limit Line is also known as a Greenbelt by environmentalists and is defined as a boundary that has an open space transitional element between urban and agricultural lands.

The slide presented by Mr. French as "Next Steps" says after ULL is approved, staff updates General Plan, Council approves, and private development proposals could be considered. I would like to know how city staff plans to accomplish this. A ULL is not a legal boundary under State law. A city cannot circumvent annexation law and provide new or extended services outside its jurisdictional boundaries.

I urge the council to ask legal if the City can proceed to private development should this ULL pass by the voters without the steps outlined by LAFCO and without memorandum of understanding with Stanislaus County.

#7

Stephanie Lopez

From: Denise Camarena <denisecamarena@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:27 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: public comments

I'm Denise Britton and I am asking for the removal of Consent Item #7 from the agenda.

With most of the cities annual budget already going to the police department every year, and there being little improvement within our community as a result; it would seem highly negligent to invest more into the police department.

This would only further the issues we have with systematic biases within the police department.

What are the policies in place to govern this? What will become of all the information gathered with these devices, and who will have access? There needs to be full transparency.

What would be the benefits of using this and allowing for them to spend \$126,288 of our cities budget on this? This would be better spent on services to for the community.

Stephanie Lopez

#7

From: Sal Solorio <soloriosalvador@mail.fresnostate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: ALPR Equipment Public Comment

Hello, my name is Salvador Solorio-Ruiz, a community member in Delano and elected official on the Kern County Democratic Central Committee for District 4 and I am urging you to remove the consent item #7 from the agenda. Delano dealt with a similar situation last year around this time, the community gathered to make a statement that ALPR's were not wanted. ALPR's have been linked to gather information and report to Immigration Customs Enforcement(ICE). The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of constitutional rights, received documents demonstrating a cooperation between ICE, ALPR Companies, and some law enforcement agencies. These documents were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in December of 2018. They revealed sharing of Data obtained through ALPR's amongst 80 agencies nationwide, including the Merced Police Department, Tulare Police Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Manteca Police Department, and San Luis Obispo's Sheriff's Office.

We should feel confident in the wisdom of rejecting the logic that pits one group against another as the best and only way to achieve security. For we all lose out when we trade the civil protections we already have for the delusion that we are best served when we lose them — by being everywhere watched and recorded. I urge the council to remove this item from the agenda and stand with the community.

Stephanie Lopez



From: Elle M <gisellemezag@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: #7 ALPR equipment for MPD

To whomever this may concern,

I am a constituent living in District 2 and do not agree with the further militarization of our police force.

ALPR equipment will result in further surveillance of our communities, particularly those comprised of Black and Brown individuals. The American Civil Liberties Union has stated that this kind of technology violates the privacy of everyday citizens, and results in departments being able to decide how long to store the information, even of innocent civilians. Frankly speaking, I do not trust the MPD to not violate the rights of the people in this city. ALPR equipment in their hands will be dangerous to all.

Implementing this in our city will violate state privacy laws, and we do not want this approved. Our resources should not go to funding this technology for the MPD.

Thank you.
Giselle Meza

Stephanie Lopez

#7

From: Allison Barahona <allisonbarahona@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: public comments for board meeting tonight!

Hello,

Please read and record my public comments for agenda items 7.

My name is Allison Barahona and I live here in Modesto, born and raised in the central valley. I demand that the council remove Consent #7 from the agenda. In light of current movements such as Black Lives Matter we should be considering how we DECREASE our police funding not INCREASE their ability to surveil the community.

It is undeniable that systematic racism plagues our country and with this our police system therefore a ALPR system would just serve as another surveillance tactic to racially profile black and brown people in our community. Something that we should be working to dismantle not increase. Therefore I demand that consent #7 is removed and not considered.

We need to reallocate police funding to other community services that will protect our community rather than surveil it.

In community,
Allison Barahona

#8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Denise Camarena <denisecamarena@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:40 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] public comments

Importance: Low

I'm Denise Britton and I am asking that Item #8 be removed from the agenda.

The city needs to be investing in services to help the people in our community, not hurt them. Further militarizing the police is not going to help the people of our community.

If do not focus our funds on improving the lives of the people that need it most in our community, how is it to prosper and grow to it's full potential? These funds should go to improving the neighborhoods the police department have the most issues with.

#8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Jason Kishineff <bluebasilisk@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:43 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Item 8

Hello, my name is Jason Kishineff. You need to ask yourselves whether you want to combat crime or whether you just want to arrest more people. I suspect that you may have a deal with GEO Group, the world's largest corporate prison company, which is incentive to just arrest people without trying to fix the actual problems. If you want to combat crime, do not sink more money into a bloated police system. Instead, invest that money in the community. Find a way to create some jobs or something. More weapons for police aren't going to make crime go down. A better standard of living will!

