



City Council <citycouncil@cityofwatsonville.org>

URGENT, PLEASE READ PRIOR TO 6/22/2021 4PM- Open Community Letter Regarding Budgeting For Our Values

Eli A <e.atilano@ymail.com>

Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 8:00 PM

To: Matt Huffaker <matt.huffaker@cityofwatsonville.org>, Tamara Vides <tamara.vides@cityofwatsonville.org>, Cindy Czerwin <cindy.czerwin@cityofwatsonville.org>, cityclerk@cityofwatsonville.org, citycouncil@cityofwatsonville.org, Anissa Balderas <Anissabalderas@gmail.com>, duque85@gmail.com, mj61434@yahoo.com, Celeste Gutierrez <gutzceleste@gmail.com>, Tony Nunez <tnunez@pajaronian.com>

Good evening City Council Members,

In the brief time that we have had to review the 400+ page budget proposal, our community has gathered and attempted to understand why we see such disparities within the proposal; why are such small amounts allocated to our library, our parks, our public works when those areas are where the need is the greatest?

Together, the community has worked collaboratively on the following letter to express our concerns, our values, and ask you to redistribute the budget to reflect those values before it's adoption. In this email, please find the letter attached.

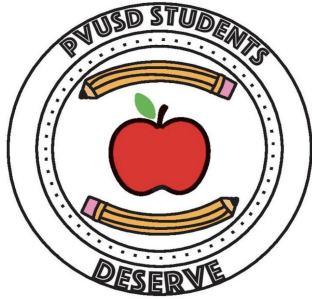
We ask you to seriously review these recommendations from la gente and represent us. Invest in our community and fund opportunities to thrive in the City of Watsonville.

Matt, Cindy, will you please confirm that the attached letter has been read and received?

Thank you for your time,
Eli y La Gente

**Watsonville Budget Demand letter 2021.pdf**

7148K



Open Letter to the Watsonville City Council Regarding the Importance of Budgeting For Our Values and the Next Generation through the Budget

June 16, 2021

Council Member Eduardo Montesino, District 1
Council Member Aurelio Gonzales, District 2
Council Member Lowell Hurst, District 3
Council Member Francisco Estrada, District 4
Council Member Rebecca Garcia District 5
Council Member Jimmy Dutra, District 6
Council Member Ari Parker, District 7

To our elected representatives,

Your constituents across the city of Watsonville are asking the City Council to make budgetary decisions that are bold, innovative, and reflective of the community's needs, wants and values: a budget that prioritizes economic recovery from COVID-19, culturally relevant supports for community based activities, robust health supports, and building an economically vibrant Watsonville. Our community has had to face the harsh reality of policing and systemic racism, a toxic relationship that has an adverse effect on our city's residents.

As such, we implore you to re-analyze the city's budget allocations and funding priorities with a community healing centered lens that is racially equitable. Poverty, trauma, and racism in our community continue to be exacerbated by unaddressed root causes. Yet, we remain hopeful that the city council believes in dignity and our right to thrive with community centered solutions; as

such we demand that the city reallocate the police budget and not overlook the deterioration of our most marginalized communities nor let the lessons of 2020 be forgotten. This is why we urge you to take a second, third and fourth look prior to the budget vote that will take place on June 22, 2021.

The City of Watsonville's biennial proposed plan for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 general fund continues to reflect the ineffective way of doing work by continuing to provide 40%¹ of the budget towards the Police Department while under-funding our libraries with only 1% of the budget, and 10% to parks and recreation, community engagement and communication.

Although latest data from the Census show that 32.46%² of the population in Watsonville are under the age of 19, there are not sufficient employment, recreational, social, or healing opportunities available within the city. The need for holistic youth development, engagement, and employment are critical to the well-being of our community, and yet are not being prioritized by the currently proposed budget. These services and opportunities would give space to our young community members to more fully engage in and lay deep, lasting roots within our community.

