

## Flores, Valerie

---

**From:** Garrick Kobylarz <gkobyarz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:49 PM  
**To:** Flores, Valerie  
**Subject:** Public Comment For 08/12/20 Meeting

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

Here is my public comment I would like submitted for record and I thank you:

Good Afternoon,

I am currently a resident of Pasadena's District 3, having lived here for 1 ½ years but in L.A. for 15. I was fortunate enough to participate in a virtual meeting regarding public safety hosted by Mr. Kennedy yesterday, 08/11/20, and I thank him for hosting that event. My participation was prompted by concern over the various police incidents reported throughout the U.S. but also by the public escalation of violence, vandalism and other destruction that has been witnessed in Seattle, Portland, and more recently Chicago. My goal in participating was to not only voice my concern but to gain a better understanding of the current status of our public safety service and whether there is confidence in where it's at and where it's going. One thing that really stood out to me during yesterday's meeting was Mr. Kennedy's praise for Police Chief John Perez. Not only did Mr. Kennedy praise Chief Perez's education, he also stated that Chief Perez has been providing the most amount of transparency that Mr. Kennedy has seen in his lifetime. In looking at the City of Pasadena website, it states that Chief Perez had also set up a Community Advisory Committee while interim Chief of Police "to work with the PPD on issues important to the community, including the use of body cameras, use of force and neighborhood policing." This Community Advisory Committee appears to have been established in addition to the Public Safety Committee we currently have as part of the Pasadena City Council. All of this seems to be good and progressing in the right direction.

This is why I don't quite understand the push for another group of overseers as a Civilian Police Oversight Committee. To me, the whole idea and point of these leadership positions such as Chief of Police, Mayor, City Councilmember, etc., is to have a chain of trust from the community at large to the people in leadership that they are doing the right things in all cases and represent the community well. If you're telling me that you trust in the leadership of the Chief of Police and there are not questionable police incidents somehow being hidden by the department (no examples were mentioned yesterday), then why do we need more bureaucracy? At some point, all you begin to do is undermine the whole structure because you are basically sending a message that no one can be trusted in those positions. I don't think continuing to sow these seeds of distrust is good for anyone, especially if you are ultimately getting the right people in these positions of leadership. Having the right, trusted people in these positions and the checks and balances with the committees already established should dovetail into getting rid of the bad people doing the wrong things within this service. I appreciate your time.

Thanks,

Garrick Kobylarz