Thank you,

Jason Kishineff

Stephanie Lopez

#8

From: Sal Solorio <soloriosalvador@mail.fresnostate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public comment agenda item #8

My name is Salvador Solorio-Ruiz, a recent grad from CSU Fresno, community member of Delano and elected official on the Kern County Democratic Central Committee for District 4. I am urging the council to remove consent item #8 from the agenda. With the current climate we are in we should question each and every decision being made to fund Police Departments. What defunding and demilitarizing the police means is reallocating law enforcement resources for more mental health and social services. This is your chance to be the leader you wish to be, to stand by your community and say "enough is enough". If you do not stand with the people, I want to remind you that the seat you hold, you do not own it but lease it. You work for the people. All lives don't matter until Black lives matter. Defund and Demilitarize Modesto Police Department.

#8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Elle M <gisellemezag@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Public Comment Consent Item #8

Importance: Low

To who this may concern,

As a constituent of District 2, I am concerned about having this item on the agenda today. The last thing which this department needs is more weapons. This gross militarization of the MPD is going to affect Black and Brown communities more so than others.

Living in this district and seeing police presence be so normalized here makes this item even more appalling. Do they not already do enough? We deserve to be able to live in peace in our own neighborhoods, and giving the MPD more money after the budget has already granted them so much is disgusting.

The Modesto Police Department should not be further militarized, and to do would be against the direct wishes of the people of this city.

Regards,
Giselle Meza

#8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Allison Barahona <allisonbarahona@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public comments for Consent #8

Hello,

Please read and record my public comments for agenda items 8.

My name is Allison Barahona and I live here in Modesto, born and raised in the central valley. I demand that the council remove Consent #8 from the agenda. In light of current movements such as Black Lives Matter we should be considering how we DECREASE our police funding not INCREASE the militarization of the police.

It is evident that systematic racism and police officers implicit bias leads to a higher number of black and brown folks being killed at the hands of police. Therefore we should not be considering buying more weapons to kill but looking at how we can re-think policing. The council's time should be spent on how to address more of the harm in community settings through community services than with police officers.

We need to reallocate police funding to other community services that will protect our community rather than used to kill and control the citizens of Modesto.

In community,
Allison Barahona

#7 + #8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Liz Villasenor <lizvillasenor2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Consent items #7 & #8

I'm demanding the Council remove Consent items #7 and #8 from the agenda. Militarization of the police force in Modesto will end up with the Brown and Black community being the target and in worse cases killed. Item #7 is technology that targets people of color who have nothing to do with the crime committed. Once this items get approved people of color will get severe sentences for a crime they didn't commit. Information from the technology gets shared with ICE and other federal agencies ruining our communities. This technology violates the Fourth Amendment, stop taking our rights away, let us live in peace. This is an act of abuse towards the Brown and Black COMMUNITY. Item #8 targets people of color because no matter what you think the department has racist people and giving them more guns will end with them killing our people. Black people in Modesto are 3x more likely than a white person to be killed by the police and a latinx person is 4.4x more likely than a white person to be killed by the police in the Stanislaus Community. That is a choice the department and its people make, they kill us and you do nothing to protect us. In the complaints against the police of Modesto for the use of deadly force the department has NEVER ruled in favor of the people. You are handing them the guns to kill us. Do you even know what it feels to be a person of color in Modesto? Being afraid of being killed by those who you thought would protect you? Well I do and I'm just about 18 years old. I don't want to be the next hashtag. I don't want to see my brothers and sisters of color being killed because of the police. I don't want to see my siblings and friends being killed because of the color of their skin because the police see it as a threat. How do you sleep knowing that your COMMUNITY is being killed by those who swore to protect us? Because I can't, I live in fear that one day my color of skin will be the reason a police wants me dead. Protect our children because nobody will be left when the police kills us. You are killing the future if you approve items #7 and #8. Remove items #7 and #8 from the agenda because you will be handing the Police the guns that will be used to kill us.

Lizbet Villasenor
Modesto CA

#7 + #8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Annette Nuno <annetten1395@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Remove items 7&8 from agenda

I am demanding the Council to remove the consent items #7 and #8 from the agenda. Items #7 and #8 are dangerous for people of color since they are more likely to be targeted. They are the ones who are killed by police brutality. They always get the worst sentence than those who are white. I do not want our friends and family's names to be the next hashtag. I do not want them to worry or scared about going out for a walk or just being them. People should not be scared to go out but they are. Items 7 and 8 just make it worst. A lot more people of color are going to be killed. They are the ones who do so much in this country. They are the ones who do the hard labor. POC brought a lot to this country and brought diversity. How will there be diversity if they are being killed? I know that the police target people of color and I am scared. How will I feel safe knowing this? Knowing that I can be killed any time because of who I was born as. This country was supposed to be a safe country for everyone who lives here. But is it really when all of this is happening. When POC are being targeted and killed. Which is why items #7 and #8 should be removed completely from the agenda.