According to the US Census Bureau, the total population is 54,000 and 84.33% of the population in Watsonville identify as Chicano, Latinx, and Indigenous. Historically, these minoritized communities have not been included in the decision making process when it comes to our city. The city has engaged residents through various strategic planning efforts in the last year to gather input and the residents have shown up and spoken up to demand a city budget that is invested in seeing its residents thrive in all aspects of life.

As the City of Watsonville prepares to reopen, we have yet to understand the lasting impacts caused by COVID-19 on our community's social-emotional well-being. Moreover, we recognize that the city council acted quickly and established a moratorium on evictions as the pandemic picked up, and created different opportunities for resident engagement in the city's budget and strategic planning process. While this is a step in the right direction, there is more that the city can do to ensure the economic revitalization of and for the residents that have been historically forgotten and silenced.

¹ <https://cityofwatsonville.org/DocumentCenter/View/16319/Biennial-Budget-Draft-2021-2023>

² <https://cityofwatsonville.org/DocumentCenter/View/16319/Biennial-Budget-Draft-2021-2023> pg.29

Despite our consistent calls to action, the proposed budget reinforces the long standing “tough-on-crime” status quo and underlying quid pro quos that results in nearly half of the city budget going to police (with a pending 8% increase). This runs in conflict with the downward trends in overall crime and incarceration which this past year have hit historic lows. These drops in crime are not a pandemic anomaly - **rates of crime across all metrics have been going down for over a decade, while police budgets have continued to increase and other departments have seen minimal to no growth in their allocations.** The council has refused to recognize that public safety is more than police; public safety is investing equitably into our community through programs and services that give opportunity for healing and thriving. Our community deserves an equitable budget that reflects our communities priorities.

The residents of Watsonville have shared their thoughts with this city council and expressed their desires to see a new approach; hence the residents demand that this city council reallocate the proposed budget augmentation for the police budget towards the following:

1. **Library General Fund** \$500,000
2. **Parks and Recreation** \$2,000,000
 - a. Recreation Centers \$500,000
 - b. Recreation Sports Programs \$500,000
 - c. Art and Science \$500,000
 - d. Cultural Healing and Wellness Supports \$500,000
3. **Public Works (Street, Sidewalks)** \$550,000
4. **City Media & Communication Strategy** \$250,000
5. **Youth Employment Program to CBO's** \$1,000,000

Total: \$4,300,000

Reallocating funds would allow other departments to adequately prepare to meet the needs of Watsonville's most vulnerable populations especially those who are elderly, undocumented, formerly incarcerated and system impacted youth. City Council members are elected to represent us all, and we are calling on them to act with courage, and amend the budget.

With open minds and compassionate hearts, we are optimistic that you will choose to prioritize the needs and values of our community. In choosing to invest into the community by reallocating funds, we would begin to approach a community centered budget that would impact and support

current and future generations. Now is the time to be bold, innovative, and courageous, and we expect that you will do what is just, equitable, and fair for our community.

Thank you for your time and service representing the people; we look forward to working collaboratively for our future.

Con Respeto Y Palabra, La Gente

Organizations:

- Baktun12
- MILPA Collective
- PVUSD students deserve
- Revolunas
- Safe Ag, Safe Schools
- Slough Brewery Collective
- Teatro Campesino

Community Members:

1	Francisco J Hernandez	95076	Essential worker
2	Anissa Balderas	95076	NA
3	Jaime Castillo	95076	None
4	Mariana Rocha	95076	Watsonville High School Alumni
5	Bernie Gomez	95076	Resident
6	Yesenia Jimenez	95076	Educator
7	Armando Castellanos	95076	Watsonville high , carpenter
8	Nicole gowen	95076	General manager
9	Guillermo Aranda	95076	Artist
10	Edgar magana	95076	Im a community member
11	Gabriel J. Medina	95076	Filmmaker
12	Angelica Martinez	95076	Speaking for myself
13	Andrea Castillo	95076	Housing Coordinator
14	Adrian Padilla	95076	Watsonville high
15	Zulema Gutierrez	95076	Watsonville high school
16	Gretchen Retka	95065	Birth doula/educator/massage therapist

