



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING  
Northampton, MA**

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**Roll Call**

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by City Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 8:14 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

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| At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra   | At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight |
| Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. | Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett        |
| Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster            | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge    |
| Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash           | Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore       |
| Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe             |                                      |

**Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being held via remote participation and audio and video recorded.

**Public Comment**

**Public Comment**

**Public Hearings  
Announcement of public hearing concerning the Northampton Capital Improvement Program for FY2021-FY2025 - Thursday, June 18, 2020**

**Public Hearings  
Announcement of a public hearing concerning the Northampton Capital Improvement Program for FY2021-FY2025 - Thursday, June 18, 2020**  
Councilor Sciarra read the following announcement:  
In accordance with The Charter of Northampton, Massachusetts, Article 7 Finance and Fiscal Procedures, Section 7-5: Capital Improvement Program, (b) Public Hearing. BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing via remote participation on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. The City Council will consider the Capital Improvement Program for FY2021-FY2025, and hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon. Instructions for accessing the public hearing will be posted on the June 18, 2020 City Council agenda which can be found on the City of Northampton website at [www.northamptonma.gov](http://www.northamptonma.gov). The City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m.

**Public Hearing - 20.048 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Park Hill Road (Petition #25763215 - two petitions)**

**Public Hearing on 20.048 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Park Hill Road (Petition #25763215 - two petitions)**  
Councilor Sciarra introduced the public hearing on the pole petition by reading the legal notice.  
  
Councilor Dwight moved to open the public hearing. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The hearing was opened at 8:18 p.m.  
  
National Grid representative Lisa Jasinski was not in attendance. No other National Grid representative appeared to be present.  
  
Councilor Dwight moved to continue the hearing to the next meeting. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**Continuation of Public Hearing (from June 3, 2020) Concerning the FY21 Budget**

**Continuation of Public Hearing (from June 3, 2020) Concerning the FY21 Budget**  
Councilor Dwight moved to open the continued public hearing. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The hearing was opened at 8:23 p.m.  
  
**Lois Ahrens** noted that, as Rose Bookbinder mentioned, yesterday while the city council was meeting and people were speaking, the mayor of Los Angeles recommended cutting \$150 million from the FY2021 police budget. He said he would reallocate those dollars to communities of color to "invest in jobs and education and healing." The \$150 million cut is about 8% of the LA police budget. If they were to do that here, the cut would be a little more than half a million dollars, a good place to start in 2021. Northampton is a small town with a population of 30,000. There are 60 sworn officers. The average police force for a town its size is 48. Way too many, but far less than what they have here, considering they have almost no crime. Northampton police armed with guns and tasers have become an expensive substitute for health and mental health

providers and mediators, she asserted. They do not need armed police addressing vandalism, drug overdoses, noise complaints and mask compliance and interacting with people who are unhoused or misusing substances. Now is the time to reject the mayor's request and significantly reduce the police budget and redirect money to providing needed services, connections and care which will be more effective and less expensive when done by non-violent trained outreach people from the community for the community.

**Alex Holland of Chicopee** voiced support for defunding the police and recommended that, if the department continues to exist, it switch to a type of cruisers that are not a danger to pedestrians and do not cost so much money to fuel.

**Theo Peierls** pointed out that Black and brown residents have spoken out against the violence and discrimination they have experienced at the hands of Northampton police. To fund the Northampton police is to cause harm to marginalized communities. Funding social services and community programs is the only option that will uplift all participants rather than perpetuate existing violent systems.

**Ashley Rogers**, who identified herself as a **South Hadley** resident and member of the Western MA Independent Socialist Group, referred to a Mass Live article two weeks ago quoting the mayor as saying the equivalent of 17.25 jobs are being cut. This is right before a recession. After saving \$600,000 with these cuts, the city is giving \$200,000 to the police department, a full third of that amount. Why does the police department need extra dollars, to buy more military equipment and weaponry to patrol their streets, to pepper spray people for participating in democracy? Senior services are being cut by 25%, veterans' services are being cut by \$60,000 and Superintendent Provost said in February that the school district is going to be short almost \$600,000. Why is this desperately-needed money going to the police? This money should not be given to the police to buy more military equipment, this money should be given to their schools. 38% of Northampton renters pay more than half their income to pay rent. Why isn't this money being used on affordable housing? This money should be used where it actually matters; they need to demilitarize the police, they need to cut the police budget like LA just did.

"We are hurting because of corona virus...and this is only going to hurt us more."

**Esther White, Ward 1**, said she has two young children and her children's grandparents also live in Northampton. Her family is very invested in this city. "We need to make changes and urgently. We need to do more than acknowledge other people's suffering." A moment of silence or resolution is meaningless without action, she observed.

The city budget is a reflection of their priorities. She demanded that the council begin to address institutional racism and the global pandemic by rejecting the police budget. Responding to a revenue shortfall in the face of a global pandemic by cutting senior services and veterans' services is unconscionable. She proceeded to relate creative ways one small city department and an all-volunteer board has found to serve its community. As a board member of the Northampton Arts council, she watched the arts and culture department rapidly pivot from developing arts and cultural programs to offering mutual aid to its community. Before the shutdown, arts council members were preparing for the spring arts round. The council quickly pivoted to develop an emergency fund for local artists and has since raised and distributed \$40,000 to 120 artists. Board members also leveraged resources for fundraising to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE). A budget that slashes human services while funding a police increase shows a lack of compassion and a failure of imagination. Now is the time to reevaluate the position they give to police in their community. Officers are not equipped to address public health or social problems, nor should they be called upon to do so. "We need to stop relying on the police to address mental health crises, opiate addiction, smoking cessation, social distancing and homelessness." She implored them to make a commitment to address racism with more than a moment of silence, reject the proposed budget and prioritize social services, education and public health.

**Megan Canterella of Easthampton** said she was here to demand that the Northampton Police Department (NPD) be defunded and defunded substantially and that those funds be allocated to social services. Ironically, some of the best points for defunding the police were made last night inadvertently by Chief Kasper during the budget hearing. Last night, Chief Kasper admitted that crime is most often the result of poverty and desperation, then turned around to use that to justify

siphoning more and more resources toward policing during a pandemic and economic crisis. Police don't help the community, particularly the most vulnerable. Chief Kasper claims she would love to see more social workers involved in crisis calls but that this would be expensive. With the money that could be saved by taking back these resources from the over-funded police department, they could better fund social services and also keep police away from those situations where they would likely do more harm than good.

In 2018, when Chief Kasper defended the department's need for \$75,000 for unspecified military tactical gear and training, she stated that if any of her officers were asked to lessen their carrying of firearms, she wouldn't have any officers anymore. She said herself that not one officer would stay if their job was to help the community without the threat of force. In Minneapolis, the city council has discussed the idea of disbanding the police force altogether. LA is cutting its police budget after a huge public outcry. The fact that the police chief is asking for more money just days after one of her officers maced a teenager is disturbing. They need to seriously defund this department. People have suggested slashing it by at least half and cutting the number of officers by at least half.

The macing of a 15-year old on Monday is just the latest incident proving there is no place for police in their community or society at large, **Rowan Luftan** said. She calls on Northampton to immediately abolish the NPD and sever all ties with state and national policing units. Minneapolis councilors are working on this; they can too. For anyone confused about what this would look like, she recommended the book "The End of Policing." "No justice, no peace," she concluded.

**Ben Raivel, Ward 7**, said in recent days there has been much discussion of privilege and the responsibility of those with privilege to use it to the benefit of those without. Northampton is a privileged community. They are not just privileged economically but privileged by the fact that they have a city council and a mayor who are willing to give people a voice on the matter of policing and seem to be committed to finding the most beneficial solutions. Because of this privilege they have a responsibility to act. Northampton should be pushing the envelope in terms of alternative methods to insure public safety and well-being rather than doing the bare minimum to remain in compliance with national standards. Although he wasn't able to attend the whole hearing, one of the things that stood out to him was Chief Kasper's characterization of police attempts at having a dialogue with the community. Chief Kasper tried to shift the responsibility for lack of a productive dialogue to residents rather than police. Instead of pointing fingers, he thinks it's more informative to take a step back and consider that the fact that dialogue is impossible even in such a progressive community indicates that there is a divide between police and civilians that cannot be bridged. It is a divide formed by the inherent and voluntary hierarchy created by an armed police force. Implicit bias trainings and community engagement efforts are half-hearted attempts to paint over this hierarchy. Considering Chief Kasper cannot provide any evidence that these efforts have been beneficial other than anecdotal reports, they are nothing more than aesthetic changes that hold no benefit for Northampton residents. Their tax dollars flow to the other side of this divide to the tune of \$7 million a year and yet are not returned to them in a meaningfully beneficial way. As a result, like the many people who have spoken before him, he urged the city council and the mayor to drastically reduce police funding and replace the vast majority of police responsibilities with more safe and effective measures.

**Paul Waterman** said he is confused about why they are going after the police department when he thinks there are other areas of the city budget that deserve to be looked at in terms of defining waste. To compare the Northampton Police Department with the awful situation that happened in Minneapolis is a little bit unfair to Northampton police. He is in favor of increasing funding for social services and education but believes there are other areas of the budget to look at. If the real purpose is to look at funding for senior services and other areas, he thinks they're looking at the wrong area.

**Sadie Sherberg, Ward 3**, urged them to deny the budget request from the police department. She noticed at yesterday's hearing there was more vigor in the questioning of Superintendent Provost about the quality of sports gear and their own children's athletic careers than questions soft-balled to the police chief about her budget increase. It is despicable and craven that they kowtow to the police chief continuously as witnessed by two council meetings he attended about further funding for riot gear for the NPD in 2018. He also commented on the 'outsized role' of police unions and fraternal order of police organizations. No other public union has the same bargaining power and influence as the police union. He is a restaurant worker and knows the

police aren't labor. Police are historically and currently the ones called to crack down on labor. Abolish the police, black lives matter, he exhorted.

