

Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

EMERGENCY ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting date: June 16, 2020
Item Description: Safety for All: The George Floyd Community Safety Act - Budget Request to Hire a Consultant to Perform Police Call and Response Data Analysis
Submitted by: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author), Mayor Jesse Arreguin, and Councilmembers Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsor)

Rationale:

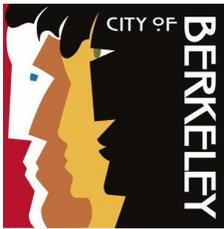
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2(b) (2), Councilmember Ben Bartlett submits the attached item to the City Council for placement on the June 16, 2020 meeting agenda. Gov. Code Section 54954.2(b) (2) states that “Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of a legislative body presents at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).”

This item meets the criteria for “immediate action” as follows:

- 1) The budget is being considered and there is public outcry for Council to take action.
- 2) Racism Is a Public Health Emergency.
- 3) Council is considering numerous police items right now.

Hundreds of thousands of people in every state have marched in solidarity to call for an end to police brutality, to demand police accountability, and to reform law enforcement, bringing justice to the Black lives and people of color who have been wrongfully harmed at the hands of the criminal justice system. Police brutality has taken the lives of 46-year-old Black man George Floyd, 26-year-old Black woman Breonna Taylor, and countless other people of color. Often resorting to violent means of punishment, police officers are not trained to handle noncriminal and nonviolent situations. Unfortunately, the lack of sufficient data and reporting has allowed police misconduct to be swept under the rug, which has increased police militarization, failed to prioritize community safety, and prevented providing the civilian with the necessary treatment to resolve the situation.

To respond to urgent calls for police transparency and accountability, this item requests the City Manager to hire third-party consultants to conduct a data-driven analysis of the Berkeley Police Department’s calls, responses, budget, and expenditures to determine which calls can be serviced to non-law enforcement agencies, ensuring noncriminal and nonviolent situations are properly handled by trained community professionals.



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ACTION CALENDAR

July 14, 2020

(Continued from June 16, 2020)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author), Mayor Jesse Arreguin, and
Councilmembers Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Safety for All: The George Floyd Community Safety Act - Budget Request to
Hire a Consultant to Perform Police Call and Response Data Analysis

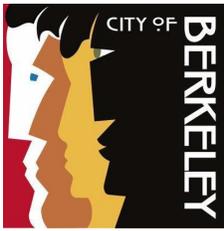
RECOMMENDATION:

1. Refer to the Thursday, 6/18/2020 Budget & Finance Policy Committee and the FY 2020-21 Budget Process the \$150,000 to
 - a. Hire a consultant to conduct a data-driven analysis of police calls and responses to determine the quantity and proportion of these calls that can be responded to by non-police services. The third-party consultant must be hired and engaged in work within three months of the item's passage.
 - b. Hire a consultant to conduct an analysis of the Berkeley Police Department's budget and its expenditures by call type. The third-party consultant must be hired and engaged in work within three months of the item's passage.
2. Direct the City Manager to:
 - a. Implement initiatives and reforms that reduce the footprint of the police department and limit the police's response to violent and criminal service calls.

CURRENT SITUATION

In all 50 states and more than 145 cities, Americans are calling to end police violence and brutality, to legitimize police accountability, and to transform the police system to protect the safety of communities and people of color. Police violence and brutality led to the death of a 46-year-old Black man George Floyd and the murders of other Black people, igniting a flame that has been brewing for a long time. These events of police violence gave rise to a wave of demonstrations and demands for change, including many in the City of Berkeley.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the City of Berkeley is facing a nearly 30+ million dollar budget deficit, sharply stalling economic growth with effects that parallel the Great Depression. At the same time, the City is projected to undergo an increase in people experiencing homelessness, trauma, and mental health crises. Therefore, the City must ensure that each dollar is spent for the residents' best interest and will produce the maximum return.



