

**CITY OF ARCATA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

COUNCIL CHAMBER
736 F Street, Arcata

JULY 22, 2020
Wednesday, 6:00 PM

AGENDA

Special accommodations for the disabled who attend City meetings can be made in advance by contacting the City Clerk at 822-5953. Assistive listening devices are available.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the Public Safety Committee, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the Committee meeting, will be made available for public inspection in the agenda binder located on the counter in the lobby at Arcata City Hall, 736 F Street, during normal business hours, and on the City's website at www.cityofarcata.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Speakers wishing to distribute materials to the Public Safety Committee at the meeting are requested to provide 10 copies to the Committee's staff liaison.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL Anjali Browning, Andrew Campbell, Lettie A. Dyer (Vice-Chairperson), Fred Johansen, Melissa Lazon (Chairperson), Jesse J. Lopez.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Safety Committee - Regular Meeting - Jun 24, 2020 6:00 PM

IV. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

This time is provided for people to address the Public Safety Committee or submit written communications on matters not on the agenda. At the conclusion of all oral and written communications, the Committee may respond to statements. Any request that requires Committee action will be set by the Committee for a future agenda or referred to staff.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of tasks from city council
- B. Finalize the Community Safety Quick Reference Guide

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2020/2021 fiscal year
- B. Review and Discuss the Campaign Zero website

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA

- VI-B. Email from Marley Jarvis
- VI-B. Email from Maddie Halloran
- VI-B. Email from David Haynie
- VI-B. Email from Carolan Raleigh-Halsing
- IV. Email from Jess Huyghebaert
- IV. Email from Darryl Pauline
- IV. Email from Saime Koontz
- IV. Email from Richard Bergstresser
- IV. Email from Erick Jackson
- IV. Email from Carolan Raleigh-Halsing

**CITY OF ARCATA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

COUNCIL CHAMBER
736 F Street, Arcata

JUNE 24, 2020
Wednesday, 6:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee via teleconference was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with Chairperson Lazon presiding. Notice of this meeting was posted on June 19, 2020. PRESENT: Lazon, Browning, Campbell, Johansen. ABSENT: Dyer, Lopez. STAFF PRESENT: Chief of Police Ahearn, City Clerk Dory.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Browning, Campbell, Johansen, Lazon

ABSENT: Dyer, Lopez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Safety Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 26, 2020 6:00 PM

ON MOTION BY CAMPBELL, SECONDED BY JOHANSEN, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020, AS PRESENTED. AYES: BROWNING, CAMPBELL, JOHANSEN, LAZON. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: DYER, LOPEZ. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

The Committee members talked briefly off-agenda about the progress on the Safe Arcata brochure.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Lazon called for public comment.

David Haynie read a list of reforms suggested for the Arcata Police Department.

Loriel Caverly asked the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Ottavio Costa urged the Committee to make sure people of color had a representative voice.

An unidentified person in the meeting asked how the Committee could influence community policing policies.

Saime Koontz urged more funding for on-call social workers and mental health professionals.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 24, 2020 6:00 PM (APPROVAL OF MINUTES)

Chair Lazon closed the public comment period.

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Review

Chief Ahearn gave an update on the COVID-19 state of emergency and the shelter-in-place order.

Chair Lazon invited public comment.

Tanya Garcia, an unidentified participant, Kelsey Reedy, and Loriel Caverly asked questions about the closing of the camp at Seventh and G Streets.

Chair Lazon closed the public comment period.

Committee Member Browning spoke of the City's and Arcata House Partnership's plans upon closing of the one camp at Seventh and G Streets.

B. Police Reform

Chief Ahearn spoke the status of the Arcata Police Department relative to the principals of Campaign Zero and 8 Can't Wait and the Council's direction to the Department at its June 17, 2020, meeting.

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST TO USE IT AS A CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE RATHER THAN APPOINTING A NEW COMMITTEE.

