



*"In the interest of the efficiency and welfare of
the San Antonio Police Department and its members"*

August 12th, 2020

Hon. Ron Nirenberg

Mayor
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283

Re: Proposed Police Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am writing to express our position on the police budget in the Proposed Balanced Operating & Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, which was presented to City Council on August 6, 2020.

The San Antonio Police Officer's Association (SAPOA) supports the proposed budget of \$487 million for the San Antonio Police Department. This figure is in line with current department needs, including having to contend with the unprecedented impact of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, as well as meeting the expectation's of the people of San Antonio who strongly support public safety.

As you begin budget deliberations, we implore you to remember that, according to several recent polls, your constituents, the people of San Antonio, overwhelmingly SUPPORT San Antonio police officers and REJECT calls to "defund police." We ask that you listen to your constituents and not the few, loud voices who are the principal critics of San Antonio Police Officers and public safety in general. Our members, and the majority of San Antonians, believe that it would be a mistake for you or any member of this City Council to take any action on the police budget, such as redirecting funds, that would be seen as "defunding police."

The San Antonio Police Officer's Association is always seeking ways to improve the way our members conduct their work. In fact, over the years, many of the major reforms impacting the work of the department, such as adding a fourth patrol shift to improve response times during high peak call times and our members' current healthcare plan, which was designed by SAPOA and is saving the city millions of dollars in healthcare costs, are the direct result of our reform and improvement initiatives.

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The San Antonio Police Officer's Association looks forward to working with you and other members of the City Council to ensure that the department continues to provide great service to the people of San Antonio and that we retain their tremendous trust and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Helle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael F. Helle

President

Cc: San Antonio City Council
City Manager