17	Xitlali Cabadas	95076	Member of Revolunas, educator
18	Cristal Avila	95045	Cinema project
19	Ericks Celis	95010	Radcliff Elementary Teacher
20	Jaime Sanchez	95019	Artist(concept)
21	Kayla Kumar	95060	I work for Watsonville youth.
22	Emilio Galvan	95060	No
23	Arturo Fuentes	95076	None
24	Pablo Orozco-Castro	95076	Fuerte Wraparound
25	Jose Barrera Hurtado	95019	College student
26	Kayla Gomez	95076	Watsonville High Alumni
27	Fátima Espinoza Melgoza	95076	Watsonville High alumni
28	Jasmine Gomez	95076	Community member
29	Deanna Winn	95076	No
30	veri v	95076	Watsonville high
31	Michael henricks	95076	No
32	Elizabeth Atilano	95076	Member of Revolunas
33	Jorge Bermúdez	95076	Teacher at New School Community Day High School
34	Ome Garcia	95076	Education
35	Javi guerrero	95076	Cabrillo College Student
36	Venessa Ledesma	95060	Teacher
37	Cristorey Ojeda	95076	Accountant
38	Jose naranjo	95076	Unemployed due to Covid
39	Gil ramos III	95076	Screen printing
40	Adela Naranjo-Bernabe	95076	Self
41	Mariela llamas	95076	Non-profit
42	Robert Shallenberger	95076	Logistics
43	Johnnyjoe Smith	96150	The people
44	Kevin Chau	95076	N/A
45	RM	95076	Born and Raised in Watsonville
46	Daniel Mendoza	93933	Watsonville High Alum
47	Diego Mendoza	95076	Watsonville Student
48	Alejandro Santana Jr	95076	Video Production Manager, Digital NEST
49	Yesenia Molina	95076	Digital NEST
50	Linda Orosco	95076	PVUSD Early Education
51	Sandra Quiroz-Carter	95076	No

52	Rosa Noriega	95076	WHS & USC alumna
53	Liz Torres	95076	Worker
54	Adriana torres	95076	Educator
55	Verena Martinez	95019	No
56	Sedrick Cabrera	95076	Artist
57	Angela Gonzalez	95076	Caretaker
58	Celsa Gonzalez	95076	Retired
59	Victoria Leonor	95076	County of Santa Cruz employee
60	Erik Lua	95076	Watsonville native
61	Rebecca Royston	95076	Educator
62	Celeste Gutierrez	95076	Educator
63	Briana Triqueros	95076	Pajaro Valley High Alumni
64	Janessa vargas	95076	No
65	Esmeralda Varela	95076	Watsonville High School
66	Edgar Ibarra	95076	District 2 resident
67	Alma Gutierrez	95076	Resident de watsonville
68	Ernesto Gutierrez	95076	Watsonville high
69	Alejandro Florez	95076	District 5 resident
70	Karen partida	95076	
71	Bacilio Santoyo	95076	Cabrillo Student
72	Dani Marquez	95076	No
73	Gabriel Arguelles	95076	No
74	Diana Hernandez	95076	n/a
75	Amadeus Hernandez	95076	Maintenance
76	Samuel Duran	95076	No
77	Lucia Umeki-Martinez	95004	Watsonville High Student
78	Dahlia Barranco	95076	Watsonville High Student
79	Carolina Medina	95076	Watsonville High Student
80	Jaymee Morales	95004	Watsonville High Student
81	Jasmine Paz	95076	watsonville high school student
82	Valentina Velasquez	95076	
83	Daniel barba	95076	Watsonville high graduate
84	Mirna Fonseca	95076	N/A
85	Marissa Martinez	95076	Watsonville High School student
86	Alma partida	95076	Local educator