**Rachel Powers, Ward 4**, said she agrees with the overwhelming response they've heard last night and tonight and urges them to not only reject the proposed budget but to defund the NPD. Those funds need to be redistributed to social programs that will actually help and strengthen their community.

**Sara Howard, Ward 5**, said she is a registered nurse working in the field of addiction treatment. Her patients are struggling with houselessness and a dire lack of resources. Many patients fall out of care due to a lack of basic resources such as a bed to sleep in at night, a phone and transportation. Many of her patients also fall out of care when they go to jail for activities they end up engaging in in order to survive. She is privileged to get to know her patients' stories well and can assure them that these are good people facing impossible situations. As teachers, health care workers and social workers already understand, to address difficult behaviors, they need to find out where needs are not being met and meet them. An armed police force is not appropriately matched to performing the social-work type outreach that is often needed.

She is a parent of two children in the Northampton public schools and the presence of a police officer in the schools does not make her feel safer. Instead, it sends the message they expect violence from their children and will meet it with more violence, she suggested. A police presence in schools tells children they believe they have already failed them. Funding increased salaries and new police cruisers while so many of their fellow community members remain unhoused is simply not reasonable. In the COVID pandemic, they can only expect more houselessness and unemployment for the foreseeable future. The budget should prioritize a plan for addressing those increased needs over an increase in the police department budget. She encouraged the council to reject the increase for the police department and urged the mayor to reallocate the funds toward housing, social services, schools and meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable among them. Going forward, she recommended forming a special commission to study a shift in practices toward scaling back the police force and addressing these issues holistically.

**Ethan Tupelo, Ward 1** resident and member of the Pedal People Cooperative, said he wanted to speak about the DPW budget and, in a roundabout way, police. He stressed that he was speaking as a member/worker and not representing the cooperative as a whole. He appreciates that several council members tried to ask questions about concerns raised in their letters to them, however, he doesn't believe they received complete answers from the mayor or DPW director.

The line item for security services in the FY2021 solid waste enterprise budget (page 99) is \$120,000, he pointed out. In last year's budget it was \$10,000. This increase is not for police officers directing traffic on Locust Street on Saturdays. Since the COVID situation began, there is now a five-vehicle limit for the use of the transfer station and vehicles wait in three lanes until a space opens up. It appears there is always a police officer stationed there whose main function seems to be to choose which vehicle moves forward next. From his own experience, the peak wait time can be up to 20 minutes. He wants the council to question if this job really needs to be filled by a police officer, especially at this expense. He suggested instead giving someone a DPW vest and calling the police in extreme situations if needed. While they have an additional \$100,000 in recycling costs, this additional security detail is budgeted for \$110,000 more than last year. In short, prices are being raised and city services cut back more because of this police detail than for recycling. He urged the council to question the use of police as a default solution to this and other similar situations in the city.

**Ward 1 resident Mark Cody** said he, like many others, has gone to protests against the killing of black people by police. They are not anti-police; they are antiracist. He believes racism is not just a belief by individuals, it is a system. As a lifelong resident, community organizer and concerned citizen, he urged the council to vote against the Mayor's proposed budget as presented. With regard to the proposed increase to the police department of nearly \$200,000 while many other important departments face significant budget cuts, in the middle of a pandemic-caused budget crisis it would at the very least be unwise to approve further budget increases for the NPD while around 20 city employees lose their jobs. Even the mayor says crime continues to trend downward. Relying on law enforcement to lead the city's efforts on the pandemic response endangers both them and us. They need to think what other departments are equipped to best

prepare their citizens to get through this disaster safely. Due to unforeseen circumstances of COVID-19, he thinks they should consider delaying contractual salary increases for NPD officers and the acquisition of new hybrid patrol vehicles. He thinks salary increases and a transition to hybrid vehicles can wait until the pandemic is behind them. While the senior center is currently shut down and may not need its full operating budget, there are some programs seniors rely on that must continue. It is vital that funding be allocated to restart its affiliated transportation van so seniors will have access to rides for essential medical appointments, grocery and pharmacy visits. Also, the office of veterans' services is being expected to continue to fully operate while absorbing a significant cut to its already small budget. "We need our budget to reflect the values of our great city," he affirmed.

**Brett Constantine, Willow Street**, said he is a member of the bicycle/pedestrian subcommittee and a worker/owner of pedal people but speaking on his own behalf. He dittoed not raising the police budget and seriously considering cutting it. Regarding the transfer station system where only five vehicles at a time are allowed to dump compost and waste while others must wait their turn, in the summer, most cars will be idling, posing many health concerns for those waiting in line, including heat exhaustion and fumes. There was a 'no idling' sign at the transfer station but it seems to have been removed. It is very car-centered at the moment, but it is a big outside area and he thinks they can begin allowing more vehicles at a time. As Ethan mentioned, police are being used simply to direct traffic and he thinks that money could be better spent by leaving another day open. The DPW has already eliminated a day and the proposal is to cut yet another day from the transfer center's schedule. He is worried it will be a slippery slope and lead to a degradation of the product and more people taking their business elsewhere. It is a public resource which would be a shame to lose. "Please use it; please buy your blue bags," he encouraged fellow residents.

**Celina Della Croce, Ward 5**, coordinator of Tri-Continental Institute for Social Research, said she is against increasing funding for the police and thinks instead it needs to be cut. If they cut the police force in half and lay off 36 officers, it would free up \$3.5 million. She proposed the following uses for this money:

- They are in the middle of a pandemic, so if they are really concerned about public safety, they should be producing testing kits, which are not even available to first responders.
- They could be providing housing to people who don't have homes and can't possibly practice sanitary measures such as washing their hands and isolating since they have nowhere to go.
- They could be providing food to people considering that massive unemployment has left a lot of people food insecure.

The International Labor Organization projects there to be 3.4 trillion people (sic) who have lost their jobs globally; 1.8 million people in the U.S. filed for unemployment last week and 2.1 million the week before, adding to the tally of 42.2 million filing for unemployment in just eleven weeks. If they want to talk about public health and enacting the values Northampton claims to have, that could look like actually taking care of each other in the midst of a pandemic. The amount of money spent on one load of riot gear could buy 55 front-line workers full PPE. A helmet costs \$170; a face shield for a front-line medical worker costs \$2.70. She thinks they need to think about how they are prioritizing their resources. Others have talked about the gross brutality and violations of police across the country. Northampton isn't an exception. The first day she moved to Northampton she watched the Northampton police drag a homeless man down the street where she works on his back in the ice. They need to not just reject the funding but also cut their police measures; Minneapolis has done something similar. She is against the budget increase and thinks the budget should be cut in half, she reiterated.

**Isadora Germain (they/them pronouns)**, who lives in Amental healtherst and works in Northampton, said they believe it would be extremely irresponsible to raise the NPD budget during this crisis. They have done nothing to keep Black and brown people safe. They echoed what people said yesterday and today: defund the police and put the money toward human services that will benefit the community.

**Margot Shocket-Greene, Ward 2**, said she graduated from NHS last year and was the chair and co-chair of the Mayor's Youth Commission for two years. She thanked City Councilors for listening to the public testimony and for providing this space for discourse on very difficult issues. She has lived in the city her entire life and knows how much their community identifies as one that seeks to be a leader in social justice and progressive change. Fighting for equity and justice

has always been what the citizens of Northampton have prioritized and voiced with their votes and demonstrations. Now they must prioritize intersectional issues. They want to make their voices heard on the subject of police brutality and systemic oppression that plagues their community. It must be acknowledged that their community is not immune to the institutionalized racism which occurs within their police force and affects black citizens disproportionately and violently. They are not outliers amongst the rest of the state or the rest of the country. The citizens of color in their city have felt the impact of racial profiling and unjust violence just as any other community has. She asked that they consider the wishes of the community and think of the change that can stem from these budget meetings. Even if the decisions made tonight may not impact the future of the city or the police department, the city council can start by taking action to research and propose progressive ordinances which will have a great impact on their city. Alternative methods to policing have been suggested by citizens, and she asks that they consider these in order to build a safer system to benefit all members of this community. This movement will not end, and she is asking that they all be a part of it. She asks them to consider the personal experiences and research that people have brought to them in these past meetings and pair them with their own investigation. They have the opportunity to be a leader in the movement against racism and brutality for other communities and she hopes they act according to the beliefs that they hope to uphold as the City of Northampton to fight against racism and violence.

**Katie Lienert, Florence resident and NHS 2019 graduate**, strongly urged the city council and fellow citizens to separate their personal positive experiences with the NPD from their decision on the budget expansion. She recognizes her white privilege and understands that her positive experiences with the police department do not make them good cops. They've heard countless voices on why policing is systematically racist and she urges them to educate themselves on this issue outside of this meeting. "We cannot sweep these incidents under the rug to preserve the heroic reputation." Hundreds sat through the seven-hour budget hearing last night sharing their personal or witnessed experiences with police brutality and it would be a slap in their face to vote 'yes' on the police budget increase. "I beg you to open your eyes, ears and mind," she implored.

**Orianna Riley, Ward 3**, echoed calls to defund the police, specifically by cutting the budget and number of officers by half. He recognizes that all they can do tonight is reject or approve the budget. The meetings of yesterday and today have shown that the alternatives to policing people are discussing actually get to a greater issue of how the budget is decided. Clearly the mayor has almost full control over the budget and is heavily influenced by the police union. A new piece of information he would like to add is something called participatory budgeting which has been used in many cities around the country and often leads to reductions in police budgets because it gives control to community members to decide what the budget is in a much more democratic and representative way. "Cut the budget in half and look into participatory budgeting," he urged.

