

From: [Jojo Sanders](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Public comment for June 15th City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 6:49:00 PM

To the Sebastopol City Council regarding the Proposed 2021-22 Budget:

I am glad to see that the Council is considering funding a West County Community Services homeless outreach/support program, as well as the proposed Capital Improvement program— especially investing in so many ADA improvements and projects! I urge the council to also fund a CAHOOTS-type program to have trained mental health professionals to respond to certain emergency calls instead of police. I understand that CAHOOTS is expensive to initiate and get consultation for. However, I do think that an alternative to police (in a larger capacity than responding to calls related to homelessness) should be a high priority for the council.

I am very disappointed to see that the proposed budget for the Sebastopol Police is \$738,638 more than the Actual Budget for 2019-20 and \$90,350 more than the Adopted budget for 2020-21. I urge the council to not continually increase the amount of police spending. The Proposed Budget for 2020-21 allocates almost half (46.01%) of the entire city budget to law enforcement, and I am strongly against this. At the very least, the annual police budget should stay the same, or, even better, decrease year to year.

I want to thank the council for their hard work and dedication to Sebastopol. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Jojo Sanders, Sebastopol resident