87	Kimberley Velasquez	95076	Resident
88	Xochitl	95076	Watsonville High Student
89	Carla orta	95076	Ceiba College Prep. Student
90	Ramon Castillo	95076	Assistant
91	Ricardo Estanquero Jr	95019	Construction
92	Britany Arreola	95076	Watsonville High Student
93	Itzel Godinez	95076	PVUSD Students Deserve
94	marc arevalo	95076	agriculture
95	Bless Romo	95076	Watsonville High School Alumna
96	Verenisse Atilano	95076	None
97	Elias Gonzales	95076	Community Member
98	Andrea Madrigal	95076	
99	Theresa Hice-Fromille	95065	Parent of a Santa Cruz County student
100	Andrea Vazquez	95060	Watsonville High School, ECHO ACADEMY Board Advisor.
101	Adriana Rocha	95076	
102	Mayra Bernabe	95076	community organizer
103	Jorge Zarate	95076	
104	Luna Hernandez Ramirez	95064	University of California, Santa Cruz Alumni
105	Mark Gardner	95064	
106	Michelle Hernandez	95019	
107	Andrea Felix-Cervantes	90813	N/A
108	Blanca Melchor	95076	
109	Celia Vega	95076	Fieldworker
110	Kianna Cabrera	95003	Watsonville High Student
111	Lucy Rodriguez	95076	Social Worker
112	Christine Hong	95062	UC Santa Cruz
113	Vanessa Quiroz-Carter	95076	
114	Irene Mata	95076	
115	Cynthia Lewis	95062	
116	Cindy Cruz	85716	UC Santa Cruz Emeritus Professor
117	Christian Garcia	93906	
118	Carol Solon	95076	No
119	Karina Moreno	95076	Families In Transition
120	Jasmine Sandobal	95076	
121	Brenda Ibarra	95076	

122	Hailey Cheng	91006	
123	Chris Lang	95060	UC Santa Cruz, PhD Student
124	Setsu Shigematsu	92883	Associate Professor, UC Riverside
125	Anne-Lise Francois	94703	
126	Maria Galvan	95076	No
127	Megan Robertson	95019	Cabrillo College
128	Maria Gutierrez	93907	PvUSD teacher
129	Andrew landecho	95076	Pajaro valley school district
130	Rosaline	96076	
131	Elisa Flores	95076	Renaissance High School
132	Jen Salinas-Holz	95076	PVUSD staff and parent
133	Seila	95076	
134	Kunico Ishiki	95060	ED chair of GABRIELA Santa Cruz
135	Rosa Ortiz	95076	
136	Marissa Magana	95076	
137	Roberto Rodriguez	95076	
138	Aiden Rodriguez	95076	
139	Savannah Carroll-Munoz	95019	UCSC student
140	Tania Gamboa	95076	Community member
141	Rosalynd Martnez	95076	No
142	V. Pulido	95076	Parent
143	Arturo Martinez	95076	No
144	Margarita Martinez	95076	
145	Araceli Lopez	95076	None
146	Alyce Thornhill	95060	
147	Cynthia Hermosillo-Munoz	95076	Cabrillo College student
148	Priscilla Figueroa	95076	
149	Issac Figueroa	95076	
150	Maryanna Espejo	95076	
151	Diana Torua	95076	
152	Marina Paniagua	95076	
153	Luis Leonor-Sanchez	95076	Film Maker
154	Elisa Martinez	95076	
155	Natalia Gallegos	95076	
156	Liliana Meza	95076	