**Sailor Cicchetti, Ward 1**, said she would like to reiterate the horror that several other people have expressed that they have a police force that is willing to pepper-spray a 15-year old child for protesting but is unwilling to give up military-grade armaments. It's also important to note that increasing the police budget in light of the death of George Floyd and several other black community members across the country is not only tone deaf but is also a slap in the face to Northampton citizens of color who have been irreparably harmed by police brutality. She pointed to Minneapolis, where the city council not only vowed to defund the police but are looking at disbanding the police altogether. She suggested that they improve social programs and increase funding to emergency medical services because that would make their community safer. Communities across the country with the least amount of crime and violence are not those with more policing but are those with more access to social and economic resources. That is why she is here tonight, to call to not only defund but to disband their police force entirely. She also calls upon the mayor and city council members to listen to what has been said by the majority here today and to make their final decisions based upon empathy, especially for the marginalized voices who have spoken out. Black lives matter, and white silence is violence, she concluded.

**Sylvia Simmons, Northampton**, said she is in agreement with the majority of those who have spoken on defunding the police. During this time of uncertainty, the Northampton Police Department's presence only adds to the stress she is already feeling in the midst of this pandemic. Not only do they follow, harass and generally disturb the communities of color in this community, but the people of color who are visiting as well. They escalate situations they should not be in charge of responding to in the first place. In her five years in Northampton, she's witnessed and received testimony about police harassing teens and young adults of color at

various bus stops around town and not announcing themselves as they pound and pound on residents' doors. This happened at her own apartment twice in the past year. She has also interacted with police coming to the wrong residence and proceeding to question her anyway or needing to be pointed in the direction of the right residence. Just last year, she was approached for questioning while sitting in her car in her driveway. She believes there is so much more the town could be doing with all the money going to the police department. She would like to see the police budget cut in half over the next few years.

**Donovan Lee, Easthampton**, former Northampton resident, said he would like to stand in solidarity with the movement to significantly decrease the police budget. As an experienced EMT, he's worked closely with police on the scene of mental health crises. On the way to these calls he has always worried that the officers on scene, who are there purely for the physical safety of EMS and the patient, would have no real concern for that safety. He's been asked many times by police to approach people reported to be violent, armed or both first or, even worse, arrived to find police yelling in the faces of mental health patients. In contrast, he has arrived on scenes with mobile counselors to find them calmly speaking with patients and trying to get them true, meaningful help. 'We the people' don't ask for defunding of the police department; "we demand it," he said.

**Jon Liebman, Northampton**, said he would like to speak as an older person born in the 1950's, in the days when the law upheld segregation and discrimination. Over those decades, he has seen police attack and beat civil rights protestors, anti-war demonstrators, anti-nuclear demonstrators, etc., up to the present moment, when police are once again attacking and beating demonstrators for racial justice. He expressed hope for better future conditions, a future which is less militarized, less violent. If they continue to uphold the status quo, they will continue down the path towards an increasingly ugly and dystopian future with more inequality and more violence. They've already trashed America. They've institutionalized racism and inequality, marginalized people, impoverished cities and defunded public services and now find themselves unable to respond to the COVID pandemic. They've unleashed the police powers of the state on those who simply demand a better future. The council should listen to the voices it's heard and cut the police department's budget significantly, spending that money on services best delivered by civilians instead of armed police. They'll know in a few years if that was wise. "If we don't take that step, we will surely know that we've failed."

**Day Sibley Hale, Ward 1B, they/them**, said supposedly city council members hold the positions they do because they care about public safety and well-being. If this is actually the case, they should be enthusiastic to be given the opportunity to join them in working to defund and abolish the police. Chief Kasper herself said yesterday that police are given a few years of training and a lot of weapons and expected to handle everything from organizing traffic to helping a rape victim. Chief Kasper says it's a difficult job to do right, they say it's an impossible job to do right. There are some improvements they can make – they can try to use guns less and hire social workers - but again and again they will run into the fact that it's not a good system broken by Trump or a few bad apples but a bad system working exactly as it's supposed to. The city's own website discusses the history of Northampton policing, how it started off as the Northampton Society for Thieves and Robbers intended to provide protection of property. When an actual police department was formed, its mission was to keep order, remove suspected persons and protect property from loss or damage. The police's job is and always has been to protect capital and capitalism, not protect people. They reminded fellow community members that "we are the community, not them." Whatever they do, they can and must work on emergency response and mutual aid programs apart from the police. Doing so can make their community safer and police will become less and less important.

**Emily Divens, Northampton**, voiced support for defunding and demilitarizing the police and diverting those funds into social services.

**Felix Willenburg, Ward 2, they/them pronouns**, said they are requesting the council to not pass the budget for the Northampton Police Department. They worked as a licensed nurse in multiple outpatient settings and, in each of their jobs, they've dealt with medical and mental health crises. When they call emergency services, they need help from someone with specific training and resources to help them with what's happening. They cannot remember any time when they've felt that they needed a police officer. They have never felt that they are there to protect either them or their patients. They want someone to help de-escalate without force, not to

come in with a gun on their belt. Current best practice standards for reducing trauma in mental health care heavily emphasize reducing or eliminating the role of police in crisis intervention and replacing them with trained mental health professionals, they shared. They think of limiting funding to the police as an opportunity to begin reforming how they maintain public safety and establishing public services that will effectively serve their community.

**Matthew Grimaldi, Northampton**, said 'ditto' to everything said about defunding the police. Police are a fixture in society that disproportionately harm and attack people of color, specifically black people in this community. It is unconscionable to give that community more money when they hurt another community.

**Cecelia Major, Ward 3B**, said she echoed what the majority of attendees had said. She urged councilors to look at [mpd150.com](http://mpd150.com). This organization makes very humane arguments and may help them understand ways to go about the defunding of police. She shared the words of a close friend, a young woman of color, who would often ask her to stay in her car when she was driving through downtown Northampton. As she said, the longer she had a white woman in her car, the safer she was and less likely to be pulled over by the police. This not only broke her heart but broke her illusion that system racism and police brutality as an institution doesn't affect them in Northampton. It doesn't affect those of them who are white and middle class, which are the majority of the voices both speaking and listening tonight. She urged them to only approve any budget that forces the NPD to shrink and to reallocate those funds to not only supporting social services that currently exist but to creating new communities as Councilor Maire suggested yesterday.

**Caleb Simone, Ward 5**, pointed out that voices heard supporting the increased budget for police have not spoken to any positive confrontational experiences. They have spoken to their concept of the police or to their bureaucratic interactions, such as Wendy Foxmyn's testimony. That is a privileged perspective. Those interactions have nothing to do with the actual police presence in the community. "I don't care if individual cops are friendly to white women; I care about the violence they enact on vulnerable and minority populations," he stressed. Every officer is complicit in every act of police brutality committed in their community. If the city council actually listens, they will not only veto this proposed budget but will take steps to defund the police immediately. The community is watching them and will hold them accountable, he pledged.

**Patty O'Neill, Ward 5, she/her**, echoed what many said about rejecting the proposed budget increase, defunding the police, supporting social services and finding more compassionate ways of dealing with problems facing the community.

**Dana Goldblatt** said she didn't know if Jamila Gore was present but wanted to make sure there is time for her since she got cut off last time. She encouraged Councilor Sciarra to go off queue to let people of color who have had experience with the Northampton police speak.

Jamila Gore was able to continue her testimony yesterday on another device, Councilor Sciarra informed her.

**Robbie Dunning, Greenfield resident, former Northampton resident**, added his voice as a resounding ditto to the diversity of voices calling for the council to reject the budget increase, defund the police and redistribute those funds to better-served areas such as schools, PPE, social workers, better low income housing and city-wide research to fully defund the police.

**Hillary Montague-Asp**, co-chair of GLSEN, Mass., said she was speaking on behalf of GLSEN, the nation's leading organization working to make schools safer for LGBTQ students. As an organization, they are here to demand that the nearly \$200,000 increase to the Northampton Police Department budget not be granted and also that the department be abolished as a whole. GLSEN conducts a national school climate survey every two years. The last couple of decades of data from this survey tells them that queer and trans students of color, especially black students, experience incredibly high rates of verbal harassment and physical assault at school and experience school discipline at a much higher rate than their white counterparts. Specifically, 46.7% of black LGBTQ students, 44.1% of Latinx LGBTQ students and 47.3% of multi-racial LGBTQ students reported being disciplined at school in the last year as compared to 36% of white LGBTQ students. Students who experience increased levels of school discipline often are forced out of school and end up in prisons and jails. While it may seem impossible to defund the

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police, GLSEN Massachusetts can promise them that it is not.

**Karle Tonge, they/them pronouns, Easthampton**, said it is important to acknowledge that the pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on the black community and people of color. The response should not be to use this crisis to increase the militarization and presence of police in their society. The idea of buying hybrids for the police station is an insulting example of white liberalism that cares about environmental impact but has historically ignored damage done by police to communities through the years. They echoed calls to not only vote against increasing the police budget but to defund the police and invest in community resources – housing, social workers, education – that actually help the community.

