

# City Council Business Meeting Citizen Comment



Submission date: 23 September 2020, 1:48PM

Receipt number: 14

Related form version: 4

Question	Response
Name:	Caroline Judd
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Full Address:	Lynnwood WA 98037
Citizen Comment:	It is unclear in the budget whether the reduction in Lynnwood "Police" is for Officers, or Lynnwood Police Department employees in general. I support the reduction in actual Lynnwood PD Officers, and encourage city council to review whether some additional funds could be allocated towards qualified social workers who can assist and support municipal court in diversion services for individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health emergency and would be better served by community intervention vs. criminal intervention.

# City Council Business Meeting Citizen Comment



Submission date: 23 September 2020, 2:51PM

Receipt number: 15

Related form version: 4

Question	Response
Name:	Joshua R Judd-Herzfeldt
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Full Address:	Lynnwood, WA 98037
Citizen Comment:	I fully support a reduction in the police budget, including reduction of staffing by 9.325 positions. However, these should all be OFFICER positions, coupled with a plan to consider hiring qualified social workers to support municipal court in expanding diversion services instead.

# City Council Business Meeting

## Citizen Comment



Submission date: 28 September 2020, 9:50AM

Receipt number: 17

Related form version: 4

Question	Response
Name:	Jared Bigelow
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Full Address:	
Citizen Comment:	<p>Good evening Mayor, council, and people of Lynnwood. I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for the recently proposed paid DEI position. The time for change is now. People are tired of waiting. Look around you: People of color feel unsafe, forgotten, and unheard. The social and political climates of our nation speak to the need for a permanent, paid position within the executive office that is dedicated to ensuring social justice becomes a key part of city practice. We are making strides in this work with employee groups and volunteer commissions, but we must do more. I understand that funds are tight now due to the ongoing pandemic, but this crisis has underscored the intersectionality between race, health, and economic outcomes, and people of color are suffering most of all. Civil unrest in response to the treatment of black people by law enforcement highlights the need for further community engagement and a change in how we approach public safety. Our people need us and this expenditure would allow us to finally put our money where our mouth is. The fact of the matter is that a budget line item comes with expectations and a level of accountability that we simply can't demand from our volunteers. This issue is important enough to warrant a dedicated staff member whose job it would be to ensure we make good on our duty to treat all of you with the respect and dignity you deserve and to let you know that we see you, we hear you, and that you are exactly where you belong. For those of you who may still be on the fence, know that the proposed position request was not predicated on fear-mongering or alarmism but rather on history and feedback from our community listening sessions. Remember that in 2018, just outside the city limits, eight white supremacists beat and</p>

racially abused two people of color at a local bar. Just a few months ago, one of our own officers was racially harassed on the job. In July of this year, community members of color expressed feelings of insecurity when doing business in our city or when dealing with police. These issues are not just on TV, and they are not happening somewhere else. These problems are endemic to every corner of this country, including Lynnwood, and it is our duty to respond. Lastly, know that the proposed position would not be a new one, but rather an existing position redefined for the current needs of the city. Until we commit to funding a paid position dedicated to social justice and to upholding our promise of being an inclusive city where all are truly welcome, we are just going through the motions. Lynnwood deserves more. Thank you.

# City Council Business Meeting Citizen Comment



Submission date: 27 September 2020, 5:05PM

Receipt number: 16

Related form version: 4

Question	Response
Name:	Naz Lashgari
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Full Address:	Lynnwood, WA 98037
Citizen Comment:	I like to have the opportunity to advocate for the recently proposed DEI position.

# City Council Business Meeting

## Citizen Comment



Submission date: 28 September 2020, 12:50PM

Receipt number: 18

Related form version: 4

Question	Response
Name:	Naz Lashgari
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Full Address:	[REDACTED]
Citizen Comment:	<p>From : Naz Lashgari Subject: DEI Statement Date: September 27, 2020 Statement from Chair Naz Lashgari, DEIC Good Evening Mayor, Council members and Residents of City of Lynnwood. I am here as a resident of City of Lynnwood and as the Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to advocate for the proposed paid DEI position. Referring to Lynnwood Municipal Code Ch 2.58 which describes the duties of the DEI Commission as an advisory whose duties shall be to monitor demographic trends in our city and to identify and recommend to the mayor and city council ways to encourage mutual understanding among our citizens about the increasing demographic diversity of our city." We are here from the DEI Commission to do exactly that which is to advise the mayor and city council to move forward with the DEI position. On July 23, 2018 the DEIC requested and proposed action plans to create a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office for the City of Lynnwood to address Racial and Social Justice issues. Due to budget and administrative constraints our proposal was not taken into consideration, and were advised to put in our proposal for the next budgetary cycle of the 2021-2022 Budget. On July 15, 2020 after hearing from the community and listening to issues concerning our residents we have arrived again at the point that it is necessary for our City to have a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office with emphasis on Racial and Social Justice issues, and we are acting on that need by respectfully requesting a budget for the DEI position. Residents of Lynnwood have spoken loud and clear to the leadership of our City, and have requested a bold action from our leaders to address Racial and Social justice issues, as well as Equity and Inclusion concerns. A paid position</p>

