

October 21, 2020 Community Town Hall Breakout Room Questions

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS ALL QUESTIONS ASKED IN ALL THREE BREAKOUT ROOMS OF THE COMMUNITY TOWN HALL. TO SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS, PLEASE SEE [COMMUNITY TOWN HALL FAQs](#)

Questions from the Districts 1 and 2 Break Out Room are in Turquoise

Questions from the District 3 Break Out Room are in Plum

Questions from the Districts 4 and 5 Break Out Room are in Peach

OVERALL FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Jenna Judge 06:49 PM

Also, I don't think the presentation provided a very clear breakdown summary of the proposed budget, so it's challenging to provide feedback now.

Elizabeth Bowman 06:50 PM

Isn't this accurate?

Budget changes by city department:

- 9.8% decrease in the library budget
- 1.7% decrease in neighborhood and community services
- 2.2% decrease in community and economic development
- 0.7% decrease in Police
- 34% of the general fund budget goes to supporting the police department

Gina 07:03 PM

I noticed on one slide during the presentation, the court and one other office were losing staff. Why couldn't something be done to save those jobs?

Dee Sonntag (LASR) 07:05 PM

How can the City justify less than a million budgeted for both: Homeless affordable housing services and humans right supports?

Jonathan Pottle 07:16 PM

Then why is there not more money in the budget for affordable housing?

Kit Burns 06:42 PM

What is the status of the Special Transportation District? It is supposed to go for 10 years. It started in 2012. Yet the apparent last budget was in 2018. Is it still ongoing? Does it need to be renewed? Who is holding it accountable?

James H

Except these aren't equally sized departments! Wouldn't a small cut to police more than fund all of these other services we want?

18:46:24 From Lyndsay Gordon (she/hers) to All panelists : Has COVID provided any specific budget innovations for this budget, as far as doing things differently? Are things change permanently or just until we recover from COVID?

18:49:26 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : Why the reduction in library and fire services when the community--particularly our black and brown community members--have been calling for defunding the police?

18:51:52 From Holly Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Please allocate police funds to the utilities and keep rates low. Threatening our personal budgets for HOUSING with higher utility rates to fund police only exacerbates an already dire situation.

18:53:42 From Holly Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Stable housing, access to medical care, access to food significantly reduces crimes of poverty. How are we going to make these things a priority in Tacoma's city budget?

18:56:16 From Laurie Arnold to All panelists : When we have a budget deficit why are we approving hefty raises for admin personnel, such as the City Manager, who already makes over \$200,000 a year? Why are we talking about reducing the library funding which might mean layoffs and furloughs of front line staff? Why not forgo giving raises to people who already earn more than enough in order to preserve essential services and personnel?

19:09:34 From Devin Rydel Kelly : So wait... what's the difference between library positions cut and police positions cut then?

19:11:20 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Ironically, you could probably cut an additional 5 or 6 police FTE and cover all 22 of the library staff cut.

19:11:45 From Cody Bakken : Yes, actually, @Devin. The numbers agree.

19:11:45 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : or the 4 million dollars going to increase the budget of the city manager's office....

19:13:15 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police : We do not have a lack of resources. We have MILLIONS of dollars tied up in the police department. We have a problem of allocation.

19:13:33 From Darrylynn (they,them) : Exactly, Katie!

19:14:02 From Cody Bakken : You could double the library budget by taking a slice of the police budget without significant impact to police efforts.

19:15:53 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : HOT Team funding would fund the library cuts

moli benitez 06:44 PM

Hello!

We are Molly Benitez and Sulan Mlynarek. We live in districts Ushka and Beale's districts. We feel frustrated with the budget. We do not understand how the city could expand the police wages and budget, and city manager raise, while cutting the services we desperately need- especially the library.

why would you budget to reduce services at the library when people need access to expansive programing right now? why would you increase the amount of our tax dollars going to the police when they do nothing for covid and our communities? and why havent manny ellis killers been fired?

katherinewiley - Defund the police 06:48 PM

How much room is there to revise the budget at this point? For example, I am concerned about cuts to libraries and would like more funds diverted to homelessness and affordable housing. I was surprised that the police budget was funded at 34% of the general fund, the same percentage as last year. How can we further trim this budget to better fund the services that are so important to our community?

defund tpd kosnjek 06:51 PM

is there a cost comparison between social services for one individual vs. the cost of policing the same person?

defund tpd kosnjek 06:54 PM

we want reallocation not slashing

liz 06:54 PM

Can we look at reallocating funds away from fire and police where 3 sections of the city's income comes solely to fund them? That's insane that property, business and parts of utility funds these services...

defund tpd kosnjek 06:55 PM

spending "rent and grocery money" on "security" is the wrong wy

18:45:32 From Passia Abraham to All panelists : If you're in a budget crisis, why did the city manager get a raise? Is her salary more important than housing the houseless?

18:51:11 From moli benitez to All panelists : On the Budget Tool the city offered it showed \$500,000 going to affordable housing. You can say you're putting efforts towards housing/homelessness but what is \$500,000 compared to the 172,000,000 (172M) going to police?

19:21:56 From SENC o to All panelists : I love libraries and especially librarians, so this will be a controversial comment, but I wonder if focusing on getting everyone internet access and devices to get on the internet might be more valuable and effective in connecting Tacomans to greater opportunity

REVENUE

Adrienne 06:48 PM

Is there still a possibility of increasing revenue to prevent cuts to essential services? For instance, getting funding from the feds as a part of a stimulus package or new taxes locally?

Vince Kueter 06:57 PM

Although the pandemic has had a broad impact on our economy and depressed revenue sources - as well as not wanting to burden workers and businesses during a downturn - is there balanced attention to the revenue side and not just the expenditure side so that some cuts could be mitigated?

Yvonne McCarty 07:01 PM

From a revenue standpoint, why do commercial and industrial businesses get a huge utility rate break that the residential customers don't get? Why not ask them to pay their fair share?