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In order to better respond to the needs of the Berkeley community, it is critical that the Council takes local-level action on police reform. In particular, the City must examine the types of calls and responses from the police department and analyze the agency's budgets and expenditures according to call type.

As a component of the **REDUCE, IMPROVE, RE-INVEST** framework, this item works towards the REDUCE goal: *the City should implement initiatives and reforms that reduce the footprint of the police department and limit the police's response to violent and criminal service calls.* Specifically, this item proposes to hire an outside consultant to conduct an analysis of police calls and responses as well as the department budget.

With military-style techniques and structure, police officers are trained to combat crime in a manner that exerts violence through punishments, establishing a monopoly on force in communities. While law enforcement is supposed to protect our communities and keep us safe, crime waves from the 1970s and 1980s have transformed the police community into a body for crime control, maintaining such focus until modern-day despite declines in criminal activity¹. With this focus on crime control, police officers lack the necessary training to adequately respond to noncriminal and nonviolent crimes. Non Criminal crimes refer to issues involving mental health, the unhoused community, school discipline, and neighborhood civil disputes². Nonviolent crimes are categorized as property, drug, and public order offenses where injury or force is absent³. When police respond to these types of matters, they resort to violent means of arrest or problem escalation because they are ill-equipped and not trained to resolve the underlying issues.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice's report between 1980 and 2016, more than 10.5 million arrests are made every year; only 4.83 percent of those arrests were for violent offenses⁴. Eighty percent of these arrests were for low-level offenses, such as "disorderly conduct," non-traffic offenses, civil violations, and other offenses. This criminalization may be attributed to the arrest quotas for police productivity, which promotes punishment by rewarding the number of arrests for police funding instead of

¹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/first-step-figuring-out-what-police-are/612793/>

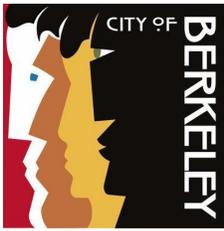
² <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-12/san-francisco-police-reforms-stop-response-noncriminal-calls>

³

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/ascii/pnoesp.txt#:~:text=Nonviolent%20crimes%20are%20defined%20as%20possession%2C%20burglary%2C%20and%20larceny.>

⁴

<https://arresttrends.vera.org/arrests?compare%5Boffense%5D%5Bpart1%5D=part1&compare%5Boffense%5D%5Bpart2%5D=part2#infographic>



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finding solutions to these issues⁵. This high percentage of low-level offenses resulted in arrest when other nonviolent, rehabilitative methods could have occurred from the solutions of community workers with the experience to handle these situations.

It is imperative that the City of Berkeley develops, implements, and enforces a clear and effective roadmap towards making real change, ending anti-Black racism, stopping police violence, and holding police accountable for their actions. Thus, the Council should direct the City Manager to hire third party consultants to conduct a data-driven analysis of police calls and responses as well as their budget and expenditures in order to determine ways in which experienced community workers can reduce the police footprint by addressing noncriminal situations. We recommend that community workers also resolve nonviolent situations.

BACKGROUND

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the City must implement a series of important law enforcement reforms and take action by initiating the following:

REDUCE:

I. Hire a consultant to conduct a data driven analysis of police calls and responses.

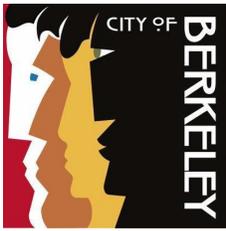
University of Denver Political Science Professor Laurel Eckhouse stated, “One method of reducing police presence... is to separate and reassign to other authorities various problems currently delegated to the police... such as the problems of people who don’t have housing... mental health issues... and even things like traffic⁶.” Community organizations, civilian workers trained in mental health situations, or neighborhood problem-solvers would better address these specific issues due to their experience, ensuring that the police are not the only force addressing these issues and promoting community vitality⁷.