Annette
Modesto CA

Stephanie Lopez

7 + #8

From: Annette Nuno <annetten1395@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Remove items 7&8 from agenda

Importance: Low

I am demanding the Council to remove the consent items #7 and #8 from the agenda. Items #7 and #8 are dangerous for people of color since they are more likely to be targeted. They are the ones who are killed by police brutality. They always get the worst sentence than those who are white. I do not want our friends and family's names to be the next hashtag. I do not want them to worry or scared about going out for a walk or just being them. People should not be scared to go out but they are. Items 7 and 8 just make it worst. A lot more people of color are going to be killed. They are the ones who do so much in this country. They are the ones who do the hard labor. POC brought a lot to this country and brought diversity. How will there be diversity if they are being killed? I know that the police target people of color and I am scared. How will I feel safe knowing this? Knowing that I can be killed any time because of who I was born as. This country was supposed to be a safe country for everyone who lives here. But is it really when all of this is happening. When POC are being targeted and killed. Which is why items #7 and #8 should be removed completely from the agenda.

Annette
Modesto CA

*7+8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Mar Mora <endeavourmora@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment for 7/7 Meeting

My name is Martin and I'm a constituent from Modesto's District 4. I'm emailing to express my dissent toward agenda items #7 and #8: the MPD funding of ALPR equipment and the \$50,000 allocation for additional Glocks. Neither of these fund items would bring peace to my city. I demand that you not fund equipment that is, in practice, mass data collection with little result. I demand that you do not further militarize the MPD, an already overfunded organization.

- Martin Mora
District 4 (95357)

#7 #8

Stephanie Lopez

From: Marco Romo <marcoromogon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment 07/07/2020

I would like to make it known that I wish, Consent Item #7 and #8 be removed from the agenda.

Investing city resources into surveillance technology is unnecessary, that money could be better allocated. There is substantial statistics to make us wary and hesitant enough to not make such hasty decisions. Bloomberg City Lab found that of collected scans "99.5% of scans belonged to cars not associated with crimes". If the study is true, the spending of resources is an act of negligence. Furthermore, investing in these acts of surveillance is a violation of privacy laws, as was ruled in Neal v. Fairfax County PD. We demand transparency, so our community members, those who are marginalized, can feel safe that the data collected will not be shared with third parties, such as ICE.

Consent Item #8, is an unnecessary effort to further militarize the already grossly overfunded Police Department. The scrutiny currently existing on police has shown the problem that is police violence nationwide. This violence is one that seeps into the cracks of our society and leaves marginalized communities bruised and buried. The recent evidence should be an example telling enough that this idea to arm the department through the general fund is neither necessary nor useful.

I hope from here on out the city holds all decisions it makes to a more critical and well rounded inspection. Voting in favor of the aforementioned items would be yet another act of silencing and inflicting violence onto Black and Brown communities.

Marco Romo

Stephanie Lopez

7+8

From: Julissa Ruiz Ramirez <jruizramirez@csustan.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment [item 7 and 8]

My name is Julissa.

Last week, many of our community members sent in their public comments regarding ALPR technologies and why the Council shouldn't approve the grant for them. Our comments were not taken into consideration and you voted in favor of the grant. I am writing to remind you all of why Modesto should not spend money ALPR technology.

The ACLU has previously shared information regarding the usage of ALPR technology to racially profile Black and Brown individuals. Last week the Chief of Police essentially said that these cannot be racist because they are an object. However, data has shown its disproportionate impact on Black and Latinx populations. I don't know about y'all, but ALPR technology is starting to sound discriminatory in its usage. How can we ensure the safety of our marginalized communities? The mere existence of law enforcement in itself is a racist concept birthed from a white supremacist and capitalist desire to capture slaves. Now, law enforcement is a legal slave catcher machine that helped further mass incarceration, disproportionately impacting Black and Brown individuals.

Last I heard, Modesto had a \$20m deficit. Last week, you all passed the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget granting about HALF of our tax paying money towards the Police Department. The \$52,313 you all want to spend in buying more handguns, is not coming from the money already allocated to the Modesto Police Department, but rather from our general fund. This means \$52,313 LESS dollars that could be allocated towards community improvement projects.

Don't forget that we're in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and that our County is specially being affected, particularly our Latinx community. A Latinx person is 4.4x more likely to be killed by a cop in Stanislaus County than a white person. If I didn't know any better I would say these are all acts of violence which you all have legalized against Black and Brown bodies.

Last week I shared my brother's story that I won't repeat for lack of time but can be reviewed in your minutes. What guarantee do I have that these handguns (which an officer threatened both of our lives with) won't be used against us? You all say it's to keep the safety and security but the safety and security of whom? Rich white folks? Because it's clearly not our community.

