From:	Fikes, Cathy
To:	Agenda Alerts
Subject:	FW: Re-Allocate Police Budget
Date:	Friday, June 12, 2020 6:23:43 PM

From: Alexa Sorensen <alexalsorensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Semeta, Lyn <Lyn.Semeta@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Fikes, Cathy <CFikes@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Re-Allocate Police Budget

Hello Lyn Semeta,

My name is Alexa Sorensen, and I am a resident of Huntington Beach, the city I truly love and value so much.

In regards to the current proposed city budget and in light of the social climate surrounding systemic racism and necessary police reform, I would like to request that funds be allocated from the police budget to the community services budget.

Defunding the police means re-funding social services. Within the last several decades, social service funding has been significantly decreasing and those jobs and funds have been outsourced to an unqualified police force.

Funds need to be allocated to services that will face the problems in the first place. Police unfortunately - and this is not their fault - are not prepared to take on everything their job asks of them. They are not experts in mental health, poverty, homelessness, addictions, crisis intervention, domestic abuse, etc. yet they are expected to be. If those who are dealing with these horrible crises are simply criminalized rather than helped by social programs, that doesn't solve the root problem of the issue (which social services can do).

I request the City Council to reflect on these issues and redirect funds from the police budget to community-based initiatives and implementing non-police solutions to social problems in order to cultivate lasting change and a restorative, supportive community of HB.

Thanks so much!
Alexa Sorensen