Conducting a data driven analysis of police calls and responses would signify a report of the calls and responses that police receive and would inform the city where to better allocate resources to resolve specific issues. Noncriminal and nonviolent activities can thus be properly addressed by those who are equipped to handle these situations and would relieve law enforcement from these calls to then pursue more serious criminal situations. For example, the San Francisco Police Department receives approximately 40,000 calls per year about homeless

⁵ <https://theintercept.com/2019/01/31/arrests-policing-vera-institute-of-justice/>

⁶ <https://www.stanforddaily.com/2020/06/04/police-abolition-looks-like-palo-alto/>

⁷ <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/first-step-figuring-out-what-police-are/612793/>



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people on the streets⁸. Social workers who can help unhoused citizens and those with mental health disorders are better equipped to help these citizens receive proper treatment while also protecting the safety of our communities, which would give law enforcement time to handle other crimes.

One suggestion to reduce the costs of policing is to boost productivity by allocating a portion of the calls for service to community organizations who have the resources and training to handle such situations⁹. For example, in Mesa, Arizona from 2006 to 2008, a third of calls for service are handled by civilians; these calls are for incidents of “vehicle burglaries, unsecured buildings, accidents, loose dogs, stolen vehicles, traffic hazards, and residential burglaries¹⁰.” Approximately half of calls for service in Mesa are handled by police officers, but among those, there are ways to reduce police authority. For example, 11 percent of those calls that police officers handled were in response to burglary alarms, where 99 percent were false. Six percent of those calls included “juveniles disturbing the peace.” This situation in Mesa demonstrates the possibility of reduced police force in exchange for community based response teams who can better resolve these issues with their experience.

The City Manager should hire a third party consultant within three months of this item’s passage to conduct the data analysis, ensuring that the report is completed in an impartial and timely manner.

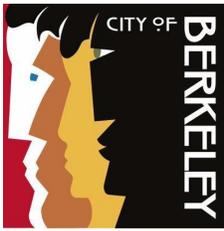
The third party consultant should create a report with the following information by analyzing and gathering the data from the police department, reporting their findings to the City every two years. We recommend the following data to be considered for analysis:

- a. Number of calls the police department receives per day, week, month, and year, which will be categorized into noncriminal, misdemeanor, nonviolent felony, and serious and violent felony calls.
- b. Demographics for these calls
- c. Characteristics of traffic stops
 - i. Quantity
 - ii. Type/reason
 - iii. Number of those resulting in searchings paired with the frequency at which illegal items were found
 - iv. Police response (i.e. citation, arrest, use of force)

⁸ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-12/san-francisco-police-reforms-stop-response-noncriminal-calls>

⁹ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/231096.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/231096.pdf>



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- v. Demographics of the civilian in the traffic stop that is broken into type of stop and whether a search occurred
- d. Number of complaints against an officer
 - i. Enumerate the officers with a high number of complaints
 - ii. Reason behind the complaints.

With the results of the data analysis, the City can determine the portion of calls that the community crisis worker pilot can properly address with the resources and experience they have.

II. Hire a consultant to conduct an analysis of the police department budget.

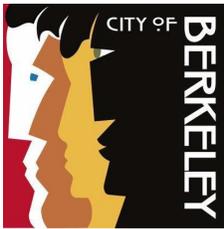
Using the analysis generated by a review of police call and response data, a third party consultant should be hired to analyze the police department's expenditures and budgets for various calls of service and report their findings to the City every two years.

According to the 2019 budget, the Berkeley Police Department's expenditures were approximately \$69 million, which consists of 5.6 percent of the city's net expenditures. However, for the 2020 budget, the BPD is expected to have \$74 million in expenditures, reflecting a \$5 million increase from the previous year and approximately \$8 million higher than 2017's expenditures¹¹. Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence suggests that only 20 percent of police time is spent on solving crime and the majority is spent towards addressing those experiencing homelessness and mental health crises. The City should reallocate resources to a crisis worker entity who would be tasked with responding to noncriminal calls. We recommend that nonviolent calls also be addressed by this entity. This would give police officers more time to focus on crime, leading to better outcomes for public safety, community health, and a higher quality of life.