**Jackie Cosse** read a tweet from an anti-rape activist, writer and activist, who commented that using the phrase ‘women of color’ because a person is too afraid to say black is ‘a tool of white violence.’ She brings that up because many people have used the term ‘people of color’ when they actually mean black people. She has lived and worked as a social worker in Ward 1 for a little over five years and currently resides and works in NYC as a social worker for an alternative to incarceration program. She knows more than anyone how possible it is to rely on options other than police. She would be incredibly surprised if the council considered social workers as an alternative to policing; she urged folks to consider the white supremacist, savior-oriented roots embedded in social work in particular as an institution. Social workers are themselves weapons of the state as mandated reporters, she charged. Social workers are most often an extension of policing because of the way they are bound to the state through licensure. Do not replace one predominately white, state-sanctioned group with another, she urged. She echoed what others have said about considering transformative justice. As a person of color who has done restorative justice work, she is deeply disgusted by any supposed transformative or restorative work that supports policing.

She urged them to be aware that the Minneapolis police department is currently considering disbanding its police, which is unprecedented. It took the murder of George Floyd to push them to consider this. She urged the city council not to wait for the murder of a black person by police in Northampton to take action.

**Jazmyne Buentello, Easthampton resident who grew up in Northampton**, said she does not support a budget increase to the NPD; she does not believe they need it. Chief Kasper herself acknowledged she does not know if the training programs they send officers to produce real results. Regarding step raises, if there was ever a time to implement impact bargaining, now would be the time. She feels the NPD needs to make a better effort to not be a burden on a limited budget during a global pandemic when the whole world is struggling. Asking for hybrid cruisers just seems really inappropriate. They heard Superintendent Provost say there are at least 20 families they were not able to help during this crisis. There are plenty of departments that deserve this money more. Please do the right thing. “Invest in your city and your children.”

**Alyssa Kuhn, Ward 6**, loudly agreed and seconded everyone who has called for rejecting the increase proposed for the police. \$200,000 is not pocket money and it is insensitive and grossly inappropriate during these times. If council members still approve the increase after all the emails and calls, they have failed the people who have put them there.

**Joshua Strassman, Amherst resident and educator and member of the Massachusetts Teacher’s Association (MTA)**, shared the saying that students’ learning conditions are teachers’ working conditions. If students come in hungry, it’s their problem. If they don’t have adequate housing or are harassed or pepper-sprayed by the police, it’s their problem. As an educator, he can tell them people are struggling. Now is the time to defund the police and put money into insuring that everyone has food and housing. He agreed with one thing Chief Kasper said: No one knows if training works.

**Shira Breen, Ward 3**, said she is writing to demand that Northampton defund the police. She was raised to believe the police keep her safe. She’s from Minneapolis and, like Northampton, despite the many awards Minneapolis police have received, it did not take long to realize they were killing people. Police in Minneapolis are still police, police in Northampton are still police, police at birthday parties are still police; police kneeling are still police. They reject a false sense of safety from murderous hands. At this moment when their president is egging on police violence against protestors, increasing the police budget is exactly what Trump wants them to do.

There is no middle ground. It's a question of which side of history they will be on - Trump's police state or the people they claim to serve and protect. She understands abolishing police may be scary because they might lose their jobs but they can help them find another job. They can't bring back people killed by the police. It's time they follow the lead of the Minneapolis city council that is currently discussing disbanding the police and the lead of the LA city council that defunded police by \$150 million. At the very least, reject this egregious budget increase. People were out all night last night and they aren't going anywhere anytime soon. "Do your jobs as the democratic leaders we elected" and defund the police, she insisted.

**Emma Kohlmann, Ward 4**, said she agrees with the majority of people speaking tonight and last night calling for rejecting the increased budget for the Noho police and using the money for social services, PPE and schools. If they are truly anti-racist, they will reject the proposed budget. Laziness is no excuse. White supremacy feeds on white silence and white complicity. Chief Kasper has done little to show her constituents that she cares about these issues, saying that the public doesn't want to engage with her and placing blame on the community. The protest last week was met with total and utter hostility by Noho PD. A peaceful protest organized by high school students; a peaceful protest where a child was maced. No words were exchanged; just total and utter hostility. Birthday parades don't need armed officers, taking care of their houseless population with force is not a humane way to treat people. "We need medical professionals, therapists; people on the ground, not people with guns." She believes the funds can be better utilized.

Councilor Sciarra stated that it is 9:36 p.m. They are going to have to close this at some point so they can get to the rest of their agenda. She announced her intention to take the next eight speakers.

**Belen Rodriguez, she/her pronouns, Ward 3**, reiterated that the council must reject the proposed increase in the Northampton police budget and consider eventually defunding the NPD entirely. Homelessness, racial discrimination and gun violence are not inevitable crises; they are the direct result of policy decisions and investing more money in the police department is not a solution to these crises. For many of the most marginalized people in their community, police signal less safety not more.

**Zalia Maya, District 1**, said she is here to question the necessity of Mayor Narkewicz's request for a \$200,000 increase in police funding. She was surprised by this proposal given the mayor's budget statement that "crime continues to trend downward in this city." If crime rates have been steadily decreasing, why does the NPD need more funding? As the mayor stated on Facebook, 25% of the increase is going toward the purchase of hybrid cars. Northampton teachers have been asking for a raise and have been told there is no money. But, miraculously, there is money for hybrid police cruisers. A city shows its values in the way it spends its tax money. Throughout yesterday's meeting, councilors continuously praised the NPD for being progressive. Yet they failed to recall that, several years ago, the police department and chief in particular proposed to go to Israel to learn about police techniques from the IDF. To learn training from an organization committed to the occupation of the Palestinians suggests that the police see themselves as an occupying force. These decisions only prove Northampton's lack of regard for true public safety.

**Jake Wise** referred to statements that this is the first city council experience for a lot of people. He had one a few years ago when police wanted to install surveillance cameras downtown, an action which would also impact people of color and undocumented residents disproportionately. Council members did the right thing in that case. He wants to see them build on that. They have the ability to do the right thing, so do it. With the number of people in favor of this, if they don't, they are probably going to have people running against them in the next election. He urged them to follow in the steps of Minneapolis and LA, which are taking huge, huge steps.

**Cleo Bezee, Ward 3**, echoed what 'literally every community member' has said about defunding the police. Last night, Jody Kasper talked about wanting more training for cops around mental health and addiction. She just wanted to make really clear that cops have no place in mental health care or people's addiction recovery. Addiction is pretty criminalized in this country, especially for black and brown folks and for houseless people. At best, what cops do in times of crises is section people – forcibly hospitalize and drug them – and, at worst, kill people. A lot of the crisis services in Northampton are directly connected to cops and will call the police on people they deem unsafe to themselves. With regard to the idea that the NPD just needs more

de-escalation training or more diversity hires, they can see pretty clearly that de-escalation training doesn't do anything. The Minneapolis police department had de-escalation training and was seen as a really progressive police department. She urged city council members to do their job and actually represent the voices of their community. "We've made it incredibly clear that we want to defund the police department in Northampton," she reminded.

**Natalie Foust, Ward 5**, said that in her time in Northampton she had been stalked. She went to the police and they did nothing. She has dealt with addiction and thinks the only reason she got through and got sober is because she didn't have to deal with police because she had a house and access to a therapist. They should be making sure that everybody has these opportunities; that is the only way to make a community safe. She echoed everything everybody said.

**Ryan Cheevers Brown, Ward 7**, commented that, before they advocate completely defunding the police department, they should at least go over the expenditures and find out what Chief Kasper wants the \$200,000 for. Additionally, he echoed what other people said about expanding health care and hiring social workers to deal with people who are not in a very good place.

**Cailin, Ward 1**, echoed those who spoke before her and called for defunding the Northampton police. She stated for the record that Jody Kasper broke her heart last night. She can't speak to the experience of the black community, but it was her experience as a minor in crisis that she would literally have done anything to receive help from a social worker instead of a police officer, but they were the only ones available. At 16 years old, when she was running away from home at night during a domestic violence crisis, the first place she went was the Domino's on King Street and then the Pride gas station and every other 24-hour business on that street. Why did she choose to go to random businesses instead of the police department? Because she was scared; she was vulnerable. She was in crisis and needed help from real human beings with hearts. Eventually she did make the most regrettable decision of her life, which was to turn to the NPD for help. She won't even begin to detail how they only worsened her trauma. She asked Chief Kasper to speak to her so-called fleet (sic) and see what they had to say about the concerns she and every other person who spoke has raised. While she's at it, maybe also look into why police language is so militarized, something they'd never find in an institution working for the well-being of the public. Council members have record proof that a Northampton minor looking for crisis help and comfort literally chose a commercial pizza store on the side of the street over the police department. What will they do with this information? She asked rhetorically.

**Voula O'Grady, Ward 3, she/they**, urged members to defund the police and invest in social services, especially in funding for community organizations like Tapestry. If the idea of shifting funding away from the police seems daunting, she reminded them that there are people willing to help. There are evidence-based resources on how to divest from militarized police forces. They have mentioned wanting to fight racism so she urged them to center the voices of people most directly affected. Some people are saying that police make them feel safe and protected but a lot of other people are saying that the police make them feel less safe. If they are one of the people who feel safe, they really need to listen to what other people are saying. The U.S. police force originated as patrols against enslaved people. They've always existed to protect the existing social order, and the existing social order has always been extremely inequitable. She urged them to shift funding toward supporting community members' needs rather than criminalizing them. They can take a step toward making this happen by denying this budget increase.