Chair Lazon called for public comment.

The following people spoke in favor of defunding the police, abolition of the police, more funding for mental health and social services, a civilian oversight committee, and representation of people of color, and critiqued the Eureka Police Department's response to the May 31 protest in Eureka: Ariel Fishkin, Angie, David Haynie, Carley Arroyo, Moxie Albernez, Lily Medeiros, Kendall, Loriel Caverly, Casey, Oliver, Seraphi, Saimi Koontz, Carolan Raleigh-Halsing, B, Kelsey Reedy, and Oliver.

Written comments were received from David Haynie, H. Huyghebaert, Marley Jarvis, Zsofia Odry, and Carolan Raleigh-Halsing in support of defunding the police; abolition of the police; more funding for social services; 8 Can't Wait, 8 to Abolition and Campaign Zero; a separation of the Police Department and the Public Safety Committee; and pointing out insufficiencies of 8 Can't Wait and Campaign Zero.

Chair Lazon closed the public comment period.

C. Role of the Public Safety Committee

Chairperson Lazon listed the tasks assigned to the Committee by the City Council:

- 1. Review and understand Campaign Zero and California Law, as well as adoption of policies
- 2. Review the current policy on use of force and models; make a recommendation to the Council
- 3. Make recommendations regarding camera usage
- 4. Build partnerships with community stakeholders
- 5. Community engagement
- 6. Budget review
- 7. Civilian oversight

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COMMITTEE ASKED FOR A CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED IT WOULD FIRST HOLD A TOWN HALL MEETING AND THEN DISCUSS AND PRIORITIZE THE COUNCIL'S DIRECTIVES AT ITS JULY 2020 REGULAR MEETING.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chief Ahearn listed the following future agenda items:

- 1. Elect and Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2020/2021 fiscal year
- 2. Discuss the list of tasks from the City Council
- 3. Decide whether or not a complaint phone number or email will be printed on the Safe Arcata brochure.
- 4. Discussion from the virtual town hall meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Dory
City Cle

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 24, 2020 6:00 PM (APPROVAL OF MINUTES)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item VI B - public comment
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:40:04 AM

This information was received after the agenda was posted and is made available to the public pursuant to California Government Code section 54957.5(c).

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the public safety committee of the City of Arcata:

I submitted this comment for the last city council meeting but wanted to share with the committee directly as it pertains to your discussion around the "8 Can't Wait" website. Thank you for your continued focus on issues of policing and harm-reduction. I am a scientist by training: I use data to make decisions regularly. We know that we have to do the same in our city's efforts to eliminate the disproportionate harm and death to our local Black and Brown community members. And the data is staggering. While all of the "8 Can't Wait" policy recommendations should be enacted as immediate harm-reduction efforts, data shows that they simply aren't working to the extent we need. A number of police departments across the country already have these policies in place and we still have George Floyd, Josiah Lawson, Breonna Taylor, and countless others. Police reform is not saving lives as it's not addressing the root problem of using policing to punitively fight problems in a community far downstream of the cause. I urge you to review the "8 to Abolition" campaign, which also has actionable steps we can take to strike at the root of disproportionate harm to Black and Brown community members. For example, removing police from schools, and setting up community-response groups so that the police aren't called for minor issues like noise complaints. We must all be scientists and reevaluate our approach when the data show that our approach is not having the impact we had hoped. I grew up in rural Westhaven, and despite many visits, the police did not improve the root causes of frequent home-invasions or meth addiction problems on my road. Instead, imagine if the costs of all of those police visits and vehicles and salary and gear went to community building, stable jobs, safe housing, mental health, and family supports. Defunding police can be a transformative act of reparations and community-building. Arcata has led the way in many environmental efforts in the past: let's lead the way now to what an equitable and just community can look like.