In Canada, Police Information and Statistics Committee police services Waterloo Police Regional Service and Ontario Provincial Police collaborated with Justice Canada and Public Safety to collect data on their calls for service and determine the costs of policing¹². Their research reported that in 2013, bylaw complaints were listed as the most frequent call for service in Waterloo at 8,769 calls and non-crime policing activities were listed as the most frequent. In contrast, the only criminal activity listed in the top 10 generated calls were domestic dispute, theft under \$5000, and major violent crime in property damage. Considering the most frequent of costly calls are noncriminal activities such as selective traffic

¹¹ <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Manager/Budget/FY-2020-2021-Adopted-Budget-Book.pdf>

¹² <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2015-r018/index-en.aspx#c-1-i>



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enforcement programs (\$22,212.45 in sum of total unit service time in hours) and vehicle stops (\$206,668.13), the greatest cost in calls were for noncriminal activities. As noncriminal activities result in the greatest costs, it would be more efficient for community workers to handle these situations in order to reduce police department costs, allowing trained professionals to resolve the issue and giving police officers time to spend on more serious criminal offenses.

By analyzing the budget expenditures for the police for each call type, the community can divest from the police and reallocate those funds for trained community organizations who can handle noncriminal and nonviolent offenses. Considering the significantly delayed response to former requests for the police department's budget, the data analysis should be conducted by a third party consultant that is hired and engaged in active service within three months of this item's passage, ensuring that the police department's budget information is transparent to the public and reported in an impartial, timely manner.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

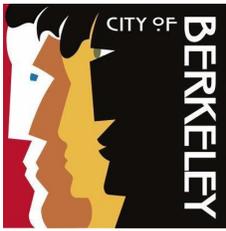
The City Manager provides regular reports on crime in Berkeley and on the policies of the Berkeley Police Department¹³. The data on serious crime is collected annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which consists of over 17,000 law enforcement agencies that represent over 90 percent of the United States population. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) reports crime statistics on violent crimes (including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property crimes (including burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson). This data allows the BPD to analyze national and local crime trends, determine effectiveness of response to crime, and plan for future policies and resource allocation. Additionally, the City of Berkeley implements the Daily Calls for Service Log that the community can access to see the volume and nature of police activity.

Currently, Utah requires agencies to report tactical deployment and forcible entries where such reports are summarized by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. Utah Law Enforcement Transparency reporting interface was added to Utah Criminal Justice Information System in 2014 through the use of federal grant funding. Law enforcement agencies are required to report incidents of forcible entry and the deployment of tactical groups, representing data collection of police use of force¹⁴.

However, these reports do not analyze the demographics or types of calls and responses from the BPD, which makes it difficult to hold police officers accountable for

¹³ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Police/Home/Annual_Crime_Reports.aspx

¹⁴ <https://justice.utah.gov/Documents/CCJJ/LETR/2018%20LET%20Annual%20Report.html>



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the mistreatment of individuals. Without this information, it becomes difficult to determine how to decrease the police footprint or implement safer policing practices if the analysis only pertains to the quantity and types of arrests and does not include the background, call of service, reason, demographics, complaints against the police officer, and other important factors to the BPD's response.

Despite voluntary data sharing and crime reports, data collection still remains vague and insufficient, leaving many unanswered questions regarding the number of instances of and reasons for use of force, complaint process against police officers, and other information about police actions. This lack of clarity allows police misconduct to perpetuate due to the lack of research that would hold police departments accountable.

ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

One possible alternative to the community response teams would be to implement better training procedures so that police officers are more equipped to handle nonviolent and noncriminal activities. For example, the state of Washington requires both violence de-escalation and mental health training for police officers¹⁵. Such reform may render the data analysis on the types of calls unnecessary because the police department would be trained to handle all services regardless of the type of call.

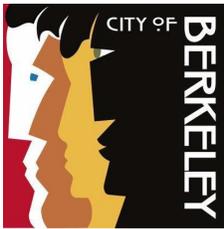
However, training police officers to handle situations such as mental health or homelessness would signify an increase in funding for the police department to provide such training services. Not only would this type of training be difficult to maneuver when police forces are currently trained in a militarized manner, but it would be more efficient for community professionals to peacefully and properly resolve such issues since they have already engaged in this training and experience for years.

Reforming police training may be beneficial, but in this case, it would also indicate the lack of basis for reporting the police department's types of calls and responses, which is necessary to hold the police accountable and ensure safer practices. While reporting the data analysis could still occur without the community crisis workers, only having the police department manage all situations would increase their authority over the communities, which would lead to increased militarization of the police forces if other community organizations do not intervene or hold them accountable.

OUTREACH OVERVIEW AND RESULTS

The District 3 Office has consulted with David Muhammad, who is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform; the former Chief Probation Officer in Alameda County; and the former Deputy Commissioner of Probation in New

¹⁵ <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/how-actually-fix-americas-police/612520/>



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York City. David Muhammad is a leading expert on criminal justice who has helped inform our response to the current situation.

The District 3 Office has also consulted with Marcus McKinney, the Senior Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy at the Center for Policing Equity.

The District 3 Office has also consulted with Professor Tracey L. Meares, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor and Faculty Director of the Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Police departments across the country enforce policies and practices that breed a culture of violence resulting in killings--like those of Floyd and Moore, and of countless other people of color. These authoritative, militarized behaviors are often rooted in anti-Black racism, and such behavior must stop being acceptable. Transformation of police departments, their role, and relationship to our communities requires a change in culture, accountability, training, policies, and practices.

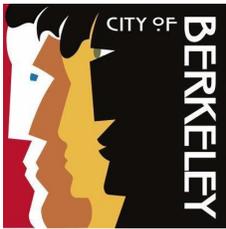
To prioritize community safety and reduce police violence, the City must hire a third party consultant to analyze police data in order to decide how to divest from the police to fund experienced community workers who can adequately resolve noncriminal and nonviolent situations. These community workers would protect the community from violence and emphasize revitalization and rehabilitation over the punishment that police officers often enforce. Implementing a data-driven analysis on police data would increase the transparency of the police department and hold them accountable, detecting the issues within the police force that community response teams can help heal. The Council must make informed legislative decisions that will reduce police footprint, improve current practices of law enforcement, and reinvest in the community for the safety of our civilians.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The third party consultant/s would cost approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000. It is up to the City Manager to hire the third party consultants who will analyze the data of the police department's calls, responses, budget, and expenditures. Consultants must be hired and engaged in service within three months if this item passes. These consultants would ensure that noncriminal situations are handled by those with the necessary training, which may lead to a decrease in repeat offenses when community workers properly resolve the situation and guide civilians to helpful resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We do not expect this recommendation to have significant negative impacts on environmental sustainability.



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OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

If this item is passed, third party consultants would be hired by the City and engaged in data analysis within three months of passage. These consultants would produce biennial reports regarding the Berkeley Police Department's types of calls and responses as well as the budgets and expenditures in order to inform the City how to reallocate funds from the police into a community response team with better experience to handle noncriminal situations. We recommend that nonviolent situations also be addressed by community crisis workers.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett
James Chang
Kyle Tang
Kimberly Woo

510-981-7130
jchang@cityofberkeley.info
ktang@cityofberkeley.info
kimwoo1240@berkeley.edu

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cover Letter - Safety for All: George Floyd Community Safety Act
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16pqqd9J6NPRzh6298Bgazo7jw1qxTK6Y/view?usp=sharing>