Do not authorize the purchase of ALPR equipment (item 7). Do not authorize the purchase of more guns in our community (item 8). What we need is less militarization and more care.

Don't forget who you serve.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Stephanie Lopez
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 8:06 AM
To: COUNCIL; 'Tony Madrigal'; 'Kristi AhYou'
Cc: Joe Lopez; Jose M. Sanchez
Attachments: Do not support current proposed budget for agenda 7 & 8; Public Comment on Consent Item #8 (Not a Template); Vote against ; Resident Comment on item 7 & item 8 ; Proposed ULL; REMOVE ITEM 7 AND 8; Items 7 and 8, Public Comment; [BULK] Agenda items 7 and 8 ; Vote No On City Council Meeting 07/07/20 Agenda Item #8; Vote No on City Council Meeting 7/7/2020 Agenda Item #7; Hello there; Greetings; [BULK] greetings Consent Item #7; Consent Item 8; Consent Item #8; next meeting 7/14 Public comment or if on agenda. # unknown; Consent Item 7; Remove #7 and #8; Agenda Item #8 Removal ; [BULK] ; Agenda Item #7&8; Agenda Item #7 Removal

Importance: High

Mayor and Council – additional public comments received after the 3:00 deadline for last night's meeting. These emails will be placed in the back-up for this meeting.

Stephanie

Stephanie Lopez

From: Dana Sanchez
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Stephanie Lopez
Subject: Jessica Gonzales - Phone Message

Jessica Gonzales, District 6
209-602-6732

She has questions she would like to discuss before making an appointment.

Sincerely,

Dana Sanchez
Administrative Office Assistant III (Confidential)
City Clerk's Office
1010 10th Street, Suite 6600
Modesto, CA. 95354
(209) 577-5487
dasanchez@modestogov.com



“In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.”
- Dave Hollis

Stephanie Lopez

From: Robin Denga <robindenga@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Do not support current proposed budget for agenda 7 & 8

Hello,

I would like to go on the record as not supporting the current proposed budget for #7 & #8 on today's agenda.

I will not elaborate at this time because of time restrictions of meeting in process! But there is much education toward practical and necessary reasons to reconsider re-allocating the budget away from these extreme amounts of money toward the MPD and instead budget towards community services that now exist but are under funded as well and develop even more services that can be used as FIRST CALL & RESPONDERS to the large amount of needs and even emergencies such as domestic abuse or neighborhood concerns that other types of better trained and trusted responses to the public not only in times of response but continued help and resources that actually will better bring health and safety by the community for the community which unfortunately the current type of policing is not successful or capable of doing for the reasons others have addressed! It also will create more jobs and other methods of community members knowing each other and actually could in time assist situations where there may be more serious crimes. BE BOLD, BRAVE and Willing to make change and re-budget especially in this fragile time of our economy and humanity! Also there are other cities doing this "defunding and funding other services that the City of Modesto can learn and participate in creating better programs and ways for response and community safety as well as the obvious of using money and budget well and most of all being on the side of ending the racist policies and behaviors of danger in the city and County.

Stolen cars are not as important as black lives and all lives in Stanislaus County.

Thank You for your time and willingness to listen and learn and serve my hometown City of Modesto.

Sincerely,
Robin Gagos Denga

Stephanie Lopez

From: Makisha Singh <MakishaSingh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:27 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Public Comment on Consent Item #8 (Not a Template)

Dear Mayor Brandvold and the Modesto City Council,

I'm writing to urge you to remove consent item #8 from the agenda. It is urgent that the Modesto Police Department begins a gradual process of defunding. The reasoning is twofold. From an economic standpoint, spending \$52,313 on arms for MPD does not make sense given the current deficit. If the funding proposed for Item #8 is available, it would be much more effective in making Modesto a better, safer place to live for all if it was reallocated to vulnerable communities facing the realities of racial injustice that manifests in social inequalities of every aspect on top of the immense burden brought on by COVID-19.

Secondly, it's important to come to terms with the fact that Modesto is made up of incredibly diverse constituents and because of the larger systemic racial inequalities in our nation, state, and community, the system of policing unfortunately ends up disproportionately protecting people from certain racial and/or socio-economic backgrounds while unfairly criminalizing others. Modesto does not have a clear conscience in regards to this discrimination and while it is not always explicit, the harm it causes when inflicted is very real, often irreparable, and leads to further mistrust and fear towards the police department. I say this because it's important to think about defunding the police beyond an economic and broader community perspective. It's important on interpersonal and individual psychological levels for constituents as well.

An increased presence of police officers armed with Glocks will not make the community safer and it definitely won't increase the sense of safety either, which is incredibly important for community morale and should not be undervalued during this time. Approval of consent item #8 will only put community members at further risk of harm and potential death. Support in favor of approving consent item #8 will send a clear message that all community members are not equally valued by the Modesto City Council.