at the DEI office should be funded to focus on inequities in our community. I understand the budgetary limitations and financial constraints of the City during this time of COVID 19 pandemic, but the time is now for creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office with a paid position within the executive office to implement Social and Racial Equity. City of Lynnwood should join in the regional efforts to achieve equity and justice for all, and recognize the necessity of having a DEI office to dismantle and remove structural barriers that have prevented people of our marginalized communities to have economic, social and racial equities. This office will design relevant solutions and services to the marginalized communities and work in integration of equity practices throughout the City to continue to be a safe, Welcoming and livable city. Thank you Naz

Dear Mayor and City Council,

As our city grows, we need to sustain certain levels of law and order with more police patrols and more public safety, not less. When light rail opens in Lynnwood in 2024, we cannot allow our city to lose control over the crime and the homeless population expanding from Everett and downtown Seattle. Defunding the police or a reduction in the police budget are not the same thing, however they can have the same unintended and devastating consequences to our community. The city's department heads including our police department have been asked to reduce their budgets and to consider eliminating non-essential programs. Volunteer programs like VIPS and Citizens Patrol are considered non-essential and therefore face possible funding elimination because of the proposed \$3.7 million dollar police budget cut. Each year the Citizens Patrol and VIPS volunteers put in over 11,000 volunteer hours which is equivalent to 5.4 full time employees. The city receives virtually free labor from these types of volunteer programs so I would encourage the city to continue maintaining these volunteer programs and provide them with adequate funding to help serve and improve our community.

Furthermore, by substantially decreasing the police budget by \$3.7 million dollars, I hope this will not deprive our police officers of critical de-escalation training necessary to assist individuals with special needs and mental health issues. Social workers are a major part in the fight against homelessness so I am hoping that the city finds a new social worker to replace the only one that we had. This is a critical public safety program that I feel the city should continue to expand on and not restrict funding or personnel from.

I am pleased that the city is making efforts to cut spending across the board and I understand the need for cost reductions. As a business owner myself, I agree that it is financially responsible to minimize costs and reduce spending during these hard times. This is how my business survived and weathered the storm during the last major recession. Reducing costs is a smart thing to do during difficult times and I am looking forward to seeing how the city plans to reduce the budget in the coming weeks.

In summary, I am reminding you that we are a growing city and we need to maintain adequate levels of funding to help tackle the crime and homelessness crisis that we face now and into the near future. Vote to support our first responders who keep our community members and businesses safe. I would also like to urge the council to invest more in innovation and technology. As our city grows, ensure that our IT department and DBS have adequate resources not just for growth, but to have a competitive advantage over our neighboring cities.

Please keep all these considerations in mind when you go to vote on our final budget in November. I look forward to seeing the detailed budget reports in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,  
Phong Nguyen



**From:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**To:** [Char Blankenship](#)  
**Cc:** [Sonia Springer](#); [Nicola Smith](#); [William Franz](#)  
**Bcc:** [Derek Fada](#); [Paul Coffelt](#)  
**Subject:** 9/28 and 11/9/2020 Budget Hearing Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:00:00 PM

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Thank you for your written comments; I will ensure this email (and your previous email) is forwarded to the Mayor and City Council.

Please know that the City of Lynnwood does not set rates for solid waste or natural gas. These rates are set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). Home energy audits are also not provided by the City, but instead by SnoPUD and/or Puget Sound Energy.

The City of Lynnwood *does* set the rates for utilities owned and operated by the City: water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater. Also, the City collects a 6% tax on most utilities.

I will forward your suggestion for photo enforcement on Olympic View Drive to our traffic engineer.

A few years ago, the City carefully investigated your complaints regarding trees on neighboring properties. I don't have any new information regarding that matter.