Nathan Schumer 07:01 PM

could the city use the taxing authority in Kunath v. City of Seattle for a graduated tax on incomes?

Adrienne 07:03 PM

Follow up: Is tax reform at the state level a part of the Council's advocacy agenda with the state legislature? We're limited in taxes we can implement locally because our whole state's tax system is so regressive.

Vince Kueter 07:07 PM

Could we take a look at revising tax abatements so that all property owners pay their fair share?

Mo J 07:16 PM

Where are you getting your data about commercial building bringing in more revenue than we're losing by not fairly taxing?

Nathan Schumer 07:16 PM

could we use the income taxing authority in Kunath v. City of Seattle to tax wealthier Tacomans? Jenny Durkan had a plan to use this authority...

POLICE: BODY WORN CAMERAS

Alexa 06:52 PM

Has TPD's Civil Asset Forfeiture (seizure funds) been taken into consideration for funding body cameras?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:58 PM

Can we fund body cams exclusively with money from cutting FTE positions?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:59 PM

(That was FTE police positions)

19:08:56 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Can we fund body cams exclusively with money from cutting FTE positions?

19:09:37 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : Body cameras is not a transformative anti-racist measure!

Anonymous Attendee 06:46 PM

Do you honestly believe that body cameras would end the blatant racism and murder by the city police force?

Anonymous Attendee 06:53 PM

Also, why are we implementing body cams even though the data shows that this program is unsuccessful in most cities it's implemented in?

Anonymous Attendee 06:54 PM

But we are spending MILLIONS of dollars on cameras. Where is the accountability? Will officers be automatically fired if they TURN THEM OFF? They have been proven to NOT do a darn thing, so it seems like a waste of money. Especially since we still have MURDERERS working for the city

Anonymous Attendee 06:59 PM

Is one staff person (per the budget projections) enough staff to review and analyze police body cam data?

19:03:24 From defund tpd kosnjek : cameras without enforcement just makes us watch. how do we get a response from the armed members of our society?

POLICE: COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS

Yvonne McCarty 07:07 PM

Are there going to be any impacts to the TPD CLO coverage with these cuts? Our CLO (Ryan Beck) is a rockstar!

Anonymous Attendee 07:10 PM

what is CLO?

Debbie 06:42 PM

Will there be changes to the CLO Program?

leroy 06:44 PM

Are you planning to remove or reduce any CLO positions? Will you be restoring the polices ability to tow RVs and Cars that have expired tabs. It is fristrating that an RV can repeatedly return to a location without being towed even when know to be a ceneter for drugs and theft/crime.

POLICE: CRIME

Jonathan Pottle 06:49 PM

We're not having a historic level of crime in the city. Councilmember Thoms may benefit from lessons in history and perhaps math.

Tynan Ramm-Granberg 06:50 PM

Can Councilmember Thoms cite his sources for the claim of a "huge increase in crime"?

Leah Smillie 06:50 PM

Thoms justified the police dept. budget due to "rising crime rates." After all the discussions we've had over these months, do you still think more cops are the best solution to lowering crime?

Adrienne 06:52 PM

In response to the CM's comments: What data indicates we're experiencing "historic levels of crime?" I'd also push back on the implication that simply increasing police budgets leads to less crime.

Yvonne McCarty 06:55 PM

NE Tacoma has had growth in property crime, while at the same time have felt like we have really thin police services for the size of our community. How will these budget cuts affect the police services to our area?

Jonathan Pottle 06:57 PM

"we can't stop murdering people immediately. whatever would we do" come on

Anonymous Attendee 06:57 PM

Is it possible for residents to vote for police levels in their neighborhoods and the ones that don't to have lower police presence

Sally Perkins 07:07 PM

It is impossible to assess 2020 crime numbers without taking into account the immense emotional cost of the COVID emergency and restrictions. The State DOH does a bi-weekly behavioral health assessment and we are in one of the real valleys in terms of behavioral health status of WA State communities.

19:03:18 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Dude... there are 15 homicides, Connor. Get your **** together.

19:03:18 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : How many of those homicides have been committed by our police force?

19:03:37 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Like a few weeks ago on a study session when you said "homicides went up 40%". That's a BS.

19:05:26 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Highest homicide rate? Because of police killings? I have looked at the reports and I'm not buying that we are dealing with a drastic spike in homicides

19:05:47 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Dude... there are 15 homicides, Connor. Get your **** together. Like a few weeks ago on a study session when you said "homicides went up 40%". That's a BS. COVID 19 has killed 10 times the number of people who have died in homicides in Tacoma this year.'

19:05:56 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police : How many of those homicides have been committed by our police force?

19:11:30 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Can you please acknowledge that the "rise in crime" you keep referring to McCarthy is highly correlated with homelessness and poverty????

19:12:06 From Darrylynn (they,them) : Crime goes down when peoples basic needs are met. studies have been done. another study will tell you the same.

19:12:21 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Yes, Darrylynn.

Dream Team Hoops NW 06:41 PM

district 5 has seen the most crime in the city. How does/if the budget reflect a plan/efforts to reduce it?

POLICE: FUNDING LEVEL

Jonathan Pottle 06:41 PM

Why is the city only defunding police by a few million, a tiny portion of the police budget, when other departments like the library are taking much larger percentage cuts?

Leah Smillie 06:55 PM

I'm your constituent, Thoms. And I am not just an "activist," I'm a citizen who cares about the community members for whom law enforcement is a threat.

Anonymous Attendee 06:56 PM

911 doesn't even show up when you call them. I am a single female who was being threatened by a male who hit me with his car. Police never showed up when I called, but sure, give them more money to help our "safety."

StripesMcgee 07:09 PM

I understand it takes time to implement these changes, but this budget is for 2 years. How long should we expect before we see actual change with the police's budget?

Laurie Arnold 06:42 PM

What specifically are the reductions in library going to cut and what specifically are the increases in police budget going to pay for?

Anonymous Attendee 06:43 PM

I want less police services than proposed, to be clear about poll choices.

Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez 06:44 PM

How is funding the \$172.32 mil (34%), the largest chunk of the general fund, going towards policing in alignment with the council's priority of Racial Equity (Intentionally work towards overcoming systemic racism and all other forms of oppression with the institution and wider community)?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:46 PM

Is the council willing to go on record and pass a resolution committing to defunding police, not just calling for a study? I'm looking to you folks, Walker and Blocker! I bet Beale would do it, too.

Kayla Quinn 06:47 PM

I am glad to see that police hiring and staffing is being reduced. How else will the budget and the Council continue to reduce the inflated police budget and reallocate these funds to social services?

Kayla Quinn 06:52 PM

CM McCarthy said that all departments will need to have cuts made. It doesn't look like there are being cuts made to the existing police budget, rather cutting future additional staffing. Am I reading that correctly or are there cuts being made to existing police budget?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:53 PM

How much of the police cut is driven by wage freezes and not back-filling old positions? Also, what is the policing cut as a PERCENTAGE VS. other department PERCENTAGES. By my calculations, it's nowhere near what some other departments are losing.

Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE 07:04 PM

The TPD budget has been overall cut by only \$3,183,037. How is this not a larger margin considering a huge portion of their workload has been designated to other departments?

Line by line in comparison to last year's budget, most division programs of TPD see an increased budget

Also seeing budget increases for the police in sections that have been designated to other departments such as homeless outreach and encampment response

2019-2020 budget has a line for SRO program and it is missing from 2020-2021 budget. Does this mean the program has been cut?

Which line item shows the amount allocated to Police for equipment?

18:44:52 From Darryl Colman to All panelists : and please speak to the correlation to the increased funding to the police force addressing the concerns of the community as stated here tonight

18:54:14 From Heather Dagley to All panelists : The community has clearly voiced their concerns about so much of the budget continually going toward policing. Why is City Council keen on "explaining away" the public's perspective on this?

18:56:24 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE to All panelists : The TPD budget has been overall cut by only \$3,183,037. How is this not a larger margin considering a huge portion of their workload has been designated to other departments?

18:57:10 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE to All panelists : Line by line in comparison to last year's budget, most division programs of TPD see an increased budget

18:58:21 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE to All panelists : Also seeing budget increases for the police in sections that have been designated to other departments such as homeless outreach and encampment response

18:59:10 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : What is preventing the city from listening to residents and moving all homeless outreach funding away from the police and into neighborhood and community services?

18:59:44 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE to All panelists : 2019-2020 budget has a line for SRO program and it is missing from 2020-2021 budget. Does this mean the program has been cut?

19:01:12 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE to All panelists : Which line item shows the amount allocated to Police for equipment?

19:05:30 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : The TPD budget has been overall cut by only \$3,183,037. How is this not a larger margin considering a huge portion of their workload has been designated to other departments?

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Which line item shows the amount allocated to Police for equipment

19:06:59 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : This budget still increases homicide division by \$424,761

19:07:12 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Is the council willing to go on record and pass a resolution committing to defunding police, not just calling for a study? I'm looking to you folks, Walker and Blocker! I bet Beale would do it, too.

19:07:32 From Cody Bakken to All panelists : No, they won't.

19:07:46 From Cody Bakken : No, they won't.

19:07:52 From Devin Rydel Kelly : How much of the police cut is driven by wage freezes and not back-filling old positions? Also, what is the policing cut as a PERCENTAGE VS. other department PERCENTAGES. By my calculations, it's nowhere near what some other departments are losing.

19:08:02 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police : I'm assuming most of the cuts are actually from not filling open positions and not giving raises. How does this cut positively impact now after our community after the MANY calls to defund?

19:08:30 From Darryl Colman : I don't understand any rationale that suggests giving MORE money to department when you admit there isn't a plan to address some of the community's concerns. that screams of irresponsibility. government is used to doing more with less. start doing that with the police!!

19:09:02 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : 2019-2020 police budget was \$182701652, 2021-2022 proposed is \$179518615...where are these other cuts?

19:10:23 From Debbie Ranniger : Spending authority is just future funding for staffing. This does not speak to reducing or diverting funding to other sources - such as increasing mental health support or a Crisis Intervention program where a mental health professional goes to nonviolent behavioral health calls, not necessarily police.

19:10:43 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : And police only had a Reduction in hiring staff -\$700K (equivalent to 2 FTE).

19:14:09 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : The city should redirect police monies to these developments.

19:16:34 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : HOT funding is \$2260767 in this proposal

Ben MC 06:47 PM

Could someone please explain to me why after 10s of thousands of emails, calls and protests in the streets to defund TPD the current proposal for TPD is still 34% of the general fund?

katherinewiley - Defund the police 06:53 PM

I echo others' concerns about feeling that the budget does not go far enough in reallocating police funds elsewhere.

Anonymous Attendee 06:59 PM

Please answer my original question. There is over \$173,000,000 that could be used to fund libraries, homelessness, and other social services.

Additionally, the TPDs actions have resulted in a 30 million dollars law suit- who pays for that?

All social services should be funded to pre-Covid levels before TPD gets any funding.

Jennifer Barfield 06:59 PM

The police and fire administration portions of the budget are both separated out from the Community Safety portion of the budget and placed under Organizational Effectiveness & Culture in the Balancing Act Tool. Why is this separated out in the Balancing Act tool, but not the proposed budget? Why is the amount budgeted for Police Administration three times that for Fire Department when Fire employs more people than the Police Department?

Madeleine Spencer 07:14 PM

Would really encourage council to explore more cuts to TPD to make up the budget shortfall

19:01:49 From moli benitez to All panelists : What are the police cuts? The police budget has grown.

POLICE: WAGES

Adrienne 06:56 PM

Can you explain more about the influence of the police union when it comes to determining the dept's budget (especially since personnel costs are a huge portion of the budget)? I'd sincerely like to better understand this.