**Casey Flaherty, an Easthampton resident who works in Northampton**, said she believes police used to be about 'protect and serve' and now are about trying to catch good people doing something wrong. In 2016 she was wrongfully arrested by a cop trying to make his quota for the night. She had to go to trial to prove her innocence and get justice. A jury had to decide her fate and there was no evidence. The officer on the stand agreed he had no reason to pull her over or arrest her that night; but this was after her paying over seven grand and losing years of her life to a fight. Her father was attacked by a drunk man who got out of his car in a rage when her dad kindly asked him to move out of the driveway. The police showed up and didn't arrest the man for being under the influence or attacking her father because he was friends with the cop. Incidents like this happen all over all the time. She never felt safe when cops came into her middle school. In towns nearby - Easthampton, Northampton and Greenfield - there've been so many bad cases. "We can't let this budget get increased; we can't let it pass," she pleaded.

**Susan Edelstein, Ward 4**, said her primary goal in speaking is to echo everyone else's request

to reject the proposed budget. The police budget should not be increased but should be either defunded or cut drastically. In addition, police should be demilitarized. She mentioned the city's needs for COVID-related testing, senior services, veterans' services, food assistance, housing and expanded public transportation. She thinks the city should start thinking outside the box. In addition to subsidized housing development, is there a possibility the city could have a subsidy program such as Section 8? In sum, for right now, reject the proposed budget. Go back to the drawing board.

**Charlotte Kohlmann, Ward 3**, said she rejects the budget increase of nearly \$200,000 and urges them to defund the police. Not only would increasing contractual salaries, training and hybrid cars squander the memory of black lives that have been lost but it would ignore Northampton's most vulnerable residents. Rubber bullets, batons and tear gas may be categorized as less lethal ammunition, but they still cause irreversible harm. They fracture skulls, blind and cause brain damage. Last week, high school students who marched peacefully wanted to converse with officers, but the police belittled them and caused unnecessary tension. They stood in a blockade of silence holding shields and teargassed children. She asked Chief Kasper why, if she prides herself on working with the community, she did not speak to protestors that day. Police departments across America are in charge of way too much. They are not health care workers or social workers yet they are taking on social issues such as addiction, substance abuse and mental illness. They need law enforcement alternatives that reconnect people to social networks. Minneapolis city councilors are looking to dismantle their police department and replace it with a new model for public safety; Northampton can do the same. Commenting on the opioid crisis in a 2018 Gazette article, Police Chief Kasper said "arresting people as I've been doing for 20 years doesn't work; that's the lesson we've learned." Police are not the solution. There's no perfect solution but, as Kasper mentioned, arresting people does not work.

**Adele Fantasia, Ward 5**, referred to the officer who made the hamburger comment. There is a video circulating on twitter with 977,000 views, 30,000 likes and 10,000 retweets, she related. She feels like that is not good in terms of optics for Northampton. What if there is a video of the cops pepper-spraying 15-year olds? That is not progressive. She thought they should know this. The culture isn't ready to abolish the police but this is a symbolic sentiment. Ideally the police will be abolished in the long-term. In the interim, they should be talking about civilian review boards and law enforcement liability insurance.

**Carolyn Shread, Ward 4**, echoed statements in favor of not approving the budget increase for the NPD but rather defunding if not disbanding it and reallocating funding to community resources, especially Northampton public schools where she is a student. Policing is an inherently violent, white supremacist institution and Northampton's liberal reputation does not exclude them from that. Black lives matter.

**Justine Barrett Figura, Northampton resident** and Florence small business owner, asked councilors to vote unanimously against the proposed budget so they may defund the Northampton police starting with FY2021. The speech given by Chief Kasper (sic) during the peaceful protest Monday suggesting that one bad hamburger doesn't discredit all other hamburgers demonstrates just how tone deaf and out of touch the Northampton police are to not only the issues surrounding the death of George Floyd but specifically to their own community standing at their very doorstep asking for, at best, reform, accountability and simple acknowledgment of police brutality, and, at the very least, simple empathy with black and brown members of the community. They have proven their worst fears are true; that they would rather hold their position than speak out against fellow law enforcers and take a knee. There are more peaceful protests organized for the coming weeks and she wants to emphasize that they are peaceful. Most years, the police budget has increased by an average of one and a half (1.5) to two percent (2%), but last year's budget proposal called for a significant increase of 13%. What exactly is the \$200,000 needed for over last year's major budget increase? Someone mentioned earlier a failure of imagination as what to do with that money. She couldn't agree more. If they want to know what they could do with that money to honor their black and brown community members, they could start by asking them.

**April Gray, Ward 3**, said they have lived and worked in downtown Northampton for six years. Like so many others, they are here not only to oppose the increase to the police budget but to challenge the community to imagine a world without police or prisons. Several years ago, they awoke to the sound of their housemate screaming. A man had broken into their house in the

	<p>middle of the night and fallen asleep in her bed. He had broken their back window and let himself in, obviously very intoxicated. After he left the house they pieced together that he had been a man they knew through their work. The landlord suggested they call the police. When the police arrived, they split the roommates up and questioned them separately. They accused them of lying about the fact that someone had broken into their house. They made a lot of accusations about why it was they had called for assistance. They made the situation worse and they wonder who else they could have called in that situation. They made them feel as if they had done something wrong. What would it have looked like if there were no police and they had the opportunity to call on someone who could mediate the conflict between themselves and their neighbor? What would it have looked like if they had been able to ask someone to help them lovingly hold the person accountable for the ways his behavior had harmed them? What would it have looked like to go through a process of transformative justice together and simply fix their window? They shared this anecdote to help them and implore them to imagine what kind of world might be possible if 911 were not the only emergency hotline available.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The public hearing was closed at 10:20 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u></p>	<p><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u> The Legislative Matters Committee will convene Monday depending on possible referrals from tonight's meeting, Councilor Dwight reminded. If there are no referrals, they will not convene.</p>
<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></p>	<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u> None</p>
<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u> None</p>
<p><u>Recess for Committee on City Services Meeting</u></p>	<p>At 10:23 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on City Services meeting. The Committee on City Services adjourned at 10:37 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 10:37 p.m.</p> <p>The City Council took a five-minute recess and reconvened at 10:47 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda. She removed Item B, Approval of Pole Petitions for Park Hill Road, since the public hearing had been continued.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The following item was approved as part of the consent agenda: A. <u>Minutes of May 21, 2020</u></p>
<p><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></p>	<p>At 10:49 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance meeting. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 12:16 a.m. The City Council reconvened at 12:16 a.m.</p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u> <u>20.053 An Order to Approve FY2021 General Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor Jarrett reiterated that, due to his financial interest in the Pedal People contract, he must recuse himself from discussion and action on the order to approve the overall General Fund</p>

20.053 An Order  
to Approve  
FY2021 General  
Fund Budget - 1st  
reading

budget and on any action to separate out the Pedal People contract.

To accommodate Councilor Jarrett's conflict, Councilor Sciarra called for a motion to put adoption of the FY2021 General Fund Budget (not Order 20.053 itself but the GF budget totaling \$95,444,320) on the floor for discussion. **Councilor Dwight so moved. Councilor LaBarge seconded.**

**Councilor Sciarra called for a motion to divide the question to separately consider the \$38,000 line item in the Central Services Parking Maintenance budget for the Pedal People contract. Councilor Dwight so moved. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.**

Members sought direction from the City Solicitor as to whether it was necessary to separate out the \$194,000 increase to the police budget for separate discussion since it is the source of the greatest controversy. Attorney Seewald said not unless there is a conflict they are looking to cure. If they choose to propose a cut, they should indicate which budget is being reduced, he clarified.

Councilor Jarrett thanked fellow councilors for going through the machinations to allow him to participate and represent his constituents on this item. He began by acknowledging the hundreds of people who spoke, called and emailed and recognizing their courage in speaking.

"I have been horrified by the murder of George Floyd and by violent actions of police toward black and brown people around the country," Councilor Jarrett related. "The protests we've seen across the nation and here in Northampton demonstrate the built-up anger and frustration at continued oppression on top of centuries of systemic racism that denied people of color economic security, safety and respect. I am also humbled and impressed by anyone who will put their lives on the line to protect the public, and our public safety departments do this every day. I think the emergency response work that the Northampton Police Department does is crucial, and our police department has and will be undertaking significant steps to be fair and impartial and to understand racism and reduce the use of force. These actions are absolutely necessary."

"The first-person testimony on mistreatment by the Northampton police that we've heard in the hearing yesterday and today was heartbreaking," he continued. "I do trust the intentions of Chief Kasper and it's clear that there is much more work to do. There may be individuals in our police department who don't act appropriately but I do see the bigger problem as being systemic. Also, any actions that the NPD takes to improve don't get to the core of the problems our society faces – economic inequality, racism, addiction and domestic violence to name a few. I think it is worth looking at our city's budget from a new perspective. My questions are: How many of our police officers' tasks can be done by people who are not armed with specialized training with better outcomes? Last night I asked Chief Kasper how many of the department's calls are related to mental health issues, and the answer was about one in five. I spoke about a program in Eugene, OR where about one in five calls are responded to by mental health first responders rather than police. I researched this further and found articles stating that specifically-trained mental health workers, unarmed and not in a uniform, can reach better outcomes with much less cost."

It made him wonder how many of these stories would have ended differently if they'd had a program like this. How could reallocation of the funds spent on policing alleviate some of the problems that policing is intended to solve, such as housing? Would it be cheaper and create better outcomes to simply house people instead of policing them? He sees this as an opportunity to move something forward that is not new but that becomes clearer and clearer every day; a paradigm shift in their response to social problems.

Councilor Jarrett proposed starting by level funding the police department and simultaneously asking the mayor to increase social services instead. Other tasks they could take on are to create a body to explore alternatives to policing, form a select committee to work with the mayor, enact legislation to increase public safety and create a civilian oversight board for the police with power to investigate wrongdoing independently. It is the job of the city council to provide oversight of the budget and it is entirely appropriate for them to use that power if they believe it is in the best interests of the city, he professed.

