

Melissa Thurman

From: Barbara LaRaia [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 5:23 PM
To: CouncilSB; Melissa Thurman; Marc Zafferano; Barbara LaRaia; Riechel
Subject: July 25 council meeting COMMENTS (2 of them)

Item # 3 - Public Comments for items not on the agenda.

KEEP FUNDING SAN BRUNO POLICE

I had a wonderful interaction with the San Bruno Police Dept. two years ago when my car was stolen. My responding officer was so ethical, comforting, efficient and knowledgeable, and kept giving me hope. He seemed like a police officer and social worker all in one! (He even told me he said prayers for me at church!) A couple of other officers at the station went out of their way to give me necessary paperwork and instructions for filing. They were so supportive of my situation.

I CANNOT even imagine defunding the police. Our very ethnically-diverse police department protects us, and also tries to prevent bigger problems from happening. I suppose that every now and then there will be a "bad apple" in the lot, but that can hopefully be taken care of by his/her superiors, and if it cannot be worked out, it should be cause for the person to be fired (or maybe even given jail time if he/she committed a crime). I was thinking, recently, that everytime a police officer gets called to a potential crime scene, he/she is risking his/her life. That, in itself, is stressful.

For people who want to defund the police and basically hire psychologists or social workers, etc., this will not work. A social worker or psychologist does not have the skills set to deal (often physically) with, for example, a person on meth whose physical and mental behavior can be life-threatening to himself/herself and others. Some changes are being made to police protocol, so we can watch those developments. If someone gets stopped by the police, I think it a wise idea for both the police and the person being stopped to remain respectful, and the chances of a potential "situation" escalating will likely be low. And, police wear body cameras which can help both parties involved. Please do NOT defund our valuable San Bruno Police Department. Please support them.....

Barbara LaRaia San Bruno