



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Wengraf (author), Councilmember Davila (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Referral to City Manager to Re-imagine Policing Approaches to Public Safety Using a Process of Robust Community Engagement, to Develop a Path Forward to Transforming Public Safety and Policing in Berkeley.

RECOMMENDATION

We must have our communities of color, particularly our African American community, at the forefront of conversations to re-imagine approaches to policing and public safety in Berkeley. The people most disparately impacted must have a vital role in the creation of new ways to enhance accountability, compassion and transparency as we move forward to address racial inequities and disparate outcomes of policing in Berkeley.

This item is an urgent referral to the City Manager to act quickly and thoughtfully in creating substantial community engagement to develop a new model for policing in Berkeley, to address racial inequities, ensure community health and safety needs are met, and to build trust within our communities of color.

This work should begin with public, transparent community forums to listen, learn and receive people's ideas about how policing should be re-imagined and transformed so that communities of color can be safer within their neighborhoods, the City of Berkeley, and trust in the Berkeley Police Department can begin to be rebuilt. The City Manager will send a list of recommendations to the full Council for review and public input.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time

BACKGROUND

The recent heinous murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery in the context of centuries of sanctioned murders of and violence towards Black people in our country, have catapulted the nation and our community to call for change in rooting out systemic racism from our policing models.

At the June 9, 2020 Council Meeting Berkeley residents demanded an end to racial disparities in Berkeley's policing. Some demanded defunding the Berkeley Police Department. This item seeks to vigorously initiate the development of a strategic framework to end disparate racial outcomes resulting from practices, policies and

deployment of the Berkeley Police Department, by engaging the communities most impacted in the discussion about how to re-imagine our Police Department. This is one step towards moving forward with a Police department that is responsive to the health and safety needs of our communities of color.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160