Tara Brown 06:40 PM

CM Walker, you ran on a progressive platform. How can you support a budget that cuts libraries while allowing a 4% raise for police officers? Will the police who killed Manny Ellis also get a raise?

Anonymous Attendee 06:49 PM

During a national pandemic, housing crisis, surging covid cases, police misconduct, civil unrest, students without access to education services, and a nearly non-existent mental health network, how do you justify raises for the city manager and the police force?

18:49:16 From Tara Brown to All panelists : Do you believe that police should get raises in the midst of a major budget shortfall and cutting library staff? Will the cops who killed Manny Elllis get raises as well?

18:50:37 From Tara Brown to All panelists : Will you commit to voting against a police union contract that allows for raises for police officers?

Saralyn & Noel 06:40 PM

I believe I saw that TPD is getting 4% raises for police union members. How does that fit with the reductions to "staffing" mentioned?

19:10:36 From Saralyn & Noel : I have a question in the Q&A about the police union raise vs the "staffing reduction/freeze" mentioned by Pauli in the budget overview. How does that even work - how do you reduce the staffing power/decision making while also raising pay?

POLICE: TRANSFORMATION

Nathan Schumer 06:48 PM

Why can't the city immediately implement a mental health crisis model like Cahoots and what was recently passed in Denver, San Francisco and Seattle?

Jonathan Pottle 07:00 PM

You have a "study" into reducing police force and to determine what other service providers can take on some of the work that police shouldn't do. Will council pass a resolution to that effect?

Jenna Judge 07:00 PM

If the Mayor is alluding to changing which departments have which services and transforming the approach, shouldn't the city prepare to fund the new ideas to actually support community safety by including a cut to police that would be implemented as soon as possible in the next biennium once solution is identified? Worried that this budget will be approved and police department will allocate spending at that amount, preventing adjustments later.

hannaborgen 07:01 PM

I am not 100% sure how budgets work as this is my first time getting involved. it sounds like you all are saying we have more to decide around mental health services and services around people experiencing homeless and completely removing these from Police hands... i am wondering if once the budget is set- and then we find how we should move forward- are we able to utilize more from the police budget as needed?

Faith Stevens 07:13 PM

Since it sounds like the process of evaluating and prioritizing anti-racism (HEART, etc) has been going on for a long time, why doesn't it seem like any of that impacts the 21/22 budget? It doesn't sound like any police are being laid off, but many other city departments are seeing layoffs. Why are we being asked to wait another 2 years to see needed changes?

stephanie ozuna 07:21 PM

Will there be any investigations on current policy enforcements that have history/ records of racial discrimination.

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:44 PM

Why can't the city immediately implement a mental health crisis model like Cahoots and what was recently passed in Denver, San Francisco and Seattle? Those cities all shifted their budget priorities within a few months. Tacoma could do the same, rather than just commit to studies.

Anonymous Attendee 06:47 PM

I heard that TPD won't be adding new positions, is that correct? Are there any plans to remove officers who have proven themselves dangerous? (And please don't talk about review processes)

Kayla Quinn 07:05 PM

When the calls to police are redirected and reduced, shouldn't the funding also be reduced?

Anonymous Attendee 07:05 PM

if the biggest issue of our police department is the fact that they respond, isnt that a sign that the department itself is the problem??? its not the response systems, its the positions themselves that is corrupt and harmful

18:40:34 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : Why is the city only defunding police by a few million, a tiny portion of the police budget, when other departments are taking much larger percentage cuts?

18:44:54 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : You shared that you will be undergoing a study to further reduce police force to determine other service providers to take those on? Will you go on record and pass a resolution to commit to that?

18:49:32 From Holly Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Domestic violence is devastating for families and communities. Especially when one or more family members are subsequently incarcerated. I am a survivor of domestic abuse and I was terrified to call the police because I felt that the police would only escalate the situation and I had to rely on family for support/housing/protection. How can the city reallocate police funds to families affected by domestic violence? Housing, mental health support, addiction services, social services, etc.

18:55:26 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : Who/which org will be conducting the review of the police? How are you determining which org to use?

18:57:58 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Residents have proposed all sorts of alternatives, and other cities have adopted them VERY QUICKLY and efficaciously. This feels like a cop-out.

18:59:07 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : The current "transformation" efforts are literally upholding status quo. Theres nothing transformation about the plans associated. Body cams are not saving Black and Brown lives, they don't make the judicial system hold officers and police accountable.

19:09:06 From Darrylynn (they,them) : Fund social services to do well checks. Take that money, if that's most of the calls coming in like stated, from the police budget and put it into the things we are asking for! The houseless crisis, libraries, and other social services!

19:14:34 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : TPD Homeless Outreach Team is also seeing an increase in funding though the budget promises those types of services are better suited for other departments

19:15:19 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Can we PLEASE move all HOT team funding out of TPD and get rid of uniformed officers interacting with unhoused folks?

19:15:33 From Devin Rydel Kelly : It would be so easy to do and super quick, and demonstrate your commitment to social and racial justice.

19:15:33 From Cody Bakken : Yes, please.

19:16:13 From Darrylynn (they,them) : Commit to defending HOT team!

defund tpd kosnjek 06:51 PM

when can we bring the police union to negotiate with the public (who they work for)? i feel the union stands in the way of transformation of the budget. many responsibilities have been thrust upon them over the years. but if they wont release funds, how can we move forward with pertinent community funding?

Anonymous Attendee 06:53 PM

Many of us do mean "eliminate the need for the police as a whole" when we say "Defund the Police". We want to completely remove them.

defund tpd kosnjek 06:54 PM

we do want police! yes! they are a huge problem though. both budget and safety in dealing with community

Anonymous Attendee 06:57 PM

21CP did a presentation in a CPAC meeting and they had no plan at that time (July)...how Will Council hold 21CP accountable?

Jason Gauthier 06:59 PM

In the proposed budget I didn't see funding to support additional staffing of the Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC). I know a number of members of that committee that have said that the committee would be more effective with more and consistent city staffing. Has council given any consideration to adding funding to support the committee?

katherinewiley - Defund the police 07:03 PM

I appreciate the work with the body cameras. Thank you for that. One question I have is how much authority does the city council have over the police in general? It sounds like police unions make it very difficult to transfer funds away from the police. Is this the case in Tacoma?