Sincerely,
Marley Jarvis

Communication: VI-B. Email from Marley Jarvis (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
[Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Item VI (B): Review and Discuss the Campaign Zero website
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:31:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding public comment on Item VI (B): Review and Discuss the Campaign Zero website:

I would ask the council to please review and use the [8 to Abolition platform](#) instead of [Campaign Zero's "8 Can't Wait" plan](#). When I first read about it, I supported the "8 Can't Wait" plan, because it sounds good - reducing police brutality by enacting common sense reforms. The problem as I see it is that these "common sense reforms" have been enacted in cities all over the country, and they do not solve the problems communities are facing.

Critics of 8 Can't Wait, including myself, believe that policing in America cannot be "reformed" and instead must be defunded. 8 to Abolition says "As police and prison abolitionists, we believe that this campaign is dangerous and irresponsible, offering a slate of reforms that have already been tried and failed, that mislead a public newly invigorated to the possibilities of police and prison abolition, and that do not reflect the needs of criminalized communities." Removing some funding from the police will also allow Arcata to better fund other community functions.

In the interest of community safety, please also consider backing Centro Del Pueblo's call for a rent forgiveness program, as the Tenant Protection Program is due to end soon.

Thank you for your time, and have a great evening.

Sincerely,
Maddie Halloran

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 6B
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:45:21 PM

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Hello, my name is David Haynie with the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission. Once again I'd like to voice my support of the 8 To Abolition framework over the Campaign Zero 8 Cant Wait framework being discussed.

From the following Colorlines article,

<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/what-went-wrong-8cantwait-police-reform-initiative>

8CantWait has been time and time again found by social scientists to have been based on faulty data.

We cannot base our county decisions on faulty data. We must look at a framework that fits the progressive tone of this County, a framework like 8 To Abolition.

8toAbolition.com

Thank you,

David Haynie

Communication: VI-B. Email from David Haynie (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VI: B
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:11:57 PM

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I'd like to critique Campaign Zero and 8 Cant Wait. Although they have updated their long term goals to be more inline with abolition, the actual reforms they suggest do not all support an abolitionist framework. I ask the committee to acknowledge that many community members are calling for abolition, not reform. Yes, immediate harm reduction is crucial, and this can *perhaps* be achieved through some reforms. But before advising city council to enact any reform, I urge the committee to make sure the reform is in support of eventual abolition. The abolitionist organization Critical Resistance has laid out 4 questions to help determine this and find out if a suggested reform will chip away at and reduce the overall impact of policing. These questions are: 1: Does it reduce funding to police? 2: Does it challenge the idea that police increase safety? 3: Does it reduce tools, tactics, or tech police have? 4: Does it reduce the scale of policing? I urge the committee to use a framework of abolition as we move forward. I also urge the committee take action on the 8 to Abolition Campaign.

I would also like to share some examples of non-punitive and life-affirming community support programs that serve as an alternative to policing. The Cahoots program of Eugene, Oregon and Mental Health First of Sacramento are two such examples. Cahoots stands for Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets. Cahoots is dispatched through the Eugene police-fire-ambulance communication center. Dispatchers are trained to recognize calls appropriate for Cahoots and redirect them to their call line. A Cahoots team consists of a medic and a crisis worker. No one is armed, no is employed through the police department. Sacramento's Mental Health First Program is a mobile peer-support non-police response to mental health crisis. Both these programs have reduced police response and linked community members with appropriate resources. There are many more alternatives, some already serving our community. There's a lot of potential and positive action coming from the MIST program locally. MIST still relies on a partnership with police, but I think there are parts of this model that can be developed further, emulated on a city level, and become further removed from police involvement. Making programs like these more accessible through the Quick Reference Guide is crucial, but many in the community are asking us to go further, to back these programs with our city budget, to defund the police department and increase funding to programs that center care, that don't criminalize, that don't rely on policing. I want my tax dollars to go to programs like these rather than the police department. I ask the committee to advise city council to reevaluate our budget so that our community will have more funds to build the institutional infrastructure to effectively support our needs.