The mayor has told him that if councilors do reduce the budget, he will not redirect the money but

will allow it to go back into the Fiscal Stability Fund.

As far as the council's process, he expressed his understanding that, if the order does not pass, meaning four councilors vote against it, the mayor's proposed budget will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, since the budget automatically takes effect if the council fails to take action. In other words, too many 'no' votes tonight are the same as a 'yes' vote and there would not be a second reading. He does not in good conscience feel that he can vote yes.

If they choose to reduce or reject, they must specify particular line items. He has not done the research as to which line items it would be appropriate to reduce. Therefore, he would want to wait until the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to decide in consultation with the mayor, police chief and community which line items to reduce to achieve level funding.

What are their options moving forward? He asked. If they are going to reduce particular line items, it should be a very calculated decision, he proposed.

There are only three increases to the budget: an increase to Personnel Services (PS), Ordinary Maintenance (OM) and Other than Ordinary Maintenance (OOM), Mayor Narkewicz pointed out. Level funding means not increasing those three line items, he clarified.

During the hour-long discussion that followed, questions and comments centered on the Police budget and councilors' reactions to the unprecedented call to reduce funding to this department. Numerous procedural questions were raised about the mechanics of reducing the budget. Mayor Narkewicz fielded questions about the purpose of specific line items and offered justifications for increases to others.

Several councilors (Quinlan, LaBarge and Thorpe) voiced discomfort at the thought of buying new police cruisers at a time of financial crisis, let alone hybrid vehicles.

Numerous councilors (Councilors Foster, Quinlan and LaBarge, among others) voiced support for the idea of having social workers respond to mental health calls instead of police.

A unifying theme in the council's discussion was the concept that the budget should be a reflection of the city's values.

Councilor Quinlan read a prepared statement stating, among other things, his opposition to the purchase of five new police cars at a time when the city is in financial crisis. He outlined three clear 'first steps:' 1) reallocating the budget to reflect the city's needs and desires, 2) considering hiring social workers and mental health experts as part of the paramedic corps and 3) enlisting citizen panels to study the future of Northampton policing and emergency response along with how to provide social services to continue the downward trend in crime. He cited the steering committee formed in 2005 to develop a comprehensive plan for a sustainable Northampton and the Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction as potential models for such a body.

"Please join me in trying to be the leadership community we consider ourselves to be," Councilor Quinlan implored. He has some ideas for line item reductions, he added.

One of the spending items he questioned was Police Supplies, which showed an increase of \$34,000 from FY2019 to FY2020, from \$58,537 to \$92,537. In response, Mayor Narkewicz noted a tendency in the 90's as budgets got tighter to push everyday supplies out to the capital plan. Since these are really operating expenses, part of the increase is due to moving items from the capital plan back to the General Fund budget, he said.

Councilor Foster said she had received hundreds of emails and her phone has been ringing. It's clear there is a lot of pain and a real call for change and action. Whenever people are together in a room, she stressed the need to always be aware of voices which aren't being heard.

"What we've seen is an outpouring of people I don't think had been in the room for a long time," she observed.

In response to calls to withhold contractually-obligated pay raises, Councilor Foster said she is a union supporter and believes people in public employment should be paid for their service. The

idea of not honoring a contract or not paying people in public service their value means only people of privilege can hold public service jobs, she pointed out.

The city also has multiple priorities. One of the very biggest issues people talked to her about early on was climate change. People are deeply, deeply concerned about it. She recognizes that the budget appropriation to convert from gasoline to hybrid cruisers is not a flight of fancy but is intended to help meet an important goal of the city, specifically improving its climate impact.

She comes from a social services background and has worked with at-risk youth, as a public school teacher and with people who have been incarcerated. The research is very clear that funding for human services reduces the need for policing and the criminal justice system. There are alternative models of policing including the option for social workers and mental health specialists to respond to many calls. That being said, she expressed her deep appreciation for Chief Kasper. "She is listening," she observed. She has seen her be willing to consider these issues and to work with the community. She believes it is very important to show that respect and appreciation for her work and her values. "I believe she is someone we can work with on reform."

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus has called for municipalities to consider establishing civilian oversight committees to look at policing, and she fully supports that. She recognizes it can't happen on a dime yet realizes there is an urgency for communities of color who don't feel safe under the current model. She also doesn't feel good about making a large cut to a police budget without an alternative plan in place for handling services presently handled by the police. She views this as a process, and she is committed to being a part of the process, she concluded.

Councilor Thorpe invoked the 1965 Watts riots in California, the 1992 LA riots following the beating of Rodney King, Eric Gardner, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, stressing that what they're witnessing "is nothing new." He respects Chief Kasper and the work of the department, he affirmed. As a probation officer, he has good collaboration with a lot of police departments in the area. As a council, he asked that they come together to try to implement some of the ideas they have been seeing in their emails. He cited mandating new approaches to public safety, reforming policies and "doing the real anti-racism work that goes beyond training and requires a leadership team willing to do the work and people willing to educate themselves." "I cannot do this alone," he admitted.

To reiterate the words of former City Councilor Alisa Klein, "we need to address institutional racism in concrete ways," he asserted. He expressed appreciation for everybody who attended last night's hearing and spoke and everyone present tonight. He looks forward to going over the budget and said his first concern is the increase in vehicle costs.

Councilor Maiore opened by stating that because of the late hour and the eloquence of engaged residents, she didn't feel the need to say too much. She assured residents who had spoken she hears them. "I think we owe it to our community to take this opportunity and reset our priorities and align our budget with our values and to be incredibly cautious now with how and what we fund in a time when so many are suffering and sacrificing," she commented.

She has heard the pain that residents expressed and thinks bold action is needed. The issue to her is systemic racism and the systemic nature of policing. She stressed she is looking for alternatives to policing, not just progressive policing. If they have a civilian review board, it has to have some authority or she's afraid it will fall flat. They've seen bold moves such as in LA. She thinks they need to consider police insurance and all kinds of options.

She is not satisfied with the current proposed budget and the direction it's taking them in, she concluded. "I believe we can do better."

Councilor Maiore asked about the vacancy in the Administrative Sergeant position (\$73,257 - Pg. 51) and whether they should be filling it at this point.

The position is currently vacant, most likely due to promotion, Mayor Narkewicz advised. The council's role is to cut the overall budget, not individual positions, he reminded. Cutting \$193,000 from the budget will require elimination of positions, he confirmed. The city will still have to meet its contractual obligations.

Councilor Sciarra reminded councilors that they do not have the authority to reallocate money within the budget.

Councilor LaBarge focused on the \$45,465 budget increase in OOM, asking if there is any way the city could hold off on purchasing hybrid cruisers since she doesn't find it to be an urgent need. They have a senior center with elderly people and need to get a van. She is pretty sure the police department would agree that the vehicles could be set aside in favor of a van for the senior center. She also mentioned the \$8,000 budget increase for training.

She agreed social workers should be handling mental health calls instead of police and that some sort of committee should be formed to discuss the future direction of the police department.

Mayor Narkewicz clarified that the reason the senior transportation program isn't operating is the COVID19 pandemic, not the lack of a van. The van service was discontinued very early in the closure because people weren't using it and the drivers are all retirees, who are high risk. The senior center is closed so several of its programs are shut down.

The seniors are the most vulnerable population in the COVID crisis, he stressed. City officials don't know if and when the senior center will open. He personally doesn't see a way they will be able to safely open it by the end of the year. Staff are working on a transportation program using taxis, which are safer than the van service, and also working on some volunteer rides. It's not a matter of needing vehicles for the vans, it's more of an operational issue, he emphasized.

If she believes they should not purchase additional cruisers, she should vote to cut that out of the police budget, he added.

What about the schools? Councilor LaBarge asked. Why couldn't they just take that \$45,000 and bring it to the schools?

Mayor Narkewicz explained that the City Council has the authority to reduce the budget but the process is that the mayor presents a budget for approval. It is not an interactive process where the mayor and council move money around together. He talked in his budget message about his commitment to the schools. In the expenditure summary, schools are the single largest expenditure increase, he pointed out.

He noted that he submitted the budget May 18<sup>th</sup>, so claims that it is a reaction to the death of George Floyd are not accurate.

He is happy to answer questions. He has heard the claim that they are cutting veterans' services, and he assured those present it is not true. The decrease is due to the decrease in veterans' benefits, which is based on the number of veterans served. This number has been declining.

They are increasing the public health budget by 46% in an effort to divert resources to public health. "We're in a public health crisis," he reminded. They are holding schools, arts and libraries harmless, he confirmed.

With regard to public safety, the goal was to maintain level services. "This is not an expansion of our police department. We are not adding any officers," he clarified. If level funding the police department is the message the council wants to send, they would reduce the three budgets by the increased amounts, he reiterated.

At the risk of stating the obvious, they're in the midst of a sea change, and it is an opportunity to seize the moment, Councilor Dwight opened. He's called it the great recalibration. It's not about the \$200,000 necessarily. At least in this country, they're talking about a movement to change what it means to police and to be policed. Like all of them, he has been genuinely moved and gratified by the citizens motivated to engage them and their very real distress. In the course of their advocacy, they have been driven by passion and councilors have experienced these passionate conversations before. Some of the comments are designed to hurt, and they do hurt. "If they prick us, we do bleed," he shared. Every member here in this council is devoted to this process of public service and is guided by their conscience, he assured. The enormity of the public response has been unprecedented. He expressed hope that the energy to engage

translates into energy to step up and serve the community. "If you want to be a councilor, please run," he urged.