Anonymous Attendee 07:03 PM

Wouldn't it make sense to have mental health providers arrive with the police as they are the first responders? EMS is often second to arrive, and by then is too late to start the deescalation process? Why give EMS more funds?

Anonymous Attendee 07:11 PM

The city manager has continued to ignore calls to fire the four officers that murdered Manny Ellis. Those officers have been on paid vacation since March. Why are tax payers still paying their salaries and why does the City Manager deserve a raise?

18:55:25 From Hayley Harris to All panelists : I am not satisfied with this budget at all. We need to be phasing out the police and not just spending money on cameras will be shut off. There needs to be actual accountability Manuel Ellis has still not received justice and there has been no internal investigation. Why is limiting access to libraries that which is a resource that we ACTAULLY NEED for the community

18:58:11 From Hayley Harris to All panelists : We need to be actively working on abolishing the police

19:02:34 From moli benitez to All panelists : There was a civilian video of Manny Ellis' death and still nothing has come of that.

19:09:16 From defund tpd kosnjek : Bring us the police union to negotiate with the people they work for. this is like negotiating through the hostages...you (the people looking for their endorsement)

19:11:06 From defund tpd kosnjek : how many police calls could be averted (robberies even) by a properly funded drug services alone?

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT

Krystle Edwards 06:43 PM

Can you elaborate on the budget and timeline for the behavioral health unit?

Jason Gauthier 06:54 PM

The city is funding the addition of 7 FTEs to staff a Behavioral Health Response Unit to respond to behavioral health issues in the EMS system. Is 7 an adequate number of staff members to attend to the apparent need?

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sally Perkins 06:46 PM

In the Tuesday study session, Neighborhood and Community Services talked about several studies they are going to do to assess and evaluate their current efforts. Examples: community mobilization, some of the housing activities, etc. Can you elaborate on each/all of the planned NCS studies, when they will be complete, and what impacts you anticipate for the budget and when those impacts might be felt?

Sarah 07:02 PM

I am the Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Program Coordinator (part of the Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County). We, along with many other vital non profit social and human services in Tacoma, receive important funds from the Neighborhood & Community Services fund. I'm advocating that that portion of the budget not be decreased. The programs funded by NCS are able to provide these types of services that are being discussed, in lieu of police response. Collectively, these programs have the experience and expertise to do this work responsibly and effectively.

18:59:10 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : What is preventing the city from listening to residents and moving all homeless outreach funding away from the police and into neighborhood and community services?

19:08:15 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Most "violent crime" is a result of domestic violence. We need social services that support families: Public housing, low utility rates, mental health services, medical services,

addiction services. AND NOT INCARCERATING offenders but rehabilitation so children are not robbed of moms and dads.

19:13:46 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : NCS encampment response is listed twice with two separate amounts. Can you clarify?

19:18:18 From Noelle Kappert (she / her) to All panelists : I've had 5 of my neighbors who are renters get pushed out when the owners sell to small developing home flippers, then the homes get sold for an insane rate. My home in the past year has increased in value by \$60,000, which is great but it isn't helping my community when my neighbors are being pushed out.

Anonymous Attendee 06:39 PM

Can you share what the Community Trauma Response Team will entail?

Anonymous Attendee 06:41 PM

Hi CM Ushka, CM Hunter, CM Beale and Katie and Tammy! Thanks for having a public budget process. Can you tell me if the 2021 -2022 budget has funds allocated for Safe Streets, and if so - have they been reduced/increased/staying the same?

Debbie 06:44 PM

Will Safe Streets be changed in funding?

Anonymous Attendee 06:46 PM

safe street, continuous funding? are they going to continue community support?

april 06:53 PM

Where does Safe Streets fall in the budget? This has been an important program here in Larchmont & needs to be continued for the work being done in the neighborhood.

HOMELESSNESS

Jonathan Pottle 06:43 PM

What is preventing the city from listening to residents and moving all homeless outreach funding away from the police and into neighborhood and community services?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:56 PM

How can we really address homelessness with the miniscule amount budgeted to housing? Couldn't the city meaningfully fund massive amounts of housing by defunding police?

19:10:18 From Devin Rydel Kelly : We have an unhoused residents crisis. We need a massive investment in housing and homeless services, AND for mental health. The only way to get there is a radical shift in budget priorities. This is not that.

19:11:26 From Darrylynn (they,them) : You are NOT doing a good job at sheltering. you are

Nathan Blackmer 06:39 PM

I live in district 4 and I work with the homeless. If homelessness is the number 1 issue reported to the city, how is it that the budget so grossly neglects necessary homeless support? Supportive housing, mental health first aid, shifting resources from policing to social services. When you conflate homelessness with policing you are saying that you want enforcement, not justice. Citizens were clear on the budgetary tool that we wanted funds reallocated away from the police, and that feedback seems to have been ignored.

18:52:29 From Nathan Blackmer : The TEMS site is a start, but it specifically will not serve the chronically homeless, many of which cannot meet the minimum requirements of those sites for a variety of reasons. We don't have a plan for the winter, at a time when COVID has drastically reduced our shelter bed availability.

We need sanctioned encampments, emergency planning, and a sense of urgency towards protecting the lives of our most vulnerable during a pandemic that has been missing.

LIBRARY

Leah Smillie 06:45 PM

I think because before we weren't aware of library funding being cut - especially not by an astronomical amount. We didn't know they were so at risk.

Anonymous Attendee 06:45 PM

I know the library had requested an equity officer. The City has an equity department. Could the library use this?