157	Jeannette Medina	95076	PVUSD
158	Nancy torres	95076	
159	Rodríguez Esperanza	95076	
160	Gabby Alvarez	95076	
161	Lizette Morales	95076	Watsonville Resident
162	Dominique bird	95003	
163	priscilla soria	95076	cabrillo college, santa cruz beach boardwalk
164	Bianca Ibarra-Gutierrez	95076	Watsonville High School
165	Adam Ramirez	95076	
166	Kimberly Cortez-Solorio	95076	Watsonville High School alumna
167	Celene Cuneo	95060	Watsonville High School teacher
168	Karina Mejia	95076	Watsonville High Student
169	Abe sanchez	95019	N/A
170	Olga Diaz	95076	
171	Sophia Monroy	95076	Pajaro Valley High Student
172	Josh Hernandez	95076	Nah
173	Neylanie Lopez	95076	Watsonville High student
174	Jesús Atilano	95076	
175	Francisco García	95076	
176	Jaime Cisneros	95076	
177	Dana Kaiser-Davidson	95076	Educator
178	Teresa Alvarez	95076	Business Owner
179	Roxanna Guzman	95076	Preschool in Watsonville
180	Adriana Perez	95076	N/A
181	Leslie Ayala	95076	Salud Para La Gente Receptionist
182	Petra L. Rensi	95076	Non-Profit Employee
183	Rosa calderon	95076	Field worker
184	Vilmer Ayala	95076	Field Worker
185	Jesus Ayala	95076	Paramedic
186	Alma Leonor	95076	PVHS alumni
187	Pedro Madrigal	95076	Construction Business Owner
188	Iris Ayala	95076	Student
189	Laura guzman	95076	Watsonville high student
190	Flora Lu	95018	Professor at UCSC who partners with orgzin Watsonville
191	Alejandro Romero	95076	

192	Cindy Mendoza	95003	
193	Alejandro Romero	95076	
194	Kaylee Leal	95076	
195	Isabel Corrales	95076	
196	Genesis Aguilar	95076	Nurse Assistant
197	Jeanine Gomez	95076	Cabrillo College Student
198	Pepe Lopez	95076	Business Owner
199	Olga Salgado	95076	Child care provider
200	Jaylene Rocha	95076	
201	Jose Rocha	95076	Fieldwork
202	Gloria Zermeno	95076	
203	Martin Garcia	95076	Cabrillo College Professor
204	Brenda Hermosillo	95076	
205	Anthony Hernandez	95076	N/A
206	Luis Gutierrez	95076	N/A
207	Julia Gavin	95060	
208	Luis Carrillo	95076	Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos
209	Emmanuel Viveros-García	95076	
210	Alfonso Zavala	95076	Forklift Driver
211	Dakota leal	94541	
212	Miguel Osorio	95076	Cabrillo College graduate
213	Minerva Galvan	95076	Healthcare
214	Aurora Galvan	95076	Food Industry
215	Celeste Galvan	95076	Healthcare
216	Emanuel Almazan	95076	Technology
217	Bianca Olivares	95023	
218	Carlos M.	95076	
219	Sarah Woodside Bury	95064	
220	Guadalupe Sanchez	95076	
221	Nathan Campos	95076	
222	Alexandra Ulwelling	93950	
223	Abigail Ilan	95019	
224	Andrea Ortiz	95076	
225	Linda Alvarez	95076	No
226	Frances salgado	95076	Watsonville worker

227	Thania Mata	95076	Watsonville High Student
228	Roberto S. de Roock	95064	Assistant Professor of Education, University of California, Santa Cruz
229	Caroline Orozco	95076	
230	Fernie V	95076	
231	Liz Martinez	95076	Families In Transition Case Manager and resident
232	Lucia Castaneda	95076	WHS ALUMINI
233	Stephanie Barrón Lu	95062	
234	Christine Rosales	95060	CSUMB professor
235	Irwin Pineda	95076	
236	Ryan Jones	95076	The loud WHS teacher on Twitter
237	Itzel Chavarria	95076	College student
238	Maria Castillo	95019	
239	Briana Lopez	95076	RISE student programs
240	April Vazquez Perez	95019	
241	Roberto Martinez Jimenez	95076	EA Hall Middle School 8th grade Science Teacher
242	Alejandra Ponce-Rojas	95019	
243	Selina Vargas	95076	Veterinary Hospital Receptionist
244	Eva Espinoza	95076	No
245	Sarah Gruber	95076	Local middle school teacher
246	Erlinda Felix-Estrada	95076	Cabrillo College Student & Student Employee
247	Mary Cabrales	95076	Aunts, Uncles, and parents worked in the field growing up. Live off of McKenzie Avenue.
248	Christian Mendoza	95076	
249	Alma Gutierrez	95076	Trabajador de campo
250	April Utile	95060	PVUSD
251	Dessya Delgado	95076	
252	Maria Ochoa	95076	
253	Jessica Evanjelista	95076	
254	Augie Escobedo	95076	
255	Danely Lazo	95076	
256	Thairie Ritchie	95010	Farm worker
257	Marisela Rocha	95076	
258	Moreno	95076	Sequoia school
259	Jocelyn Barrera	95012	
260	Celia Ruiz	95076	