Former Mayor Clare Higgins famously described the budget as a 'moral doctrine,' a reflection of their priorities. There has been a significant change in those priorities, he suggested. Based on what he's heard so far, it seems very likely that the police department will be level-funded, and he is actually in favor of that. Councilor Jarret makes a very good point with regard to this vote: if they vote the budget down in toto, it will not work to anyone's satisfaction.

He heard people saying over and over again that they should redirect the money to fund Tapestry, fund housing, create subsidies and the like. He asked the mayor to elaborate on this. As he understands it, the city cannot take money allocated to departments and allocate it to outside agencies.

Certainly the city can't appropriate money to private agencies, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. The city does give money to private agencies through its two major grant programs: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and Community Preservation Act (CPA). They would have to do some sort of a grant process or contract. They could not put a line item to Tapestry or ServiceNet in the city budget.

They are limited by Mass. General Law and a number of other constraints, Councilor Dwight noted.

Regarding calls for police reform, Councilor Dwight agreed there has to be a conversation not only monitored and instigated by the City Council but initiated by residents. The council's status as elected officials confers upon them some sort of authority, so he would prefer a conversation initiated by residents where everyone is on equal footing and councilors participate in an agenda set by members of the community. He also thinks it's important for the council to create its own committee to review, consider and discuss these issues. "I look forward to that conversation."

Councilor Dwight expressed a strong desire to move on the budget. He encouraged members to cut to the chase but emphasized the importance of being specific in identifying proposed cuts. They can't get away with just saying level-funded; they have to stipulate amounts, he advised.

The three amounts are the three amounts in the budget narrative on page 51: \$140,042 from PS, \$8,072 from OM and \$45,465 from OOM, Mayor Narkewicz volunteered. The way to level-fund a budget is to not increase it, he explained.

Councilor Dwight consulted the city solicitor, who confirmed those would be the three line items councilors would want to reduce if they wanted to level-fund the police budget.

Councilor Nash related a recent conversation with Chief Kasper in which she acknowledged the difficulty police officers sometimes have in determining the most appropriate response, whether it be law enforcement or referral to a social service. The NPD is well aware of what they're talking about, he assured. Part of the problem is that there has been a drop in funding for those programs, which means that more of the work is falling on the police. "Part of what's going on is the mission creep for what we're asking our police officers to do," he suggested.

This is a conversation the NPD would be interested in having, he confirmed.

If they're really serious about making a change, they can't just talk about level-funding the police, Councilor Maiore insisted. They need to talk about reallocation. She hears that that's not their jobs to some extent. She would urge the mayor not to just put the money back in the stabilization fund but to think about moving it to schools and social services.

Councilor Maiore asked Attorney Seewald's opinion on the council's ability to reallocate funds. In particular, she asked for his interpretation of a Frequently Asked Question from a Division of Local Services publication, which she proceeded to read aloud:

*Question: May the city council add items to the annual budget without a recommendation from the mayor?*

*Answer: A city council may only add an item when there is no recommendation of any kind of that particular spending purpose in the mayor's budget and it follows the procedure found in G.L. c. 44, Section 33. If no recommendation of any kind has been made for an item or purpose the city council considers necessary, the council must vote to request that the mayor make a recommendation for an appropriation for that purpose.*

She would like to see that \$130,000 and change (sic) go for a Department of Transformative Justice, Councilor Maiore said.

Attorney Seewald said he was not prepared to answer the question off the cuff.

Councilor Jarrett stated he was prepared to make the amendment previously discussed (to level-fund the police budget).

Mayor Narkewicz said he is not familiar with the information in the municipal finance guide, but Northampton's charter is very clear about how the budget can be amended. Furthermore, the charter is clear about how agencies are created. They're not created by an appropriation of the city council, they're created by an administrative order emanating from the mayor.

He's happy for the solicitor to review the information in the municipal finance guide, he said.

To him, simply deleting the increase from each budget (PS, OM and OOM) is not a solution, Councilor Quinlan stated. He agrees the city has a contractual obligation to honor agreed-upon salary increases. His proposal for cutting the budget is to eliminate three of the five new vehicles. Since the amount budgeted for five is \$350,825, he estimated each vehicle to cost \$70,165, for total savings of \$210,495.

Councilor Jarrett said he expects the council to determine the amount to be cut, but he would be receptive to a proposal by the mayor to shift funding from one budget to another. His intent is to give the police department maximum flexibility within the fiscal constraints the council imposes. He sees allocation of funds as being an executive decision, he indicated.

Councilor Foster agreed. However, she expressed concern that the \$200,000 could go back into the General Fund and disappear. If they really see this as an opportunity for change, she would like funding allocated toward a position to work toward this change.

Councilor Thorpe said he appreciated what Councilor Quinlan said about contractual salaries. He has heard from people on both sides of the issue in Ward 4, he related. He heard from a large portion of people regarding defunding, but a good amount of people are very supportive of the police department and want the budget to remain as it is.

He wondered if, as a group, they are ready to move forward tonight, or if they need more time.

Councilor Dwight raised a point of order. They're debating an amendment that hasn't been made.

Councilor Jarrett said he was prepared to make a motion and proceeded to move to amend the police department's budget to remove \$140,042 from PS, \$8,072 from OM and \$45,465 from OOM. Councilor Dwight seconded.

Councilor Foster noted that it is 2 o'clock in the morning. She is looking at the names in the budget of people who serve their city. If there is a need and desire to move ahead tonight, she proposed cutting the budget by the amount of the administrative sergeant vacancy - \$73,257. What she would *really* prefer is to have this discussion at another time when they have a chance to be incredibly thoughtful about the exact numbers and line items, she said.

Mayor Narkewicz reminded councilors that they can cut a number in PS but they can't cut a position.

Councilor Quinlan said he also is thinking about the people. While they've been urged to shrink the police force, he's not sure this is how they want to do it.

Councilor Thorpe said it sounded like they might need a little more time.

They're not doing anyone any favors by continuing to deliberate at this point, Councilor Dwight suggested. They may actually have to have a special meeting. He would recommend that they get through this part of the process and continue the rest of the agenda at a special meeting.

There is an order on the agenda pertaining to the next phase of reopening which the governor is expected to announce Saturday, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. They cannot postpone the rest of the agenda, but they could continue this part of the discussion, Councilor Sciarra clarified.

He's been offering all sorts of helpful suggestions, but he supports the budget he put forward, as does Chief Kasper, Mayor Narkewicz stressed. He doesn't believe they should cut the police budget; he believes they should maintain the existing level of service.

Councilor Dwight moved to continue debate on the budget to a meeting to be determined. Councilor Nash seconded.

Councilors debated the motion to continue. Councilors Maire and LaBarge both expressed interest in proceeding to a vote. He is prepared to vote tonight if others want to move forward, Councilor Thorpe said.

Councilor Dwight pointed out there seems to be clear consensus to cut the budget, but "the devil is in the details." 2:15 in the morning is not the optimal time to work out details and probably would not do the question justice.

Councilor Sciarra called the motion to continue to a vote, and it passed 8:1 by roll call vote with Councilor Maire opposed.

See minutes of June 10, 2020 for continuation of the discussion of 20.053 in first reading.

20.054 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

20.054 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.055 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Water Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st rdg.

20.055 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Water Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.056 Order to Approve FY 2021 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

20.056 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Councilor Jarrett disclosed that he has a conflict of interest and would recuse himself.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.057 Order to Approve FY 2021 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st rdg.

20.057 An Order to Approve FY 2021 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.058 Order to Approve FY2021 Revolving Funds - 1st reading

20.058 An Order to Approve FY2021 Revolving Funds - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.059 Order Authorizing Acquisition and Establishment of a Municipal Light Plant - 1st reading  
20.060 Order to Approve Gift Fund Expenditures for Street and Transportation Sharing - 1st reading

20.059 An Order Authorizing Acquisition and Establishment of a Municipal Light Plant - 1st reading  
 Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

20.060 An Order to Approve Gift Fund Expenditures for Street and Transportation Sharing - 1st reading  
 Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Foster moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council,*

June 4, 2020

Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

**20.060 An Order to Approve Gift Fund Expenditures for Street and Transportation Sharing**

*Whereas*, In three previous orders (April 2001, September 2012, May 2013), City Council authorized the use of the City’s Tourism Gift Account for gateway signs and improvements, wayfinding signs, pavement markings, street and multi-use trail furniture and improvements, murals, sculptures, and art installations; and

*Whereas*, Leveraging funds from a \$10,000 Solomon Foundation grant, the City is working with the Downtown Northampton Association and Florence Civic and Business Association and merchants to explore options for sharing streets to accommodate pedestrian flow, outdoor eating, curbside pickups, and attractive streetscapes that safely support the business community and the larger community.

*Ordered that*, Northampton City Council in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure) authorizes the expenditure of funds donated by the public, through the existing Tourism Gift Account, to be used for all of the past authorized uses and for street and transportation system sharing.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

20.061 Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority - 2 Votes - 1st reading

20.061 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority - 2 Votes - 1st reading  
 Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 18, 2020 for second reading.

Orders  
20.062 Order Temporarily Suspending the Effect of Certain Ordinances in Response to

Orders  
20.062 An Order Temporarily Suspending the Effect of Certain Ordinances in Response to Efforts to Reopen Restaurants - 1st reading  
 Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Dwight moved to put the order on the floor for purposes of discussion. Councilor Nash seconded.

Efforts to Reopen  
Restaurants - 1st  
reading

The city wants to be able to swing into action Saturday when the governor makes an announcement as to when phase II of the reopening plan begins, Mayor Narkewicz explained. A planning committee of six different departments has been working with the Downtown Northampton Association (DNA) and Florence Civic and Business Association, and there is a lot of excitement and anticipation, especially from restaurants that have been closed. The city solicitor went through the ordinances to try to figure out which ordinances would be triggered by moving outdoor seating into the public way. Temporary suspension of these ordinances will allow the flexibility to accommodate outdoor dining.