Please know that I welcome your input and feedback, and my comments here are not intended to be contrary or to dissuade you. Thank you for your ongoing interest in community matters. Corbitt

**From:** Char Blankenship <cblankenship1955@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** Corbitt Loch <CLoch@lynnwoodwa.gov>  
**Subject:** 9/28 and 11/9/2020 Budget Hearing Comments

As a twenty year resident of the city, it is important that I get to remain in my home. I'm physically disabled and my rambler allows that, as long as utility rates can be discounted, including property taxes, garbage, water/sewer, gas and electric. There are no discounts for garbage or for gas. As a one person household, who's somewhat of a minimalist, the rates can be very difficult. Most times I only need to put my mini can out once a month, if that. Yet there's no incentive to reduce ones waste, which is appalling. Gas is also not discounted. Why not? Putting my heat on 65° when home during the day is the best I can do. Yet my bill can be upwards of \$100/month. One is not allowed to receive a house energy check-up if they've had one, which I have, but it was over nineteen years ago. That needs to change. I could more easily afford my utility bills if I didn't have to constantly pay to have my roof and gutters cleared of my neighbors 25+ over 110' tall Fir trees that are overgrown for the area and neglected. They cost me a ton of money, including having to get their roots cut out of my sewerline and holes in my roof and ceiling patched. There's a City Ordinance that protects one from nuisance hazardous trees, but the City of Lynnwood will not enforce it, wrongfully claiming it's a civil matter. It's reasonable to expect that one's neighbors should not be allowed to neglect hazardous trees, that cause extreme costs and stress to a neighbor, due to their size and location.

So bottom line, discount all the utilities and enforce current ordinances. Neither of those things

would cost the city much. Install ticket cameras on OVD near my home and the revenue will pour in.

Sincerely,

Char Blankenship

[REDACTED]

Lynnwood WA 98037

**From:** [Char Blankenship](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Moore](#); [Sonja Springer](#)  
**Subject:** Inside Lynnwood - Financial Challenges  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 6:26:06 PM

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Corbitt,

Reading the latest edition of Inside Lynnwood, in order to know how to best make any suggestions solicited, one needs to know more how monies are spent, salaries, and so much more. How can a citizen make meaningful suggestions and change without knowing more?

The remaining shortfall to the City's General Fund is under 2 million, and that's with ...'City staff identifying and implementing cost savings measures that will trim expenditures by \$4.9 million.'

My daughter works for a college where she is excellent at trimming the fat by implementing measures that insiders may overlook. I bet she could help this city save money. But knowledge is needed, including what I previously mentioned, as well as utility costs, and the way bids are procured among other information. To take from Emergency Reserve Funds should be a last resort. I'd like to "share my thoughts" and hopefully make a difference.

Thank you,

Char Blankenship  
Twenty year Lynnwood citizen

**From:** [Frontier](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Cc:** [Frontier](#)  
**Subject:** 2021 and 2022 City of Lynnwood Budget  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 9:23:12 AM

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Lynnwood City Council,

I hope city council will take in consideration in how to budget in next two years from their citizens of Lynnwood. Due to COVID 19, it turn everything upside down. Many businesses lost profits and businesses are not fully open or not open at all. Some businesses are not coming back. Schools are closed. Not every students can get online. They are not getting the same amount of education has if they were in school. And yet our property taxes pay to keep school district (teachers, administration) on their payroll and their union wants to get pay. Businesses has layoff employees or they cannot hire employees back not until COVID 19 is over and safe for employees to go back to work. So much of it is a domino affect. One up side to this is the light rail will be completed in year 2024 in Lynnwood. It will take a year or two years for things to go back to normal.

What is important to me is not to defund the police in Lynnwood.  
Maintain training for our men and women of the Lynnwood Police.  
I do not want property tax increase.  
I do not want utility rate increase.  
Maintain city streets, right of way, potholes, and etc.

Thank you in advance,  
Nora Chin

**From:** [Tyler Hall](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Budget cuts due to Covid  
**Date:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:05:00 PM

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It sounds like Lynnwood city budget will be lower due to reduced revenue during the Covid-19 pandemic. Looking over our budget for 2019-2020, it looks like 44% of our budget goes to the Lynnwood police department.

It really seems like reducing patrols is the easiest reduction of cost, especially while a significant quantity of Americans feel less safe in the presence of an armed officer. Whenever I drive by the police station the lot is full of stationary expensive specialized vehicles, whatever budget that exists for over-arming police should also be completely emptied. Limit detention and arrests for non-violent crimes and shift non-criminal duties toward specialized positions).