261	Ernesto murollo	95076	
262	Luis medina	95076	
263	Nicholas orona	95076	
264	Sheeva Sabati	95062	UC Santa Cruz, Education Department
265	Sheeva Sabati, Ph.D.	95062	UC Santa Cruz
266	Joseph Rodriguez	95076	
267	Danna Perez	95076	
268	Ana Leonor	95023	Ceiba College Preparatory Academy
269	Jose F	95019	Trabajador de campo
270	Alexia Ramos	95076	Siblings in Watsonville high and parents are farm workers
271	Veronica Leonor	95328	
272	Valerie sanchez	95076	
273	Carla Espinoza	95076	
274	Sheila Castellanos	95019	
275	Leonor janie	95023	Ceiba
276	Christina Olidem	95351	Home town
277	Miguel Dominguez	95075	
278	Ma. Carmen Guardado	95076	
279	Benjamin Hernandez	95076	
280	Alma Rosa Gutierrez	95076	
281	Jaime Nuñez	95076	Ag Worker
282	Alexis Nuñez	95076	
283	Jovanni Nuñez	95076	
284	José Domingo Gutierrez	95076	Field Worker
285	Jaime Jr. Nuñez	95019	
286	Jennifer Galvez	95019	
287	Monica Nuñez	95076	
288	Maria E. Cruz	95076	
289	Richard Estanquero Jr.	95019	
290	Emily Estanquero	95019	
291	Irma Estanquero	95019	
292	Adriana gutierrez	95076	Fieldworker
293	Ana amezcua	95076	K work
294	Rachael Ellis	95076	CAB Board member
295	Elitania Viveros	95076	

296	Velina zamudio	95076	
297	Maria Zamudio	95076	
298	Christi Suchil	95076	PVUSD parent
299	Edgar narez	95076	
300	Maria Orozco	95076	
301	Zurya Rodriguez	95076	
302	Eliana Gonzales	95076	Santa Cruz County employee
303	Juliana olivarez	95076	Watsonville high school student
304	Ethan Guerrero	95076	Student
305	Christy Sandoval	95076	
306	Selena Lopez	95076	Addiction counselor, Cabrillo college student
307	Alejandra Preciado	95363	
308	Sabina Holber	95060	No but I spend time there and patronize local businesses and care for this community very much
309	Jennifer Schacher	95076	
310	Elsie Ybarra	95076	
311	Maria Ramos	95060	Provider at Salud Para La Gente
312	Jessica Carrasco	95076	Teacher
313	Marilu Viveros	95076	
314	Julia Canlas	95076	PVUSD Teacher
315	Uriel Serrano	95064	UC Santa Cruz
316	Ramiro E. Medrano	95076	Retired
317	Leonor Medrano	95076	Retired
318	Alfonso Medrano	95076	PVUSD Employee
319	Ramiro Medrano	93906	PVUSD Counselor
320	Akiko Minami	95060	Social Studies Teacher at EA Hall Middle School
321	Gerardo Fuentes	95076	
322	Paloma Medrano	95076	
323	Aaron Bielenberg	93905	Pajaro Valley Virtual Academy
324	Jennifer Gonzalez	95064	
325	Luis Flores	95076	
326	Benito Patino	95076	
327	Antonio marquez Martinez	95076	Residente
328	Airam coronado	95076	
329	Joy Flynn	95076	
330	Chris Davis	95076	