Councilor Dwight reiterated his concern that these are public spaces. They've often had conflicts between business owners and people business owners felt were undesirable. He just wants them to be conscientious. He understands and agrees they should do everything they can to help businesses get back on their feet, but, at the same time, he doesn't want a presumption of primacy on the sidewalks by businesses – i.e. - calling the police if they feel someone is behaving inappropriately proximate to their restaurant in a way that would otherwise be allowed.

He is prepared to vote for this but with these caveats. He thinks they should definitely pay attention to how this is prosecuted.

Councilor Sciarra said she shares those concerns. She acknowledged the continued presence of Office of Planning and Sustainability Director Wayne Feiden, Chief of Staff Alan Wolf and Finance Director Susan Wright on the call.

Councilor Nash thanked Mayor Narkewicz and his staff for working on this and responding to the concerns of downtown businesses. He shares Councilor Dwight's concern that they need to be careful in broadening private use of this public space but is otherwise supportive. It is part of a broader experiment they are doing to try to enliven downtown, he noted.

Councilor Foster acknowledged the work of the Mayor, DNA, DPW and police department and said she is excited to see this move forward. She expressed support and said she appreciated the thoughtfulness Councilors Dwight and Nash have brought around the use of public space.

Councilor Jarrett said he thinks opening the street space for people to dine is a wonderful idea. He doesn't think people should have to spend money in order to sit and eat downtown, though. Also, he asked if seating would be available for restaurants without outdoor seating so people who want to purchase take out can sit and eat outside. He is concerned about the wording, i.e. - "outdoor restaurant table service seating."

The intention is to include some public seating that is not related to a certain restaurant, Mr. Feiden assured.

'Table service seating' is the language contained in the governor's order and that is why it is used, Attorney Seewald explained.

One problem with having unassigned tables for take-out is that assigning seating to a restaurant means the restaurant is responsible for maintaining social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, Chief of Staff Alan Wolf added. They talked about having unassigned seating and, frankly, the Health Director said no. Unless the city hires someone to clean it every time someone gets up and leaves, they can't do it. It's not part of the current plan.

The health department has updated its regulations to allow people to take off face masks while they are eating, Attorney Seewald advised. The governor's order already specifies that masks aren't required while people are eating, Mayor Narkewicz added.

They are waiting to hear about the ability of patrons to go into the restaurant and use the restroom, Mr. Wolf said.

Councilor Jarrett asked if someone could sit down on the grass and take off their mask and eat. Attorney Seewald said the regulation he discussed with Director O'Leary only applies to mask wearing while seated at table service seating. They haven't discussed suspension of the order requiring a mask for eating elsewhere downtown.

He is concerned about setting up a situation where people can't bring food in and eat unless they purchase food at a restaurant, Councilor Jarrett elaborated.

They can talk to the health director about that, Mayor Narkewicz said.

Councilor Sciarra expressed the opinion that the council needs to suspend its rules since the order is not being referred to Legislative Matters.

**Councilor Dwight moved to suspend the rules to waive the requirement that the order be referred to Legislative Matters. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed 8:0 with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).**

He does feel comfortable moving forward, but they are putting a lot of trust in the mayor to make sure the downtown is accessible to everyone, Councilor Jarrett observed. He said he would appreciate his assurance that this would seriously be taken into account.

Most definitely, Mayor Narkewicz said. He agreed mask rules should apply to a person eating a pita pocket on the grass in front of the courthouse. They don't want to cordon off sidewalks or make it impossible to move around downtown, he assured.

**Councilor Sciarra called the motion to approve the order in first reading to a vote, and it passed 8:0 with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).**

**Councilor Dwight moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed 8:0 with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).**

**Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed 8:0 with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).**

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**

MASSACHUSETTS

**In City Council, June 4, 2020**

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz

**O-20.062 AN ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE EFFECT OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES IN RESPONSE TO EFFORTS TO REOPEN RESTAURANTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF COVID SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

WHEREAS, a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence of circumstances demanding public action has arisen worldwide, including in the city of Northampton, due to the Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic (“the pandemic”); and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Northampton declared a State of Emergency in the City of Northampton due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Northampton Board of Health declared a State of Emergency in the City of Northampton due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, the Governor issued his four-phase plan for Reopening Massachusetts, which includes outdoor restaurant table service in Phase II; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the reopening of restaurants with outdoor-only table service, restaurants in certain zones of the city, as depicted on the plan entitled “Covid-19 Restaurant Response Zones,” may need to include contiguous and non-contiguous outdoor areas, including some within public ways and some on other property of the city; and

WHEREAS, Phase II of Reopening Massachusetts is tentatively scheduled to commence on June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the city council finds that encouraging, promoting and facilitating the reopening of restaurants in the Covid-19 Restaurant Response Zones by temporarily allowing certain activities to take place within public ways and on other public property that would not otherwise be allowed absent the state of emergency, in order to allow orderly opening of restaurants consistent with the requirements of the Governor’s Phase II Order, is in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Northampton City Council orders as follows:

1. Notwithstanding any Order of the city council to the contrary, within the areas depicted on the plan entitled "Covid-19 Restaurant Response Zones" ("the zones"), the City Council hereby authorizes the change of use of any property within the public way or on other city property ("city property") to outdoor restaurant table service seating ("the outdoor table service areas").
2. The Mayor shall, in his discretion, designate the locations of outdoor table service areas, may enter into such licenses, easements, agreements and other instruments as he deems necessary, may designate rules and regulations for the use of the outdoor table service areas, and may take such other action as he deems necessary to effectuate this Order.
3. With regard to the outdoor table service areas and ancillary areas within the adjacent zones, § 120-1; § 285-5; § 285-8; § 285-11; § 285-29 and c. 303, are hereby suspended to the extent necessary, in the Mayor's discretion, in order to effectuate the intent of this Order:
4. Notwithstanding the Schedules set forth in Article XII, parking spaces in the zones may be re-designated as outdoor table service areas, in the Mayor's discretion, and the Mayor may designate other areas within the public way as parking in lieu of spaces re-designated as outdoor table service areas.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing enumeration of ordinances, the intent of this Order is to suspend temporarily, to the extent necessary, those ordinances that would inhibit, interfere with, or prohibit the conversion of city property within the zones to outdoor table service areas.
6. This Order shall lapse on November 15, 2020 or upon the lifting of the Governor's declared state of emergency, whichever occurs sooner, without further action by the city council. Thereupon, all ordinances suspended in whole or in part hereunder shall revert to their full force and effect immediately preceding this Order.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

<p><u>New Business</u>  <u>20.064 Resolution</u>  <u>in Response to</u>  <u>Most Recent</u>  <u>Killings of</u>  <u>African-</u>  <u>Americans</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u>  <u>20.064 A Resolution in Response to the Most Recent Killings of African-Americans</u>                  Councilor Sciarra noted that since the resolution is being taken up under New Business, it can be introduced but not deliberated.                   Councilor Thorpe read the resolution.                   It will be discussed further on the next regular agenda, Councilor Sciarra confirmed.</p>
<p><u>Information</u>  <u>(Charter</u>  <u>Provision 2-7)</u>  <u>&amp; Study Requests</u></p>	<p><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u>                  None</p>
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></p>	<p>Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor Foster, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 a.m. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).                   Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council</p>

# NORTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

## PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD SHEET

June 4, 2020

General public comment preceding the convening of the regular meeting

NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
Mimi Odgers	Ward 6	supports defunding police department
Ryan Cheevers Brown		supports order for municipal light plant/concerned about parking behind Leeds School for Mill River
Dane Cutler	Ward 3	supports defunding police department
Diane Palladino	Sylvester Rd, Florence	opposed to \$200,000 police budget increase
Wendy Foxmyn,	Ward 7, Leeds	opposes defunding police
Amy Cahillane	DNA Exec. Director	supports order temporarily suspending ordinances to allow outdoor dining
Hildegarde Freedman	G68, Cahill Apartments	protest is more than reaction against police violence; is frustration with system that favors prosperous over poor
Rose Bookbinder Goldstein		supports defunding police; LA City Council cut LAPD by \$150 million
Alisa Klein	Ward 7	supports decreasing police budget and exploring alternatives to policing
Ian Busher	South Deerfield	opposes outside dining
Mac Godinez	Ward 3A	read letter from Joshua Cruz from Hampden County Jail complaining about handling of COVID-positive inmates
Patrick Burke	Holyoke	wants to invest money in healthcare & protecting restaurant workers instead of police
Johnny Williams	Ward 1	Police actively contribute to gun violence; supports defunding police and exploring alternatives to policing
Cherilyn Strader	Northampton	Agrees with Alisa Klein that resolution not strong enough; recommended council endorse 10-point action plan
Carolyn Toll Oppenheim	Ward 3B	Offered suggestions for increasing diversity of police force
Nicole LaRue	Easthampton	Funding police reinforces racist system that devalues, exploits and kills black people
Eric Matlock	Northampton	Charged police harassed, pepper-sprayed him without cause
Dana Goldblatt	Northampton	opposes increasing police budget Compared denying reality that policing doesn't work to Galenic humors theory
Ahalya Raman	Ward 3	Supports defunding police
Jasper Kessin	Florence	Supports defunding police, directing money to social services
Tighe Ridley	Wilson Avenue	In favor of new form of public safety
Pennington Geis	Northampton	Thanked NPD for sensitivity training and increasing diversity

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