Alexa 06:46 PM

Library was not a priority for me earlier in the process because I didn't think it would ever be defunded

Kathi Aleman 06:47 PM

The work the library does has become more evident with the Pandemic. Those services always taken for granted before

Kari Whitney 06:48 PM

these are not discrete services. the library plays a large role in the life of people using various social services

Yvonne McCarty 06:51 PM

The TPL website says that due to the budget cuts, they will have to eliminate 20 positions - including 3 of the 6 managers. The Kobetich Library in NE Tacoma is the only city service that is open. With these cuts, we will lose our librarian and 2 members of her staff. This will leave our branch decimated. Our librarian is one of the best city employees that I have ever met. She loves her job, she loves this community, and goes above and beyond for our community. I urge you to find a way to restore funding to the Libraries.

Elizabeth Bowman 06:52 PM

Libraries rank this high for me, but not as change in my opinion from previous surveys, as I am new here and haven't changed my ranking. Also, libraries serve ALL citizens. Also, some advocates for libraries may be more capable of expressing their advocacy?

Michael Sean Sullivan 06:58 PM

As we rebuild our city after COVID how can we reassemble our cultural and educational economies without at least keeping libraries open and staffing

Meghan Mitchell - Defund the Police 07:02 PM

Library services are deeply tied to social services and equitable access to information, education, and technology. Why does the city not consider the interconnected nature of these services when determining the budget?

Laurie Arnold 06:42 PM

What specifically are the reductions in library going to cut and what specifically are the increases in police budget going to pay for?

Ken McDouall 06:42 PM

It seems the budget is singling out the library, which has just barely recovered from 2008. Laying off staff will set the library back years. Please find a way to reduce without losing staff.

Debbie Ranniger 06:43 PM

One of the major goals of this budget is to maintain equitable essential services. The library is considered an essential service. How is this budget equitable when services on the Hilltop and on the Eastside are not equitable and have not been since the libraries closed in 2011? Further cuts to the library make the chance of restoring equity dim.

Kayla Quinn 06:44 PM

Libraries were listed as an essential service - why is staffing being reduced if they are essential?

Anonymous Attendee 06:48 PM

The library provides the greatest amount of digital and learning equity in the city. Keeping the buildings open will mean little without staff to assist and guide people. There is no way the amount of staff reduction won't have massive impacts.

Debbie Ranniger 06:57 PM

Continuing to ignore the shocking lack of library services and access to knowledge and technology on the Eastside and on the Hilltop will do nothing to move this city forward in addressing equity and racism. Quite the opposite.

Cody Bakken 07:03 PM

Part of the library's budget cuts include eliminating the contracted security at specific branches. Why not transfer active police officers to the library budget to serve that function? This would look on paper like a transfer of funds but would still save officer jobs when we don't want to cut any jobs. This would provide the library with its own safety staff who are better trained in safety and peace keeping than private contracted security. Has no one considered shifting people around like this - or is the library not part of the City organization enough to warrant the effort to even consider an out of the box idea?

- 18:56:01 From Janice to All panelists : Didn't the library furlough many of their staff to help with the city budget? Why must they continue to be the department that has significant cuts?
- 19:07:31 From James H : The library also provides key services especially for people experiencing homelessness
- 19:09:13 From Cody Bakken : The library budget cut accounts for 22 positions eliminated.
- 19:09:16 From Ken McDouall : Library staff perform key social service functions. It's not just a room full of books.
- 19:12:37 From Cody Bakken : The library staff are the lowest paid of anyone in the city organization. And the only "Dept" of the city that has part time employees, who do not get any benefits.

Saralyn & Noel 06:41 PM

I find it very strange that budgets for the library is being reduced, while one of the council's stated goals is equity. Libraries provide vital services, especially to minoritized communities. I appreciate that the branch locations will remain open, but it sounds like their resources and functions will be reduced. How do you square that with the "equity focus" of the council's budget?

Anonymous Attendee 06:47 PM

Are libraries facing "rolling closures"? I've heard this means branches will be closed 2 additional days out the year? What will we do for help with school and job search assistance?

Madeleine Spencer 06:54 PM

Would love to see more funds diverted from TPD to fully fund our libraries

18:53:52 From Laura Berry to All panelists : To what extent do you correlate the role that libraries do or do not play in addressing the other prevailing issues prioritized in this survey? Asking my representative, Ushka, then all.

18:55:08 From Laura Berry to All panelists : Question for Councilwoman Hunter: with regard to your opening remarks, how might you assure that library funding can be restored over time?

19:14:08 From liz : We need strong libraries!

19:14:26 From Laura Berry : Library service modifications are not the same as cuts. A cut is what's on the table.

19:14:50 From Saralyn & Noel : You can't have an equity focus and cut funding for libraries

19:15:06 From defund tpd kosnjek : will "books" get you more points than "cops" in scrabble? it will get you more in society

19:17:21 From Saralyn & Noel : The proposed budget goes beyond COVID (hopefully). Will libraries be at the top of the list for that "supplemental" funding during recovery??

19:17:38 From Laura Berry : Seconding

19:17:40 From Tasha W to All panelists : HR consist of one person. IT is 3 people

19:17:58 From defund tpd kosnjek : third

19:18:27 From Saralyn & Noel : I think it might make sense for library HR to go through the city but those other departments....probably make sense to stay there. Does TPU do their own marketing and equity work?

- 19:19:05 From Tasha W to All panelists : the library does pay into a majority of HR and other universal services
- 19:19:15 From Tasha W to All panelists : within the city.
- 19:19:42 From Tasha W to All panelists : yes, TPU does and they're much larger than the Libraries

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Kayla Quinn 06:45 PM

The definition of "affordable housing" isn't realistic or affordable for most - can we focus more on "low income" housing instead?

19:12:24 From Noelle Kappert (she / her) to All panelists : well and outside small developers buying multiple houses to either flip or buying a series of houses and multi family homes next to each other and raising rent

19:12:51 From Devin Rydel Kelly : I worked on the Seattle affordable housing strategy for years. It led to requiring 12% of all MFE going to affordability. It was amazing, but not enough. Our plan is a joke compared to that.

19:13:06 From Holly Rydel Kelly : We need housing supported by the city NOT the profit margins of developers.