If you think that peace is not possible without heavily-armed police presence, please visit Oslo (also it's a beautiful city). A peaceful future without obvious police presence is possible.

Tyler Hall  


-sent from my mobile device

**From:** [WILLIAM KANDOLL](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Input  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 8:15:34 PM

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Hi,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

My number one priority is public safety. Make sure to fund Police and Fire. We must have law and order in Lynnwood.

Everything else follows thereafter.

Bill Kandoll  
Lynnwood

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

**From:** [Cammie K](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Input  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2020 9:08:05 PM

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Just wanted to provide input on which city services are most important. We are convinced that the following services are extremely important today, in order of importance:

- 1) Police/Justice system
- 2) Fire/Emergency Services
- 3) City Library

Thank you!  
--Jon and Cammie Kiehn

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** M.K  
**To:** Corbitt Loch  
**Subject:** Budget cut suggestion from Lynnwood resident  
**Date:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:58:04 PM

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Corbitt,

I am a resident of Lynnwood, a homeowner here on 200th St. near the city center. As you and the council revise current and draw up future budgets for the city, I ask that you make OUTSIZED cuts to police department funding.

Law enforcement is said to be a necessary evil. If it is not necessary, then it is evil. Here on 200th St. I see cops rolling by all day as it is a preferred route to and from the station. We simply do not need so many active patrols. I have lived in multiple foreign countries, and only HERE does one see so many police officers and vehicles on a routine, daily basis. Their presence is simply not needed. For many, their presence is menacing.

While I've never had personal issue with Lynnwood officers, recently I had a Mountlake Terrace trainee officer pull me over on a blatantly false pretense and proceed to lie to both myself and my wife. We were simply driving to Winco around midnight and he targeted us, aggressive stating that he "saw [me] blow through two red lights" when both my wife and I knew, and could prove, that I had not. I simply called him out for his bald lies, and he 'let me go,' but then proceeded to stalk us into Edmonds

Jerry Dowell's murder by Officer Zachary Yates is an egregious example of what sort of policing we DON'T need in Lynnwood. (I've included a link to video of the incident below.) This was a cowardly act by Mr. Yates. Clearly you see him standing several feet away from the victim while pumping bullets into him. I do recall reading that Yates was an instructor on the force, and retained his position. Just outrageous. I do not want that guy patrolling my neighborhood.

Hopefully I've made my point, and don't want to belabor it. Thank you.

Mike Kobal

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/1-75-million-settlement-paid-to-family-of-man-shot-by-lynnwood-police-officer/>



**From:** [Arthur Levine](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Re: increasing revenue  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 8:44:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Will do! Taking the City of Lynnwood's uniquely aggressive "traffic management and enforcement" to the next technological level at this financially troubled time will help meet its needs, *secondarily* to keeping Lynnwood even safer as the acknowledged and undisputed Puget Sound leader in Safety through Surveillance! You're welcome!

On Tue, Jun 9, 2020 at 5:32 AM Corbitt Loch <[CLoch@lynnwoodwa.gov](mailto:CLoch@lynnwoodwa.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Levine—

I have received your written comments regarding budget/service priorities. While I am pretty sure your comments are meant to be satirical, I am pleased that our budget article in Inside Lynnwood was noticed and read. You are invited to continue to participate during our budget process and offer your views regarding community priorities.

The City of Lynnwood does operate traffic management cameras to best facilitate the flow of traffic (and for accident investigations), photo enforcement cameras at certain intersections (red light violations), and photo enforcement at two school locations (speeding violations). Photo enforcement is a common topic of disagreement.

At this time, City staff is undertaking a careful review of our municipal services. Thank you for taking the time to write.

Corbitt Loch

**From:** M.K.  
**To:** Corbitt Loch  
**Subject:** Budget cut suggestion from Lynnwood resident  
**Date:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:58:04 PM

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While I've never had personal issue with Lynnwood officers, recently I had a Mountlake Terrace trainee officer pull me over on a blatantly false pretense and proceed to lie to both myself and my wife. We were simply driving to Winco around midnight and he targeted us, aggressive stating that he "saw [me] blow through two red lights" when both my wife and I knew, and could prove, that I had not. I simply called him out for his bald lies, and he 'let me go,' but then proceeded to stalk us into Edmonds

Jerry Dowell's murder by Officer Zachary Yates is an egregious example of what sort of policing we DON'T need in Lynnwood. (I've included a link to video of the incident below.) This was a cowardly act by Mr. Yates. Clearly you see him standing several feet away from the victim while pumping bullets into him. I do recall reading that Yates was an instructor on the force, and retained his position. Just outrageous. I do not want that guy patrolling my neighborhood.