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Carolan Raleigh-Halsing
(she/her/hers)

Communication: VI-B. Email from Carolan Raleigh-Halsing (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item VI
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:56:52 PM

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To the Public Safety Committee,

Please take the time and steps to make your meetings more accessible. This was a resounding request last meeting, and one that needs addressing immediately. The members of our community who are overpoliced and underrepresented must be centered. Until their voices are brought in, we are lacking valuable insight.

I hope you have taken the time to look into and understand the 8 to Abolition campaign. We are here for meaningful change. Campaign Zero is a zero as far as police reform here in Arcata. Handing back unused rifles, banning unlawful choke holds, and creating a police oversight for the police by the police are all big, fat zeros. Not much progress to see there. Shifting the conversation to some of 8 to Abolition's tenants means prioritizing our community. There must be a separation of police and public safety. We want community funding, community based resources, community oversight and self governance.

AB-2053 Emergency services: community response: grant program is a state bill that would create pilot programs to remove police from crises involving mental illness, homelessness, natural disasters and domestic violence. Even if the bill doesn't receive funding, a number of CA cities are moving ahead on programs of their own . We don't have to look far, Arcata. This does not require a huge amount of research. It requires investment.

We need to repeal ordinances that criminalize survival. Just last week, the City Council meeting opened with a public comment that ran overtime detailing encounters with folx on the street. Perhaps the Public Safety Committee can address the pervasive belittling and fearful attitude of Arcatans around issues of homelessness, addiction, and public services. Implicit bias tests anyone?

Housing is a human right and a public safety issue. A rent forgiveness program must be initiated as the Tenant Protection Program comes to an end. Advise the City Council on this program, as is your duty as a Public Safety Committee.

The inaccessibility of our local government and the hampering of these conversations as a community is a reflection of white supremacy in our community. It takes power away from the people. Please investigate the ways you perpetuate this exclusion and violence in the local government.

Thank you for your time.

Jess Huyghebaert

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 4
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:20:20 PM

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I have lived in downtown Arcata for 15 years and I have never before experienced the current level of anti social behavior. I was assaulted by a gang of 5 men on the plaza on July 5 at 6:00 pm for the offense of taking pictures. One of the men violently attacked me with his spiked shoulder and with his hands. I think that groups of idle men have an inherent risk of anti social behavior. The plaza has become unsafe at times and the intermodal transit station has become increasingly unsafe. I have not previously experienced the current level in the population of drug users and severely mentally incapacitated people. I have been attacked twice since early Spring. These are the only attacks by strangers that I have ever experienced in my 46 years. People have been sleeping in the center of the plaza at night, as well as in the doorways of businesses and countless other places around town. Arcata is attractive to certain people because of the services provided, the flow of cash from passers by that feed addictions and the general permissiveness found here. I have full faith in the arcata police force and they are my allies in trying to stay safe.

Darryl Pauline

Communication: IV. Email from Darryl Pauline (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Safety Meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:51:03 PM

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Hello,

Hello, my name is Saimie and I am a resident of Arcata.

After listening to committee members and the police chief discuss policy changes, I suggest much more radical changes in policy moving forward. What I mean by this is rather than changing words like “should” and “shall” regarding body cams, instead let us consider a change in perspective around policing all together and move towards a police-free community. This means, yes, taking the time to do research and consider alternative policies. Contrary to what Brian said, I think taking the time to consider different ways of thinking will be more helpful to our community in the long run than just revising his edits in Use of Force. We have been running on the same system with slight alterations for hundreds of years, which is why we are still dealing with the same problems. One option, if this feels daunting or complicated, is perhaps hiring someone in the criminology field for a temporary position in providing relevant research. I agree with Melissa that we need to be thorough.