19:13:32 From James H : Why is the city not in the business of building housing?

19:13:34 From Devin Rydel Kelly : The only real way to get to affordability or low income is to FORCE developers to provide it. Incentives don't work.

19:14:01 From Holly Rydel Kelly : If the city builds its own housing that will provide local jobs and local money being spent!

18:46:55 From Jason Gauthier to All panelists : Very happy to see a position created in the Planning and Department Service to, among other things, expedite the permitting of affordable housing.

18:47:46 From Jason Gauthier : Very happy to see a position created in the Planning and Department Services Dept to, among other things, expedite the permitting of affordable housing.

ANTI-RACISM

Jonathan Pottle 06:45 PM

How can council follow through on commitments to anti-racism and participatory budgeting when they refuse to listen to resident demands to defund the police and fund Black and Brown communities?

Dee Sonntag (LASR) 07:00 PM

The City can change its banner to “Transforming Tacoma” and start “Heal the Heart”; however, until the budget reflects a reallocation from policing to the community and social services, the community will not be transformed.

Meghan Mitchell - Defund the Police 07:03 PM

Yes, Dee!!

Meghan Mitchell - Defund the Police 07:20 PM

If it isn't possible to transform our city services quickly, how can Tacoma residents rest assured that it will happen?

Devin Rydel Kelly 06:41 PM

How can council follow through on commitments to anti-racism and participatory budgeting when they refuse to listen to resident demands to defund the police and fund Black and Brown communities? - Devin Rydel Kelly

Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez 06:44 PM

How is funding the \$172.32 mil (34%), the largest chunk of the general fund, going towards policing in alignment with the councils priority of Racial Equity (Intentionally work towards overcoming systemic racism and all other forms of oppression with the institution and wider community)?

18:59:49 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : Additionally, Its low key shady you all placed ownership on the Black member, to respond this this concern.

19:04:11 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : If this is true, we need to revisit the Racial Equity priority that places ownership on individual to overcome systemic racism vs working towards dismantling.

Saralyn & Noel 06:44 PM

Will there be compensation for the "Heal the Heart" Core Coordinating Team? If not, are you concerned about how that might impact recruiting from the groups you want team members from?

18:41:11 From SENC o to All panelists : Hi, Athena from the South End here. My comments are: especially in these dire times of a global health pandemic mixed with severe economic disparity and a much needed reckoning of this country's deep-seeded institutional racism and injustice, now more than ever, our connections to each other at the local level where we live is so incredibly important. We need more buy-in and support from the city to foster civic engagement at the neighborhood level.

It's a powerful act to connect with our neighbors and have a citizen-led venue where we can also connect directly with our hard-working representatives in city government. In your budget talks, please consider the value of individual participation in the NC program we're building for our collective future at the truly grassroots level. Thank you!

19:02:57 From SENC o to All panelists : I think we can remember too that the problematic issues surrounding racism in policing ultimately go deeper than the police, and as we address the systemic nature of racism, this needs to be addressed in a multi-level approach including housing, education and school funding, income disparity, mental health etc..

19:12:10 From defund tpd kosnjek : how much money does it cost the city when we shut down the freeway?

19:12:29 From defund tpd kosnjek : do you think we will stop without change?

19:19:52 From Nathan Blackmer : Thank you all for the opportunity to voice concerns here - It feels dishonest to claim any kind of anti-racist transformation with the proposed budget, but I do appreciate the chance to connect.

I'm hopeful for real movement and not lip service to the social issues at hand.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & TRANSPARENCY

Yvonne McCarty 06:40 PM

Just curious, how many citizens are in this breakout?

Yvonne McCarty 06:46 PM

I have serious concerns about how the city gathered the priorities using the budget tool. I found it so frustrating to use, that I abandoned the tool after 15 minutes. I have a feeling that there was an organized group that responded to the survey. Were there other methods of outreach used? As a community leader, neither I or my Neighborhood Council was asked to provide input on what was important to our community.

Jenna Judge 06:47 PM

were the surveys representative of the demographics in Tacoma?

Jenna Judge 06:48 PM

I agree it would be helpful to understand more about what is under all these umbrellas. Libraries provide much more than access to books.

Jenna Judge 06:49 PM

Also, I don't think the presentation provided a very clear breakdown summary of the proposed budget, so it's challenging to provide feedback now.

Leah Smillie 07:06 PM

I keep hearing how important "community input" is, but every time we've participated in these budget discussions the community has felt dismissed and discounted, council members often say, "well we didn't hear from that many people" or "when I talk to MY constituents" or, "these are just activists" etc, which really makes it feel like they just don't like the results we're submitting. How can we feel our input is valued here and moving forward when so far, there's always an excuse for why it's not.

Kit Burns 06:52 PM

Could provide the dates for other public meetings/hearings? I want to make sure that I have the correct dates. Thank you.

COMMENTS

Sally Perkins 07:06 PM

Comment on the format. We can see you but we can't see each other (at least I can't) and you can't see us...so it feels very "arm's length" to me. I know the virtual format under COVID restrictions is hard but it's been months now and surely we ought to be able to see each other.

hannaborgen 07:21 PM

i understand the need to monitor the chat in case some people "bomb" the chat. but the lack of real time transparency of what people are saying feels strange. I think that it is slightly off putting. I wonder if there is a better way to do this?

Sally Perkins 06:53 PM

I am happy to get the detailed answer off-line. Thank you

Dee Sonntag (LASR) 06:54 PM

This isn't a community forum. This format, only using City created polls and chat, isn't acceptable. The community should be allowed to speak.

Ken McDouall 06:55 PM

I appreciate CM McCarthy's support for direct service providers. They are invaluable.

James H

I don't see how this is a town hall meeting when the only people who get to speak are council people and city employees

18:42:31 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : The fact that attendees can't see each other's comments seems highly undemocratic and leads to selection bias on questions.

18:43:16 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Wasn't the point. Turning off the chat for public use obfuscates responses.