I urge the city council to support a defunding process for the MPD today and moving forward, in genuine commitment to prioritizing the safety and well-being of the city's most vulnerable constituents, which will, in turn, benefit the entire community overall.

Thank you for your time,

Makisha Singh

Stephanie Lopez

From: Sara Mendonca <sara_mendonca@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:21 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Vote against

Hello,

My name is Sara Mendonca, I am a resident of Modesto and I wanted to express my concern for the purchasing of ALPR weapons and additional Glock handguns for Modesto PD. I demand that our council vote against the purchasing of consent items #7 and #8. We do not need any further militarization of the police and the budget should not be investing more money in items such as these.

Thank you.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Breanna Leilani Montero <bmontero@mail.sfsu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Resident Comment on item 7 & item 8

Greetings to those on Modesto's City Council,
My name is Breanna and I am a resident of Modesto as well as have grown up here.

There is no need for militarization of the Modesto Police Department during the time of not only a global pandemic, but the time of a massive call to action to those in positions of power. Our city has enough issues to deal with such as homelessness, lack of resources, lack of literacy & educational funding among many other social issues.. none of which can be solved nor remedied by further advancing the police forces weaponry. Protect our citizens, not our institutions.

Do the right thing with the power that you hold.

Regards,

--

Stephanie Lopez

From: Kim Weisser <lumberlady7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Proposed ULL

Hey Mayor Brandvold and City Council members, here's an idea. Take the money you're trying to use to take away Wood Colony and use it to keep more COPS!

thanks!

Stephanie Lopez

From: cee <cceballos2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: REMOVE ITEM 7 AND 8

Hello, here we are yet again!

What part of DEFUND THE POLICE are we not understanding council members?

Please remove consent items 7 and 8.

Figure out how to reallocate these funds elsewhere, we are not the council members - you are. The people you are actively representing are tired of dancing around issues, we are demanding answers and change.

Stephanie Lopez

From: John Climacus <climacusjohn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Items 7 and 8, Public Comment

Dear Modesto City Council,

I wish to voice my strong opposition to items 7 and 8 on this evening's agenda, and to request that they be removed.

Regarding item 7, we all now know that racial profiling is a regular and widespread tactic employed by police departments to create cycles of delinquency in minority communities. By targeting black and brown drivers for traffic stops, police criminalize people of color and create pretexts for further policing of these communities, thus producing an endless self-fulfilling prophecy of systemic racism. ALPR technology, like many police tactics, appears to be neutral in its application of the law. But given their horrible record, how can we trust police not to use this technology to identify and target minority drivers? To put such technology at the dubious disposal of police is unconscionable and immoral.

Regarding item 8, I cannot express how utterly reckless it is to put MORE firearms in the hands of police under present circumstances. We are in the midst of a dangerous national conflict over police violence in which opposed parties of protesters and police are constantly escalating hostilities. The police are themselves a party in this conflict. For the people of Modesto to arm a belligerent party in a civil conflict would be to put all of us, and especially people of color, at risk of greater violence. What is needed is de-escalation, reparation, and healing, not further escalation. No new guns for cops.

John Climacus

Stephanie Lopez

From: Lorraine Khamis <lorraine905601@my.yosemite.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] Agenda items 7 and 8

Importance: Low

Hello,

My name is Lorraine, I am a constituent of Modesto asking that you remove agenda items 7 and 8 from consideration tonight. With everything currently going on in our country, it seems a little foolish to be giving more money and more resources to the police department. I know you guys don't like our cries to "defund the police", maybe it's the way we're saying it, but understand this: we all want the same thing. City council mentioned last meeting that you guys are consistently running on a deficit. They also mentioned that if we spend more than 80% on "public safety" then we are virtually services insolvent. By accepting the purchase of ALPR equipment and more handguns, you are spitting in the faces of Modesto taxpayers, who are already having to deal with major cuts to our public programs. With so many people losing jobs and Covid continuing to spread, we need more things to do in Modesto, we need nice outdoor areas and services for people, and most importantly we need to help house the homeless during this public health crisis. If we had to give the HUD grant back that could have built affordable housing in Modesto, then the police can deal with the decision to not accept the grant to purchase ALPR. I also find it interesting that at a time where people across the country are demanding to demilitarize and reimagine the police, they want to purchase new handguns from a company called ProForce Law Enforcement. Just something to think about.

Thank you.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Reese Ingraham <reese.ingraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Vote No On City Council Meeting 07/07/20 Agenda Item #8

Dear Modesto City Council Members,

My name is Reese Ingraham, and I am a constituent of yours, living in Modesto, California. I am here to urge you to vote against the City Council Meeting Agenda Item #8: approving the award of bid and purchase order for Glock Brand Handguns to Proforce Law Enforcement, Prescott, AZ., for a total amount not to exceed \$52,313. The body of social science research points to the fact that increased police department spending on weapons CAUSES (is NOT just correlated with) increased violent behavior on the part of officers. For further reading, see Delehanty et al 2017 (full citation below). Only vote yes if you want another thousand people to shut down McHenry Avenue again, because that's the only reason a yes vote would make sense.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Reese Ingraham <reese.ingraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:16 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Vote No on City Council Meeting 7/7/2020 Agenda Item #7

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Reese Ingraham, and I am a constituent of yours living in Modesto. I urge you to vote no on Agenda Item #7: the approval of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) software and hardware with Strommel, DBA Lehr Auto Electric, Sacramento, CA for a total amount not to exceed \$126,288. The City Council should vote no on Agenda Item #7 for two reasons:

- 1) The usage of automatic license plate readers (APLRs) on behalf of Modesto Police Department violates your constituents' guarantee of protection against unreasonable searches and seizures as afforded by the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and
- 2) the resulting litigation from usage of APLRs would cost the city money that could be spent on other essential services, especially as our country is facing the worst economic recession since the Great Depression as a result of COVID-19.

For the first point. For a warrantless law enforcement search against a person to be barred under the Fourth Amendment, two criteria have to be met, as found by *Katz v United States*:

- 1) the person must have a subjective expectation of privacy, and
- 2) that subjective expectation of privacy must have been objectively reasonable.

For part (1), the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) case *Kyllo v United States* is the controlling precedent here. Writing for the majority, Justice Scalia found that the warrantless use of a device that is not in general public use by the police to obtain information that would be unknowable without the device is unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment. Obviously, neither you nor I can walk into DBA Lehr Auto Electric and buy an APLR. Thus, any person warrantlessly surveilled has a subjective expectation of privacy against being surveilled by APLRs used by the Modesto Police Department.

For part (2), SCOTUS Chief Justice John Roberts found that, writing for the majority in *Carpenter v United States*, expectations of privacy in our rapidly evolving digital age don't fit neatly into existing precedent. In *Carpenter*, the Court found that warrantless police search of cell phone data violated Carpenter's Fourth Amendment rights because, while he might have been abstractly aware that his cell phone data was logged and monitored, any reasonable person would have an expectation of privacy with respect to their cell phone data because they don't expressly give permission to their cell phone provider to keep this data. The same logic applies here for the usage of APLRs.

For the second point. This field of litigation is far from decided by the courts. Though I am confident they would rule against widespread police usage of APLRs as they have in *Neal v Fairfax County Police Department*, *US v Moore Bush*, the city would still have to engage in expensive litigation to have this issue decided, which cost the city more sorely needed funds,

Thus, for the above reasons, I urge you to vote no against Agenda Item #7.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Maggie Strong <magdalinejane@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Hello there

My name is Maggie Strong and I am a resident of Modesto, and I strongly oppose consent items #7 and 8 on tonight's agenda for the meeting. I think ALPR technology is an invasion of privacy and a disturbing surveillance tool. And I oppose further purchasing of glock handguns for the police force. I do not believe increasing the amount of deadly weapons in the police force or increasing surveillance on community members is helpful or ethical. Our country at large is responding to the countless horrors committed against Black and Brown people by the police, and I would hope Modesto would want to react sensitively to the worldwide and local calls for change, and thus make our community happier and safer. It is not good for police officers to possess unbridled power that leads inevitably to injustice and violence, please take this burden away from them and from the whole community by taking steps to demilitarize and defund the police force. Thanks!

Stephanie Lopez

From: Eden Barragan <gav36barr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Greetings

Greetings again city council, once again I am asking for dignity, not more glocks for a police force that already receives half of the city budget. we're on the middle of a historic pandemic, with many of my friends losing their income (and healthcare), we don't need more guns. Please remove Consent Item #8 and focus on the actual issues affecting our communities. Thanks 🙏

Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Lopez

From: Eden Barragan <gav36barr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK] greetings Consent Item #7

Importance: Low

greeting city council, I am emailing you today in regards to removing Consent Item #7. Please and thank you, we're in the middle of a global pandemic, we don't need more surveillance, we need housing, healthcare, and dignity. stop stripping us of our bare dignity. thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Lopez

From: Jenni Whitmer <jmariewhitmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Consent Item 8

My name is Jennifer Whitmer and I am a constituent, and I demand that Consent Item #8 be removed from tonight's agenda. Considering the nationwide conversation about police violence, I am disappointed that my own representatives are choosing to inflate the already grossly disproportionate police budget in order to further militarize the police. The fact that our city is running a deficit makes the use of discretionary funds for policing even more objectionable. Instead, I am in favor of reducing the police budget.

--

Jennifer Whitmer, PhD
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Sociology, Gerontology, and Gender Studies
California State University, Stanislaus
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95382
(440) 429-5957

Stephanie Lopez

From: Katharine Chance <kchance@ucsd.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Consent Item #8

Hello,

My name is Katharine Chance and I am a constituent in Modesto and emailing to advocate for the removal of Consent Item #8 from the agenda. There is absolutely no need for the further militarization of the Modesto Police Department as this will only create more violence in our black and brown communities regardless of whether or not a crime was even committed. This is unjust and an improper use of funding. Discretionary funds ought not be allocated to bolster an already overfunded police department as and instead should be used for more beneficial, constructive projects that would actually help our community members. I am aware of the huge percentage of budget granted to the Modesto PD and oppose the augmentation of it in anyway.

Stanislaus county is not alienated from the bias and violence of police conducted by police around this country. The data is very clear that in Stanislaus County non-white people are in much more danger of being victim to police violence than white people are. Black people are 3.1x more likely to die from deadly force by a police officer than a white person, while Latinx people are 4.4x more likely to die from deadly force by a police officer than a white person. There have been various incidents of deadly force committed by Modesto PD, and of these none of the complaints have been ruled in favor of civilians.

The facts are clear and continuing to militarize and fund the police only creates more violence in our communities, disproportionately harming the marginalized. Adding more to Modesto PD's budget will counter efforts to reduce Modesto City's \$20.1 million deficit, and continue to perpetuate abuse and injustice. The grossly overfunded police department must be demilitarized and defunded.

Thank you for your consideration on these important issues,

Katharine Chance

Stephanie Lopez

From: DIANE KROEZE <dianek1205@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: next meeting 7/14 Public comment or if on agenda. # unknown

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

The city is trying to annex Wood Colony again. It's disturbing and there is no sign of the updated General Plan as promised previously. This time, it appears, a "Work Around" was prepared to side step a new General Plan.

I'm fairly sure the Chamber of Commerce is helping with this land grab. Since Measure L and Highway 132 are ongoing, the rush is on. **Perhaps** it has been forgotten that Wood Colony sits on the best land to recharge our underground water supply. Ignoring that and the Agriculture nature, you are pushing economic need, money, as the reason to take agriculture land and trade it in for asphalt and concrete. Our water supply, quality and air quality will be damaged beyond repair. The worst of this plan are the people who live in Wood Colony and surroundings. You are forcing generations, in some cases, to lose their heritage. Your treating that as a very minute problem.

Forget the lure of **MAYBE** future dollars and concentrate on the needs of the small businesses, 20 people or less, hanging on by their fingernails because of **COVID-19** NOW. They exist now and need help ASAP.

The City can't handle all of its responsibilities even now. Things like Schools, Homelessness, Fire Dept, Police, Racism, Violence and Neighborhoods. You want to add more things not fixed?

Worldwide we are known as a great agricultural Valley. If your plans go forward, that famous Valley will decline steadily and be lost forever. You can see Strip Malls and Houses anywhere. If you have to expand, go East where the ground is less friendly to Agricultural and Underground Water storage. and has Railroad lines. Preserve and Protect the thing we are proud of and known for. This plan is short sighted and aimed to enrich a few and not better the Community..

Thank You for your Attention.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Jenni Whitmer <jmariewhitmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Consent Item 7

I'm Jennifer Whitmer and I am a constituent, and I demand that consent item 7 be struck from the agenda. ALPR technology has a track record of being used as a tool of surveillance against the communities in which it is adopted. These technologies violate fourth amendment protections and disproportionately impact communities of color. As a voting constituent, I do not want my tax dollars going to this equipment.

--

Jennifer Whitmer, PhD
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Sociology, Gerontology, and Gender Studies
California State University, Stanislaus
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95382
(440) 429-5957

Stephanie Lopez

From: Ray Vargas <rayv765@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Remove #7 and #8

City Council

As a resident of this town, I do not support the increase of funds for our law enforcements. I, among others, are requesting that item 7 and 8 be removed from the agenda (ALPR equipment and additional glock handguns).

The \$52K+ should be reallocated into the systems in need specifically the educational sectors. Our schools need the funds. This pandemic hasn't made it easy for any resident or employee, but schools are among the vital structures of our society. Education should be receiving an increase of allocated funds, not the law enforcement.

Ray Vargas

Stephanie Lopez

From: Anthony Mejia <amejia@scu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Agenda Item #8 Removal

Hello,

My name is Anthony Mejia and I am a constituent in Modesto and emailing to advocate for the removal of Consent Item #8 from the agenda. There is absolutely no need for the further militarization of the Modesto Police Department as this will only create more violence in our black and brown communities regardless of whether or not a crime was even committed. This is unjust and an improper use of funding. Discretionary funds ought not be allocated to bolster an already overfunded police department as and instead should be used for more beneficial, constructive projects that would actually help our community members. I am aware of the huge percentage of budget granted to the Modesto PD and oppose the augmentation of it in anyway.