In general, the entire point of this committee is to provide a specialized, concise perspective to improve the safety of this community. I think the best ways to do this are to both seek expert opinions and have a collaboration between community and local government. This means that community oversight, as well as additional emergency support such as social workers, should not at all be under the police department but rather a separate entity as a check and balance. It is important that community oversight be representative of those who have been threatened most by the state e.g. black, brown, indigenous and homeless folks. I would like to see that all of these moves to safety prioritize police abolition as the end goal.

Lastly, I would like to ask a few questions:

1. Last month, the safety committee had mentioned a job opening and I was unable to find information on the city website and did not hear back from a committee member. Is this position still available, and if so, can I get more information about this?
2. What precisely are the 6 tasks that the safety committee has been assigned by the council?
3. Is there a way for folks that do not feel comfortable interacting with police to comment on these topics?
4. Is this meeting being recorded, or is there a way for the public to view it later?

Communication: IV. Email from Saime Koontz (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

Thank you,
Saimie Koontz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: IV. Oral and Written Communications
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:11:54 PM
Attachments: [public safety.docx](#)

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Submitted for public comment during item IV by Richard Bergstresser, Arcata Police Association.

Communication: IV. Email from Richard Bergstresser (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safety Meeting Comment - APD and COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 6:09:59 PM

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BLUF: ADP policy is not mandating mask use or social distancing during encounters with the public. This unreasonable policy should be changed to better protect our community.

I am concerned about Arcata Police Department's policies of (1) not requiring mask use by officers during encounters with the public, and (2) not social distancing during routine encounters with the public. Last Wednesday I observed an officer communicating with two separate persons experiencing homelessness in downtown Arcata; each time the officer was not wearing a mask and was well inside of social distancing standards of six feet. I called Arcata Police to report my concern and was informed by the sergeant that the officer was acting within APD policy: masks "make it more difficult for officers to resist force and do their job." When I inquired about social distancing between officers and members of the public, I was informed that the closer an officer is, the faster they can respond to violent/irresponsible actions. I did not believe either of these explanations to be reasonable, and was exceedingly troubled after the discussion. There are many examples nationwide of officers refusing to wear masks, and it is incumbent upon our community to hold our officers to a higher standard of public safety. Many local businesses have gone well out of their way to adjust to COVID-19 norms. Why does APD need to concoct "tactical" reasoning to avoid protecting themselves and members of our public in police encounters?

-Erick

Communication: IV. Email from Erick Jackson (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IV
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:12:34 PM

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The local COVID-19 Tenant Protection Program (aka “The Urgency Ordinance” comprised of ordinance no. 1533 and 1532) temporarily restricts the eviction of tenants due to non-payment of rent. The Ordinance is set to end July 31st. This will require those who have utilized the program to back pay all past due rents within 90 days. Even if the city council decides to extend this program again, there are many community members who will not be able to pay this back rent when it eventually ends, even with a 90 day payment plan. I bring this to the Public Safety Committee because we currently live in a community where homelessness and poverty are criminalized. This makes the prospect of many community members being evicted a public safety issue and I urge the Committee to treat it as such. According to Urban Institute’s analysis of a Census Pulse Survey from late June, a third of Californians don’t know how they will pay next month’s rent. I urge the Committee to advise City Council to enact complete rent forgiveness to those who require such support. Furthermore, I ask that we make sure the undocumented community members are able to be eligible for this rent forgiveness. Local groups such as Centro Del Pueblo, Northcoast People’s Alliance, and Cooperation Humboldt have been organizing around the issue of rent forgiveness. I urge the committee to support this call from the community by advising the City Council of this need and to take action. Additionally, I request that all future public safety committee meetings be recorded, made available in Spanish, and published to the city of Arcata's meeting portal website. Currently, the recorded meetings are available by request only. This is a great start, but in order for community engagement to increase and better represent our entire community we need to eliminate as many barriers as possible. Thank you for your time.

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Carolan Raleigh-Halsing
(she/her/hers)

Communication: IV. Email from Carolan Raleigh-Halsing (DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA)