

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 2A Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:13:12 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Ryan Elward and I am a resident of District 4.

Recently I started researching deaths while in police custody here in Sonoma County. I came across a list put together by a member of our community. The first person I researched on the list of 91 deaths was a 30 year old Black man, Terry Lee Grinner, who in 2005 was shot and killed while fleeing from police here in Rohnert Park. The officer involved was none other than Jacy Tatum.

By 2005 Members of our community had already voiced concerns for community oversight of our public safety department. They were largely ignored. Had there been community involvement and appropriate oversight officer Tatum may have been dismissed or gone through the proper training to ensure he is held to the standard becoming of a peace officer.

As we all know this officer has went on to cause the city of Rohnert Park millions of dollars in damages from a number of other acts of misconduct. This is not a judgment of what did or did not happen in this particular situation but had oversight been involved we wouldn't be where we are today.

For the record Mr. Mackenzie was the mayor at the time. The continual silence and sweeping under the rug from this council is no longer excusable regardless of claims to the otherwise. I demand that more than just working towards My Brother's Keeper Alliance we have direct community involvement and oversight of our department. It goes without saying that our police cannot police themselves. An in-house system is what allows for systemic problems to continue. The City Council cannot police the police. It must be done working with members of our community including our Latino population.

Sincerely,

John Ryan Elward

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Envoyé avec Gmail Mobile

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 2A Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 9:43:23 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my perspective on the mayor's signing of the "My Brother's Keeper Pledge". While a nice gesture, it is just that. The pledge is overly vague and will generate no real results without a task force, action items and deadlines. I would encourage you to review the linked guidelines for developing civilian oversight. This document gives a framework for creating real change, rather than simply making a pledge of good behavior, which we have heard before. A pledge means nothing without action. We know it holds you to nothing specific. The citizens of Rohnert Park deserve better. For too long have these kinds of efforts been managed by folks within Public Safety. Any task force for this job should be comprised of a majority of civilians. It is time to have oversight of the department by the people they serve and who pay their salaries.

[https://www.nacole.org/steps?](https://www.nacole.org/steps?fbclid=IwAR0iSVpURBg5FEhWhbg7lu511h6QGtHXnJmeoNOZCNLo9eMyKyBuuxqxmWA)

[fbclid=IwAR0iSVpURBg5FEhWhbg7lu511h6QGtHXnJmeoNOZCNLo9eMyKyBuuxqxmWA](https://www.nacole.org/steps?fbclid=IwAR0iSVpURBg5FEhWhbg7lu511h6QGtHXnJmeoNOZCNLo9eMyKyBuuxqxmWA)

If you make a call for a group of citizens to participate today, as stated in Step 1, I'm sure there will be a large group of residents willing to come forward.

Fortunately, there are things you can do today that will have a lasting impact on our community. The eight items listed below are all items that the city council and mayor have the power to change today.

1. Banning chokeholds and strangleholds
2. Requiring de-escalation
3. Requiring a warning before shooting
4. Exhausting all alternatives before shooting
5. Duty to intervene
6. Banning shooting at moving vehicles
7. Establishing a use of force continuum
8. Require that all use of force be reported

I would encourage you to adopt these 8 items. That action will demonstrate to the community that you are committed to change and to preventing unnecessary use of force in Rohnert Park.

Elizabeth Craven

S Section - 12 year resident

*"It had long come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things." — Leonardo Da Vinci*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 6/16 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 2A. Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:07:43 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Jim Duffy. Live in the M Section.

Given the Council's over 20 year long denial of Civilian Oversight for the Rohnert Park Police, called for in the May 2000 California Advisory Committee to the the US Civil Rights Commission report (and repeated by community members scores of times since in Public Comments, Town Halls, and letters to Councilmembers), I am highly skeptical of your commitment to accomplishing anything other than an eventual Photo Opportunity and Press Release, used to pretend you care, from your "commitment" to the "Brothers Keepers Alliance Pledge".

Reviewing and rewriting Use of Force policies is no small task that can be accomplished by untrained City Staff with a Town Hall or two. Civilian Oversight Agencies around the country regularly spend six months to 3 years with trained volunteers and staff to accomplish the task. There are literally thousands of pages of documents to be digested, and massive public outreach and education efforts to be accomplished to do the job correctly. I know, I served on the County's Community Advisory Council that produced the last set of Use of Force recommendations for the Sheriff's Office.

If you are going to shortcut the process then look at Campaign Zero's "8 Can't Wait" policies, implement them and be done with it (SKIP THE PHOTO OP!). Otherwise it is time to begin the process (which will take 6 to 18 months) of establishing Civilian Oversight for the Rohnert Park Police, at which point that body should take up their Use of Force policies as it's first item.

There are hundreds of Civilian Oversight Agencies around the United States and no two are alike. President Obama's 21st Century Policing Task Force recommended:

"Some form of civilian oversight of law enforcement is important in order to strengthen trust with the community. Every community should define the appropriate form and structure of civilian oversight to meet the needs of that community."

It is past time for Rohnert Park to have the conversation to determine what is truly appropriate Civilian Oversight for our city. Please commit to starting that process now. Thank you.

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Jim Duffy



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 2A - Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 8:35:19 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Tracy Si and I live in District 2. I stand with my fellow Rohnert Park residents against racial injustice and racism in any form. This past weekend's peaceful march from the Community Center to the Public Safety Building quad was so powerful. Hearing each of the speaker's personal experiences really brings home the fact that racism is alive in our beautiful city of Rohnert Park. This is not acceptable and can no longer be tolerated. I was pleased to see three of you at the march with us.

Items 2A and 2B on tonight's agenda are important steps for this city on these topics and I am glad to see this council take them on. My hope is that you will indeed listen to input from our community, make a plan to address the issues, and be transparent in your efforts throughout the process. We must all come together to make real change...now is the time for our leaders to lead. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Tracy Si  
District 2

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Public Comment](#)  
Subject: Agenda Item 2A  
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:02:10 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Good Afternoon,

I am glad to see that after 20 years we are able to continue the discussion. I am hoping that this will lead to actions and not simply talking.

The excessive use of force by our law enforcement has been going on for too long. The system needs to change. A public safety officer who violates the oath he/she took, must be held accountable. We should not avoid investigating all allegations of misconduct, or convincing any public safety found guilty of those allegations, to the point of keeping them at work. Everyone needs to be held accountable for his/her actions.

We demand

- That the community be part of the solution
- We also demand that the city create an oversight committee that will be composed of people from the community that will work closely with the public safety and council members.
- The oversight committee has to be inclusive and diverse. We want to make sure that the problem is taking care of by the people that understand the real situation, and not a group of white people trying to fix the problem for us. (Blacks, Latino, and other minorities)
- Each officer needs to go through a more intense screening system in order to identify if the candidate shows some bias, prejudice about race, religion, or gender.
- We demand that a mandatory requirement of re-credential for each officer be done every two years. The officer who fails to comply should be terminated immediately.
- We demand that the public safety officer's record be made available to the public.
- We need to have ongoing discussions about how to provide a change in our town.

Our community needs to have a voice and a seat during this challenging time. Together we can make a real change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Elward.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 2A  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:32:01 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

We desperately need Civilian Oversight and research-backed policies enacted for the safety and wellbeing of the residents of Rohnert Park. A generic pledge is not enough. We need actual action in the form of policies that research shows are effective, such as the 8 policies from [8 Can't Wait](#). The argument is not whether this is needed here in Rohnert Park; it desperately is needed. Please listen to the discomfort, pain, and fear from black residents and other people of color. Please begin the difficult process of making real change. Thank you.

Sarah Griffith  
L Section resident

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Items 2A and 2B Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:21:21 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear City Council Members -

What a week! From the council's decision to leave an ordinance in place that systematically hinders a disadvantaged community, to a weekend's historic protest in support of racial justice, to today's meeting discussing public outreach on both topics. What a difference a week makes.

FAIR-RP applauds the council's interest to engage the community in the review of city policies and practices to achieve fairness, and community outreach in support of by-district elections.

We strongly encourage the city to break all the rules like it never has before in the review of policy and practices.

- Form a committee that includes citizen participation in those reviews.
- Create safe ways for people to share how a city practice, policy or interaction sold them short in any way.
- Find examples of systemic racism and use them as teachable examples so all RP citizens begin to understand how pervasive it really is.

Commit to really hear what the public brings forward and don't rationalize it away. Each voice is equally important. Commit to take action and not discount views that may differ from your perspective. After all, the people's perspective is the one you should represent.

You must move fast to reach out on district elections. FAIR-RP has begun increasing awareness in all voting districts.

- A FAIR-RP member posted a short 30-sec video, in both English and Spanish, explaining district elections on the District 2, Rohnert Park Facebook page. This is a great example of how social media short messaging can be used to build awareness.
- Double down on FAIR-RP's lead and add more to social media channels.
- Tap into the churches and service clubs in RP and provide easy to use communication tools to get the word out in all languages.
- Use the Friday Farmers Market to staff a booth with educational material.

Most importantly, show us you are committed to the democratic process and seek out and encourage candidates from the 3 districts that will vote in 2020.

FAIR-RP is ready to lean in and help.

Submitted by Chris Borr on behalf of FAIR-RP's Membership

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Mtg - public comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:38:58 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Regarding Council meeting June 16th Item 2A -

In light of recent events that have uncovered much brutality and unequal treatment by law enforcement, I am writing to ask that you begin discussions on the Appropriate Form and Structure of Civilian Oversight for Rohnert Park Police! This Brothers Keeper "pledge" is an unacceptable substitute for a true civilian oversight board. We can no longer sit by and allow certain members of society to be treated differently than others in their interactions with law enforcement, as a racist system is normalized.

Thank you, Krista Martinussen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Agenda Item 2A  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:15:26 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Council Members - It has been my misfortune to have attended many City Council meetings at which you sat stone-faced as the distraught family members of Branch Wroth begged you to even discuss creating a community oversight body for your Public Safety Department. And now we're supposed to believe that you suddenly care.

I've seen nothing from this Council for the past twenty years that would give even a hint that you care.

Twenty years ago, the California Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said that the City of Rohnert Park was in need of community oversight of its Public Safety Department and for twenty years, the City Council has refused. It has been explained to you, since well before the killing of Branch, how fundamental such an oversight body can be to the safety of both the residents and law enforcement officers. And you never cared.

Go ahead and endorse the Brother's Keeper's Oath, but do not hide behind it as though your job is done. Use it as a springboard to prove that you do care and agendize a discussion of a community oversight board and commit to creating such a board - one with real teeth. The rogue behavior of your officers has been on display for all to see. It's time for you to say, on behalf of the residents of Rohnert Park, that it matters to you. Real teeth; not lip service.

Susan Lamont

Santa Rosa resident who cares about people in your city, whether they are residents or visitors from elsewhere

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Agenda Item 2B- Public Comment (sorry it was Agenda Item 2A)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:03:28 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

My apologies. The agenda item I submitted was supposed to be for Agenda Item 2A not 2B. I'll send a separate one for 2B.

Thank you,  
Holly Neal

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** publiccomment@rpcity.org  
**Sent:** 6/15/2020 2:42:25 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 2B- Public Comment

I am glad to see a Special Meeting of the City Council is being held to discuss a Community Engagement Plan to Review City Policies and Practices to Achieve Greater Equality. I feel it is important that the status of those activities and the City's support for the Black Lives Matter movement be posted on the City's website so that anyone looking for it can find it. I'm also hoping that the process will be community based and will listen to and give the most weight to the People of Color in our community.

Thank you,  
Holly Neal  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Police Officers vs your "motto"  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:03:29 PM

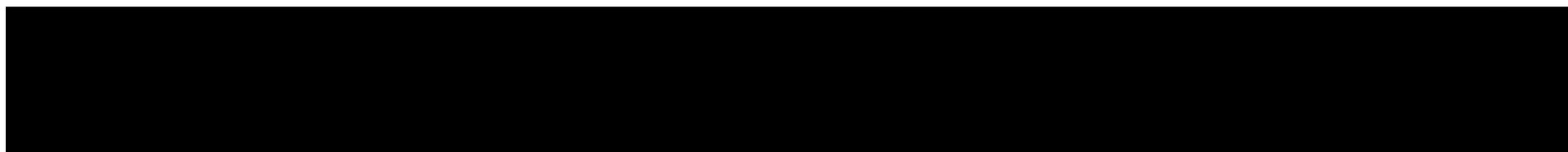
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EXTERNAL EMAIL

You'll see the attached pictures, one of your public motto as well as a Facebook screen shot of one of your officer's public Facebook pages where he noted he worked for, "Waste Management" while working for your very department. I believe he now works for another neighboring agency, but do you feel we should have our "peace officers" with that mindset? That we the public are "Waste" which I could assume means trash?

I'd appreciate your insight

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



Add Friend



Message



Works at Waste Management



*"We Care for Our Residents by Working Together to Build a Better Community for Today and Tomorrow."*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** June 16, 2020 Town Hall Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 8:19:48 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Why has Rohnert Park denied civilian oversight for over 20 years? In May 2000 US commission of civil rights recommended civil oversight of the Police Department and it has not occurred. A federal magistrate judge ruled there are systemic problems with Police training yet this has not been addressed nor corrected. These actions need to be taken immediately as it is the civil duty of police officers to protect the people, yet when there is a neglect in that, it's their own department that protects them. Why is the city of Rohnert Park aiding in protecting the police instead of it's residents? What has been suggested by a US commissioner as well as a judge has not been taken into account and we the tax paying people of Rohnert Park demand to know why and when will these changes be implemented.

Thank you,  
RP Resident

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** June 16, Agenda Item 2A - Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 7:11:27 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

It's difficult to state my opinion or reaction to yours since a written staff report was not made available prior to the meeting; however, this is too important of an issue to stay silent on.

I hope this, at least 3 years overdue, meeting and the conversation had here is only the first chapter in a very lengthy book.

One meeting or signature can not undo years and years and years of unjust policies and treatment of Black people.

I encourage you to push through the discomfort and demand courageous conversations from each other that lead to action and real change in Rohnert Park.

AND

I urge you to seek council from our Black leaders and community members. Use your privilege to amplify the Black voice, not your own.

Your City is watching you and we are waiting to see the next chapter.

Julie M. Royes  
W Section, Rohnert Park

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** My Brother's Keeper Pledge is a Good Second Step  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:49:31 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Council Members:

In the name of making genuine community engagement possible, I implore you to commission the creation of a civilian oversight body for the city's police department. From Minneapolis to Atlanta to Rohnert Park, large swaths of our nation's citizenry live in fear of law enforcement—and for just reason. Why is this? What type of country are we? I can still vividly remember when, as an SSU student in 1997, I learned of the Rohnert Park police shooting a Taiwanese man for wielding a broomstick! And, nothing appears to have changed since then.

Community engagement will be truly meaningful when police-community relations are healthy, and you can only achieve this after trust is generated between the two sides.

Problems will not go away by pretending they do not exist. If you care about the sanctity of life, prevent the next law enforcement killing of an innocent citizen by making it possible that we police the police.

The My Brother's Keeper pledge is just pretty words on a page if the community lives in fear of its police force.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Persico

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Public Comment](#)  
Subject: Police brutality comment  
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:33:06 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

[publiccomment@rpcity.org](mailto:publiccomment@rpcity.org) prior

**Public Comment speaking to police brutality.**

Sent a comment to VP Moore and Cotati City Council, on this topic and then saw this, from my friend William Prouty:

**Case 3:20-cv-03414-JSC**

**Case of Christopher James Alcala senselessly brutalized by police right here in Rohnert to the point that he had to be twice hospitalized.**

**HOW DARE YOU USE MY TAX DOLLARS TO PAY COPS TO BEAT UP MY FELLOW TAX PAYERS, WHEN THEY'VE COMMITTED NO CRIME?!**

**When police officers say that someone called in someone looking suspicious, that is a phrase so nebulous in that context as to have NO MEANING, and "looking suspicious" is NOT A CRIME.**

**HOW DARE RPPD TAKE IT'S CITIZENS FOR IDIOTS?!**

**We know our rights.**

**Black people can walk while Black. Hispanic people can drive while being Hispanic and speaking a foreign language in America isn't a crime either.**

**We don't have to answer questions unless we're being arrested, and we know that officers have to be able to cite the name and number of the crime that we're committing.**

**Kneeling during the anthem, walking or driving while Black, Hispanic or Asian and speaking foreign languages on American soil aren't crimes.**

**Kneeling on someone's neck because he was peacefully protesting or looked like a suspect that was described to you earlier IS.**

**I would go to jail for doing that to your grandmother.**

**Officer Garber and Corp. Deaton should go to jail for nearly killing Christopher Alcala, when they falsely detained him, beating him in the process to the point where he had to be hospitalized TWICE, and nearly died from the brain hemorrhage caused by their senseless police brutality.**

**HOW DARE YOU PAY THEM FOR THAT, WITH MY TAX DOLLARS, INSTEAD OF PROSECUTING THEM.**

**STOP IT.**

**Qualified Immunity too often protects police officers like Garber and Deaton.**

**END IT.**

**[publiccomment@rpcity.org](mailto:publiccomment@rpcity.org) prior**

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**where he had to be hospitalized TWICE, and nearly died from the brain hemorrhage caused by their senseless police brutality.**

**HOW DARE YOU PAY THEM FOR THAT, WITH MY TAX DOLLARS, INSTEAD OF PROSECUTING THEM.**

**STOP IT.**

**Qualified Immunity too often protects police officers like Garber and Deaton.**

**END IT.**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Items 2A and 2B, depending on which you are addressing  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 8:42:09 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear City Council Members -

My name is Rebekah Hansen and I am a District 1 Rohnert Park resident.

I am encouraged to see items 2A and 2B on the agenda today. I believe they are vital steps in addressing racial injustice in our community.

Item 2A calls for a Community Engagement plan as part of a review of city policies and practices. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen closely to the community you serve. I hope that you don't silence a single voice, that you seek out our community members and work together on how to address these important issues.

In regards to Item 2B, it is critical for the city to go all in NOW so citizens understand by-district elections. Reach broadly in English and Spanish and other languages. Use multiple ways and channels to get the word out. Encourage candidates to step forward and support them.

The FAIR-RP group can be a great resource for you and the city on this journey. I encourage you to make political office friendly in the Friendly City and make Rohnert Park fair and inclusive.

Rebekah Hansen

District 1

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Today's Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:59:44 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020

To the City Clerk,

I submit the following comment to be included in this afternoon's Special City Council meeting in relation to Agenda Item A: Update on Draft Community Engagement Plan

Regarding Reviewing City Policies and Practices to Achieve Greater Equality

Signed,

Will Prouty(resident of Cotati, CA)

COMMENT BELOW:

Thank you to Mayor Callinan and the City Council for taking my comment.

My name is Will Prouty. I am a resident of your neighboring city, Cotati.

I call on this body and Public Safety Director Mattos to re-evaluate the Rohnert Park Public Safety's Use of Force policies. A useful framework is presented on [8cantwait.org](http://8cantwait.org), a project of Campaign Zero. Campaign Zero was founded in 2015 by activists to reduce the number of police killings, which disproportionately affect minority communities. These reforms are data-based objectives examining best practices currently in place by major American police departments. Departments that adopt these policies are significantly less likely to experience these traumatic events. These policies are shown to increase officer safety and have no negative effect on crime rate. I would like to see RPPS adopt the following policies in the interest of community safety

1)The requirement to de-escalate situations when possible.

2) The establishment of a Use of Force Continuum that explicitly defines which tactics are appropriate based on a subject's level of resistance. Coupled with a policy of De-Escalation, this would require officers to scale down uses of force in proportion to increased compliance during an encounter.

3) The ban of chokeholds. I move for the ban of these holds or their classification as a use of Deadly Force, at a minimum.

4)The requirement that Deadly Force may be used only after all possible alternatives are exhausted.

5) Finally, The requirement of documentation of any use of force, including the brandishing of a police weapon to initiate compliance. I believe this reporting should be transparent and available to the public. Documenting uses of force could help the city to avoid costly litigation.

I ask you to place on the agenda an objective review of these policies, which includes

community members. Currently, your policy is written by Lexipol to provide a framework in line with current legal requirements. It does not take into account community concerns. More stringent policies must be adopted in a hybrid approach, tailored to community needs.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 4:14:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [Address to board.docx](#)

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Why did it take almost a month to address community engagement, equality, and racism in systematic institutions in our community? Racism in general, why did it take you so long? My life is statistically more at risk today in society than ever before in my life, why? The color of my skin. Many of your constituents are concerned about the shift society is experiencing in accountability and acceptance of direct and institutional racism in the community. I've had the police called on me, been the target of harassment by neighbors, and had the safety of my community threatened by the elected officials' neglect to address long standing issues. The fact that our elected officials haven't issued any public statements, plans, or resolutions has me questioning, do you think the citizens of Rohnert Park aren't smart, progressive, and comprehensive enough to know that this isn't a far away issue? That's a privilege I do not get! This is an issue in our community, in the public safety policies and practices, in organizations and businesses that we depend on to provide services, in the local government, in our elected officials. As a Black underrepresented Rohnert Park resident I say, we have the right to have equal, justifiable and equitable representation in the roles our government takes in implementing reform to public policy, practices, and oversight. As I speak before you, I'm resolved to speak my realities to a not so diverse body of government, the time has come. I need to use my voice! With the support of my community, organizations and citizens who want to see these issues addressed. My last question to city council, as we experience this global changing of societal expectations when it comes to liberty, equality and justice in the United States do you want to progress and accept help or do you want to continue doing things the way you've always done them? And what works? If there won't be any engagement with the community that has been trying to communicate with you, we will elect the correct leaders for the tasks.

Sent from my iPhone

Why did it take almost a month to address community engagement, equality, and racism in systematic institutions in our community? Racism in general, why did it take you so long? My life is statistically more at risk today in society than ever before in my life, why? The color of my skin. Many of your constituents are concerned about the shift society is experiencing in accountability and acceptance of direct and institutional racism in the community. I've had the police called on me, been the target of harassment by neighbors, and had the safety of my community threatened by the elected officials' neglect to address long standing issues. The fact that our elected officials haven't issued any public statements, plans, or resolutions has me questioning, do you think the citizens of Rohnert Park aren't smart, progressive, and comprehensive enough to know that this isn't a far away issue? That's a privilege I do not get! This is an issue in our community, in the public safety policies and practices, in organizations and businesses that we depend on to provide service, in the local government, in our elected officials. As a Black underrepresented Rohnert Park resident I say, we have the right to have equal, justifiable and equitable representation in the roles our government takes in implementing reform to public policy, practices, and oversight. As I speak before you, I'm resolved to speak my realities to a not so diverse body of government, but the time has come. I need to use my voice and with the support of my community, organizations and people that want to see these issues addressed. For my last question to city council, as we experience this global changing of societal expectations when it comes to liberty, equality and justice in the United States do you want to progress and accept help or do you want to continue doing things the way you've always done them, and what works? If there won't be any engagement with the community that has been trying to communicate with you, we will elect the correct leaders for the tasks.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Civilian Oversight for RP police  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:21:28 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Hello:

I'm writing to submit a public comment on your upcoming Agenda Item 2A:

**It is imperative that City Council immediately discuss appropriate form and structure of Civilian Oversight for the Rohnert Park Police!**

It was a good start when RP City Council approved a review of the City's policies and practices to achieve greater equality, and approved a robust plan for community engagement.

In addition to listening to community members' experiences with police - most especially underrepresented communities such as Black, LatinX, LGBTQ, etc. - the City must give any civilian oversight body real power to hold police accountable for misconduct, and see that policies are remade to be more transparent, egalitarian, and fair so that ALL of us can be protected by the very people whose job it is to protect us!

Thanks,

Irene Barnard

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent: Mental Health Support and Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:02:35 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

As a resident of Rohnert Park for the last 6 years it has become more than apparent that the aid we have for our citizens suffering from mental health issues is close to nonexistent. As a mother and with a family member that has mental illness. Time and time again we have been deserted without the requested and needed assistance for this young man. Without proper police training for mental health crisis and the lack of sensitivity with de-escalation the challenges were often escalated.

There are too many restrictions for the Mobile Support Team in Rohnert Park and other surrounding cities. It seems virtually impossible to have a cohesive program and understanding of these residents with a dividing city line that separates the mobile support unit beyond Santa rosa. Additionally, with such limited hours how are we to help our community in such times of need? We need funding and a comprehensive mental health program 24/7 that reports, transports and facilitates the best care for our residents to local hospitals. We need ongoing coordinated real-life representation from our police department and city with The Mental Health Board of Sonoma County addressing these challenges urgently. Please we implore you as a department and city to take any and all needed action to become involved with answering to the needs of our community as soon as possible. I would like to offer my time, assistance, representation and fundraising abilities as well.

Sincerely,

Lisa C. Kleckner  
[REDACTED]  
Rohnert Park, Ca  
6/16/20

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment; Dept Of Public Safety](#)  
**Subject:** We need Mental Health Advocacy from Rohnert Park Police and Community  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:10:38 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

“Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. adults live with a mental illness” according to the National Institute of Mental Health, a government agency.

1/5 of Rohnert Park’s current reported population is 8, 658 people.

My brother is one individual in our county living with a mental health disorder.

Unfortunately, he has repeatedly been failed by our local police force, mental health agencies, hospitals, and housing programs, mainly due to lack of education, communication, and funding.

I pray repeatedly that he is not shot and that his life is not ended as a result of suicide.

With so many individuals affected, and from every race, gender, and background, including black, white, indigenous, latino, asian, we need to have dedicated mental health training for each and every member of the police force.

We need compassionate, informed, individuals who are both qualified and present at all times for our population experiencing mental health distress at any given time.

I am asking with urgency that in addition to training for the entire force, there be a minimum of 2 individuals who have received training in mental health advocacy and de-escalation from external mental health experts, above and beyond the police academy’s mandatory mental health training.

These representatives should consult with our local mental health agencies often, they should be called or present on every call related to mental health in our county and there should be a thorough report stating the connection between the individual in need and the fact that it was a mental health call.

This training and these accurate reports can SAVE lives. Empathetic protocols that speak to the vulnerable needing assistance should be taken over intimidation, force or violence, at all times.

We need access to Santa Rosa’s ACCESS team and mental health advocacy 24/7, not just during limited hours or in different counties that don’t address the very real needs of our local Rohnert Park citizens in the thousands.

While there are many additional solutions that need to be explored, I believe these immediate actions can truly help our community be seen, heard, and attended to.

Thank you sincerely,  
Maria  
Rohnert Park, CA  
6/16/20