From: Sarah Bowers <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:41 PM
To: Eileen Decker; Sandra Figueroa-Villa; Steve Soboroff; RICHARD TEFANK; MICHEL MOORE; William J. Briggs, II; Police Commission; wjbriggs@venable.com; LAPC Fails
Subject: Public Comment BOPC 6/13/2023

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

Dear Board of Police Commissioners and City Council Members:

As a citizen of Los Angeles District 10 I'm writing to submit public comments to the LA Police Commission meeting. I'm also cc-ing the city council members since the commission continuously fails to hold LAPD accountable and continues to not heed the majority of public comments given.

Agenda Item 3C-3F
The Board continues to just rubber stamp and automatically approve all donations, deeming them to be "routine" without considering the harm these donations perpetuate. These donations allow LAPD to keep getting more dangerous weapons, equipment, and overtime without needing approval from the public or from the city council. Why are donors of such large amounts of money to LAPD, the most violent police agency in the nation, allowed to be anonymous? Even the board members of foundations that facilitate the funding are allowed to be anonymous. For example, the LAPD Youth Foundation has no information about their donors or board members. This sets dangerous precedent for ignoring possible conflicts of interest.

Agenda Item 3G
Among those you are honoring is Officer Christopher Kliebert and Andrew Mejia who shot and killed Oscar Santiago and lied about Mr. Santiago first shooting at them. Evidence then later found that to be false and that Santiago did not shoot first. By honoring these officers you are further condoning killer cops.

You're also choosing to honor Officer Brandon Valdez who in 2010 struck a random innocent person who was watching Valdez argue with his girlfriend. Valdez then began hitting the innocent bystander with his gun. Then when the innocent bystander got up to run, Valdez and his buddy --another off-duty police officer-- chased him and continued to beat him.

Next you're choosing to honor Officer John Carlyle who excessively beat a Black USC student and arrested the student without probable cause. The jury in the trial found him guilty of these charges but the city settled the case.

It is utterly disgusting that a) these individuals are still police officers, and that b) you're now awarding them and their violence. Shame on you.

Agenda Item 4B
You need to be making it clear that if it weren't for police accountability groups like Black Lives Matter and Stop LAPD Spying Coalition that these unarmed response programs would not exist. LAPD continues to balk at efforts to divest from police and then appropriate language of unarmed response to make themselves look good. LAPD should be defunded and their budget should be given to these groups, who also should not be coordinated or overseen by LAPD. LAPD have shown their true colors and continue to not be held accountable. And you continue to give them little slaps on the wrist without forcing them to make any real changes.

General Public Comment: Divest from LAPD
As a social worker and current grad student studying and researching police, I've long been telling you that LAPD funds need to be divested. You as the Commission need to be creating alternatives to police in traffic stops and responding to mental health crises. I've studied alternatives to police in these capacities --- the academic research shows that they work, and all without police killing people.

You know the numbers - in 2022 US law enforcement killed at least 1,186 people, more than any other year on record. And LAPD is the police department that kills the most people in the country out of all law enforcement agencies. Police kill despite body camera and no matter the amount of trainings you give them. You are complicit in these murders - you continued to just approve everything LAPD wants. Soboroff, you say that people who believe that are uninformed and that there have been many 3-2 or 4-1 votes. What doesn't matter is the makeup of the votes, but their result -- and they always result in approving LAPD to do whatever it wants to do. You need to defund the police, take those funds, and reinvest in the community.

General Public Comment: General Public Comment Limitations
Stop removing protestors from your meetings! Remove the public comment time limitation! Re-arrange meeting order so that participants may comment on items being voted on by the Board after hearing any discussion and presentation.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bowers