18:50:47 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : I guess we'll just have to do a PDR of all the questions and chat...

18:55:43 From Holly Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Library buildings and spaces are a place of safety and learning! Especially when I was living at poverty level and the library was our only source of entertainment and outings.

18:56:49 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police to All panelists : YES! CM Blocker! You get it.

19:01:24 From Holly Rydel Kelly to All panelists : Safe neighborhoods have services: community services, housed people, social safety nets.

19:04:50 From Devin Rydel Kelly to All panelists : COVID 19 has killed 10 times the number of people who have died in homicides in Tacoma this year.

19:08:23 From James H : Percentages - so true! It's absurd to compare the budget cuts like these departments have similar budgets

19:10:28 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : This does not feel like a town hall at all....it feels like we are being talked at by the city council...again

19:11:10 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police : I feel like they are barely answering questions. Walker and Blocker have actually address questions--thank you.

19:11:37 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Yes! Thanks Walker and Blocker for your leadership.

19:14:07 From Devin Rydel Kelly : I agree that you're on the right track and appreciate that.

19:15:37 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Appreciate your inputs Walker and Blocker. One thing that seems crucial: The MORE piece is met by LESS to police

19:16:03 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : Thank you CM Walker and Brocker

19:16:13 From Kaylen : Thank you everyone in this chat!

19:16:26 From Devin Rydel Kelly : We seriously need council members on RECORD making BOLD commitments.

19:16:42 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Please, even if they're just resolutions for now. Anything short of that is meaningless.

19:16:45 From Katie H-V (she/they) - DSA - Defund the Police : I wish we were actually able to hear more about your answers to the questions that we posed. Shout out to Blocker and Walker!

19:17:10 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Thanks Blocker and Walker!

19:17:30 From Laurie Arnold to All panelists : Agree Katie H-V!

19:17:32 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : Please also make a commitment to respond to constituent emails/phone calls regarding budget questi

19:17:57 From Jenelle Walter-DEFUND THE POLICE : Thank you Councilmember Walker for the email invitation

19:18:09 From Holly Rydel Kelly : I know you have a hard job! Thank you Blocker and Walker!

19:18:09 From Devin Rydel Kelly : Yeah there need to be more ways for us to directly interact on this.

19:18:13 From Laurie Arnold to All panelists : Agree Jenelle Walter!

19:18:19 From Devin Rydel Kelly : I appreciate you opening up chat. We're hearing from friends that other rooms didn't.

19:18:43 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Bad time: Let's not make it worse.

19:18:45 From Janice to All panelists : I agree. It's difficult to feel like a town hall meeting when our questions are not addressed timely.

19:19:01 From Holly Rydel Kelly : Thanks Reid!

19:19:07 From Heather Dagley to All panelists : Thank you Council Members for the discussion. We look forward to more of them! Please, please... let's make Tacoma a leader here.

19:19:07 From Darryl Colman : thank you Reid for all the support

19:19:09 From Angel (he/they/elle) Gonzalez to All panelists : And of course once again the disproportionate impact is on minoritized communities and all we get is “this is just so unfortunate. We have to prioritize”

19:19:15 From Kayla Quinn to All panelists : Thank you, Reid!

defund tpd kosnjek 06:57 PM

talk-no. we want actionable reponse

Anonymous Attendee 07:04 PM

Must be nice to get a cost of living increase. Many of us have not gotten that.

18:43:36 From Dream Team Hoops NW to All panelists : As councilmember what challenges did you identify as the greatest in district 4 and 5?

18:50:57 From Saralyn & Noel : Yes, thank you for mentioning the importance of doing root cause analysis.

18:56:06 From Hayley Harris to All panelists : Also, to be frank I'm offended about how cm ushka is talking about race

19:04:03 From defund tpd kosnjek : GREAT question. I would expect the teachers to get the same treatment without any problem

19:05:50 From moli benitez to All panelists : City manager makes quarter of million dollars!

19:06:25 From defund tpd kosnjek : saying one HIGHLY paid person gets a bit less than another..... kind of splitting golden hairs there

19:06:38 From Saralyn & Noel : agreed

19:06:48 From Lauren Kessel FHES : Comparing to the superintendent is a cop out, especially considering how upset people are about the raise that the superintendent got this year while paras were laid off

19:06:49 From Saralyn & Noel : (on both points!)

19:07:22 From defund tpd kosnjek : CHEERS TO THE ABOVE COMMENTS

19:08:31 From Hayley Harris to All panelists : what about the current staff!

19:09:30 From Laura Berry : I find it disingenuous to compare a city employee’s salary to the superintendent’s salary, which is not only not on tonight’s agenda but is also outside of the councilwoman’s purview. Wr are being advised repeatedly that times are hard while being told to accept Pauli’s raise. Pauli is working no harder than the rest of Tacomans to make it through this economic crisis, but she is a public servant.

19:09:48 From defund tpd kosnjek : agreed

19:16:36 From Jason Gauthier : In case folks wanted a dive into the proposed budget:
<https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Finance/Budget/2021-2022/Proposed%20Budget%20Book%20FINAL.pdf>

19:19:29 From defund tpd kosnjek : nah, the city promotes the heck out of LNG for free. ;)

19:19:37 From Saralyn & Noel : XD

19:20:06 From defund tpd kosnjek : nice that geo group got a break on their land value ie tax bill

19:20:27 From defund tpd kosnjek : why fund budgets when we can backdoor fund the detention center

19:20:39 From Saralyn & Noel : *standing ovation*

19:20:46 From Ben MC to All panelists : Amen!

19:20:53 From defund tpd kosnjek : (hunters face just now)

19:21:31 From april : Thank you Chris Beale for addressing Safe Streets!

19:22:16 From defund tpd kosnjek : as shiny as those police cruisers

19:22:57 From SENC o to All panelists : Thank you all.

19:24:02 From Saralyn & Noel : Great! Thank you.

19:24:09 From Julia Mulliganiel (she/her) : Thank you!