Hopefully I've made my point, and don't want to belabor it. Thank you.

Mike Kobal

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/1-75-million-settlement-paid-to-family-of-man-shot-by-lynnwood-police-officer/>

**From:** [Alexandria Ostrem](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Lynnwood city budget  
**Date:** Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:28:02 PM

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Hi,

I'm a Lynnwood homeowner, and would like to suggest that any budget cuts that need to be made due to loss of revenue from COVID should be made only to the police department. In general, I firmly believe we should look into allocating police department funds toward community based solutions as much as possible.

Thanks!

-Courtney A. Ostrem

**From:** [Nicola Smith](#)  
**To:** [Terry & Elaine Solvang](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Moore](#); [James Nelson](#); [Christine Frizzell](#); [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Budget  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:45:57 PM

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Great to hear from you!  
We are not defunding our police.  
Stay healthy and safe,  
Nicola

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 24, 2020, at 12:32 PM, Terry & Elaine Solvang [REDACTED] wrote:

Mayor Smith

Our world is changing and it is changing quickly. These changes affect everyone and they especially have an effect on financial budgeting. Obviously this is a difficult subject to handle when projecting budgeting is considered. On seeing what is happening in other cities where first responders, namely police, budgets are being 'defunded' in varying degrees, the results are not acceptable. We are of the mindset that the police department is the most essential service the city has for all citizens. One look at the Lynnwood Police blotter on 'Lynnwood Today' gives evidence of the many instances that are not apparent to the public that require police action. Cutting the budget for police activity would negatively affect our city greatly and we believe this consideration must be the very most important issue for our citizens. We do not want to see our city become what we have seen other cities experience. There is no doubt that criminal activity would increase and that action such as what almost happened at the mall recently would be more prevalent. We therefore urge you and the council to not demoralize our fine police department! Thank you.

Terry and Elaine Solvang

**From:** [KAREN TIEDE](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Comments for City Of Lynnwood  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:57:05 AM

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I am totally against raising the rates for water. It already is high plus when we receive the bill the payment is due in seven days or less depending on the mail. This is unacceptable as a senior citizen our monthly income has not increased. Majority of us have to work to make ends meet. I personally am getting tired of increases in all utilities when we are not getting additional dollars. Are we also paying for people that do not work and are on assistance? Perhaps look in house to see if all employees are needed? I know that I have complained in the pass that the traffic noise on Olympic View Drive is alarming high almost all day and at night especially in the summer time. Nothing has changed. If the City needs extra dollars maybe monitor the street. I am at the point enough is enough.

Thank you,

Karen Tiede

[REDACTED]

Lynnwood, WA 98037

**From:** [Brian Radabaugh](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Important financial choices ahead citizen input  
**Date:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 1:54:31 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a 30+ year resident and homeowner in Lynnwood I am aware that city revenue has decreased since the beginning of the Covid19 pandemic. Knowing that more than 10% of individuals and families in Snohomish county face basic food shortages as well as more than 15% of children facing food shortages is a problem we all need to address.

As far as city budgeting is concerned.....Department reductions should be across the board. This includes the Lynnwood police department and the associated courts. Social and health services and food assistance should be increased if at all possible at the expense of the previously mentioned across the board cuts.

Sincerely,

Brian Radabaugh



Lynnwood, WA 98037

**From:** [Ann Smith](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Hearings  
**Date:** Monday, September 7, 2020 10:31:45 AM

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Hello,

Please fully fund the police department during this year's budget process. Lynnwood PD has done a great job of protecting our streets, responding rapidly, fairly and with professionalism.

We strongly support total funding of the LPD. Given the pandemic, if budget cuts are required we would ask that you consider other departments but NOT the Police Department.

Thank you,

Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Smith

[REDACTED]

Lynnwood, WA 90836

**From:** [Bruce Wynar](#)  
**To:** [Corbitt Loch](#)  
**Subject:** budget hearing 9 28 2020  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2020 8:35:47 AM

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Corbit,

Thank you for taking time to listen to our questions about the budget hearings September 28, 2020.

My wife and I feel that a strong police department and public safety are most important services.

We also feel public works and maintenance in the neighborhoods is essential.

Continuing emergency fire department services and medical support with South County is very important.

Please bring our input to the attention of the city council at the budget hearings.

Thank you very much.  
Bruce and Helene Wynar