Stanislaus county is not alienated from the bias and violence of police conducted by police around this country. The data is very clear that in Stanislaus County non-white people are in much more danger of being victim to police violence than white people are. Black people are 3.1x more likely to die from deadly force by a police officer than a white person, while Latinx people are 4.4x more likely to die from deadly force by a police officer than a white person. There have been various incidents of deadly force committed by Modesto PD, and of these none of the complaints have been ruled in favor of civilians.

The facts are clear and continuing to militarize and fund the police only creates more violence in our communities, disproportionately harming the marginalized. Adding more to Modesto PD's budget will counter efforts to reduce Modesto City's \$20.1 million deficit, and continue to perpetuate abuse and injustice. The grossly overfunded police department must be demilitarized and defunded.

Thank you for your consideration on these important issues,

Anthony Mejia

Stephanie Lopez

From: Sierrah Stepps <sierrah.steps@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: [BULK]

Importance: Low

Hi I'm Sierrah and I am demanding the Council remove Consent Item #8 from the agenda. Further militarizing the MPD will only inflict more violence in Modesto, especially Black and Brown communities. The police are already grossly over funded and allocating \$50,000+ dollars to buying more weaponry is negligent and infuriating. A black person in Modesto is 3x more likely to be killed and by giving MPD the opportunity to purchase more weapons you are sealing their fate. 50% of those killed are unarmed and complaints almost never rule in favor of the citizens. Defund and Demilitarize the police.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Monica Johnson <moniebae91@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Agenda Item #7&8

My name is Monica King,

Last week, many of our community members sent in their public comments regarding ALPR technologies and why the Council shouldn't approve the grant for them. Our comments were not taken into consideration and you voted in favor of the grant. I am writing to remind you all of why Modesto should not spend money ALPR technology.

The ACLU has previously shared information regarding the usage of ALPR technology to racially profile Black and Brown individuals. Last week the Chief of Police essentially said that these cannot be racist because they are an object. However, data has shown its disproportionate impact on Black and Latinx populations. I don't know about y'all, but ALPR technology is starting to sound discriminatory in its usage. How can we ensure the safety of our marginalized communities? The mere existence of law enforcement in itself is a racist concept birthed from a white supremacist and capitalist desire to capture slaves. Now, law enforcement is a legal slave catcher machine that helped further mass incarceration, disproportionately impacting Black and Brown individuals.

Last I heard, Modesto had a \$20m deficit. Last week, you all passed the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget granting about HALF of our tax paying money towards the Police Department. The \$52,313 you all want to spend in buying more handguns, is not coming from the money already allocated to the Modesto Police Department, but rather from our general fund. This means \$52,313 LESS dollars that could be allocated towards community improvement projects.

Don't forget that we're in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and that our County is specially being affected, particularly our Latinx community. A Latinx person is 4.4x more likely to be killed by a cop in Stanislaus County than a white person. If I didn't know any better I would say these are all acts of violence which you all have legalized against Black and Brown bodies.

Last week I shared my brother's story that I won't repeat for lack of time but can be reviewed in your minutes. What guarantee do I have that these handguns (which an officer threatened both of our lives with) won't be used against us? You all say it's to keep the safety and security but the safety and security of whom? Rich white folks? Because it's clearly not our community.

Do not authorize the purchase of ALPR equipment (item 7). Do not authorize the purchase of more guns in our community (item 8). What we need is less militarization and more care.

Don't forget who you serve.

Stephanie Lopez

From: Anthony Mejia <amejia@scu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Council Meetings
Subject: Agenda Item #7 Removal

Hello,

My name is Anthony Mejia, I am a constituent here in Modesto and am emailing to advocate for the removal of Consent Item #7 from the agenda. The current political and social movements involving black lives matter and police brutality have brought to the forefront issues of systemic oppression perpetuated against black and brown communities by departments and agencies nationally, including Modesto Police Department. Investing our cities resources into these sorts of surveillance technologies will not reap any substantial benefits and will disproportionately impact marginalized community, the continuing abuse against them.

There have been numerous legal cases (Neal v Fairfax County PD, US v Moore Bush) that demonstrate the unconstitutionality of ALPR tech as a violation of the right to privacy on both a state and federal level. These cases are backed by strong amounts of evidence that suggests that data collected using this type of technology mostly affects persons not involved with crime (this is true in 99.5% of cases) and those from marginalized communities. There are various logistical and ethical considerations that are being failed to take into consideration including the purpose and use of this technology, with whom the data will be shared, the length of time the data will be archived and how this technology would serve our community, especially our marginalized communities.

This is a very important issue and wasting our city's resources to continue to perpetuate abuses towards marginalized persons would be a grave injustice.

Thank you for your consideration of the issue,

Anthony Mejia