

From: [Melissa Taylor](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Opposition to SRO agreement
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:23:59 AM

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Dear Councilmembers,

Police do not belong in our schools, full stop. Again, following the Black Lives Matter protests this summer and the support from the community, it is deemed necessary to remove SRO officers from our school to directly support the health and wellness of our students, particularly those in the Black and Latinx communities. The reason for this is because Black and Latinx students are most at risk for having their behavior criminalized. The data that is out there shows that having a police officer on school grounds does not make schools safer. What is more likely to happen is that students who are already disproportionately criminalized will further be penalized. The message that students of color internalize when police officers guard the school entrance and roam the hallways is: you are not welcome here and the building where you learn presumes that you will engage in disruptive and criminal activity. This creates anxiety and hypervigilance for children and a distrust in the educational institution meant to help them develop. That is wholly inconsistent with creating a supportive, safe learning environment where students can thrive.

I urge you to reconsider this and work with MUSD for better, more inclusive options. Options that prioritize mental health and counseling over police presence.

Sincerely,

Melissa Taylor

From: [Melissa Taylor](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comment on RCM-2
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:14:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Adams and Council members,

A year ago this week, the residents of Monrovia gathered peacefully at Library Park to participate in a Black Lives Matter protest. Over the next several days, the marches continued, and Members of City Council stated on record “Black Lives Matter”. Following the marches, an Ad Hoc committee was unanimously approved and created to better understand our city’s background as it pertains to diversity, equity, and inclusion. When the report was presented to council, everyone agreed to do something, they did not want the report to be performative. Something would come from this movement.

You cannot only support Black Lives Matter in name only. If you agree with the Black Lives Matter movement, if you understand that disproportionate rate at which Black and Brown persons are put in jail, then you would understand why recalling Gascón is in total defiance of claiming that Black Lives Matter. Gascón has progressive values, and he and many of those who voted for him agree that people should be held accountable, but not to the extent that we have done in the past. Because as we know, historically, our justice system has issues. By electing Gascón voters have agreed to imagine something better for all of us.

Some facts about the voters in this past election:

- Prior to 2020, violent crime in LA was already rising. This was not something that was perpetuated by Gascón.
- Of the 75% of people who voted in the 2020 election, 53% overwhelmingly supported Gascón’s message. Opposition to Gascón’s policies will lead to longer jail times, and harm communities.
- When it comes to crime victims, 61% of people support treatment and rehabilitation over incarceration as a form of punishment.
- Part of Gascón’s policies is to reduce the overcrowding of our current jail system, especially in the wake of an ongoing pandemic. An even stronger majority (65 percent) of voter’s support releasing elderly incarcerated people and 55 percent favor releasing those who are more vulnerable to the virus as a result of co-morbidities like heart and lung disease so long as they do not pose a serious risk to public safety.
- Additionally, the majority of voters agree with releasing those who have less than 6 months left in their sentence.
- Gascón is ending the cash bail system which criminalizes poverty, as people who are unable to afford bail are detained while they await trial for weeks or even months.

The money bail system is as unsafe as it is unjust.

I urge you to reject this “no confidence vote”. The “tough on crime” narrative has always been a scapegoat for racist policies that had a detrimental effect on the Black Community. Our communities of color deserve their leaders to stick up for them, to stand by their statements last summer that unequivocally, Black Lives Matter. Regardless of individual feelings about Gascón it would seem unwise to align your city against the votes of the millions who put him in office.

Thank you for your time,

Melissa Taylor

From: [Connie Tamkin](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: No confidence question on DA Gascon
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:32:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and City Council:

With regards to the vote on the agenda for "No confidence " on DA Gascon, I oppose this action.

1. He was elected by the people, the voters of the State of California, not by other government entities. Technically, the City does not have a voice or vote on this matter.
2. He was elected based on his campaign and that is what he is doing, making good on those objectives.
3. The release of prisoners with minor offenses is just. No one should be incarcerated for such offenses. Not all crimes are equal, nor a threat to a person of bodily harm or death.
4. The prisons are overcrowded and currently over capacity by the prisoners standards and they have been cited by State authorities for cruel and inhumane conditions.

It seems that the question of a "No confidence " vote is I'll advised. I recommend that the agenda item be removed altogether. However, since it is on the agenda, I oppose the support of the vote of "no confidence. "

Sincerely,
Rev. Connie Tamkin
Resident of Monrovia

To Mayor Adams and the members of the City Council,

Good evening.

District Attorney George Gascon is performing his job in accordance with state criminal justice reform measures and his campaign promises.

It is relevant to note that in 2011 the Supreme Court declared that incarceration in California's overcrowded prisons constituted cruel and unusual punishment. Since then, the state has passed a number of measures intended to reduce our prison population. Initially, many prisoners were moved from state prisons to county jails. When the county jails became overcrowded, the state was forced to reduce population through other reforms, including early release for prisoners who qualified, and eliminating incarceration for many misdemeanor offenses.

When he took office, DA Gascon issued a memo detailing the misdemeanor offenses that would not be prosecuted going forward. The list of prosecutions from Monrovia that were declined comports precisely with this list. The DA is doing exactly the job he was elected to do.

These offenses are primarily misdemeanor drug offenses and offenses related to homelessness and mental illness. It is the DA's stated opinion that our prisons and jails should not be used as substitutes for treatment facilities for illness and addiction. Not only are they unsuited for that purpose, but it is much more expensive to incarcerate people who should be patients than it is to treat them. His directive is consistent with this approach, and the majority of voters agree with him.

Some people are claiming that crime is on the rise due to the DA's reform directives; but in fact, crime rates are up everywhere in the US this spring. It's very hard to understand how the LA County District

Attorney could affect crime rates across the country. It appears that something else is going on.

This no-confidence vote is without merit. Please don't associate our city with this nonsense.

Thank you.

Catherine McCallum
Monrovia Housing and Tenants Advocates