

November 17, 2020

From: Jackee Cox, 6212 Reddenson Drive, Fort Worth, Tx. 76132 or jackeecox@yahoo.com

To: Honorable Members, Fort Worth City Task Force on Redistricting

Dear Task Force members:

I write to explain why I think that redistricting is so crucial to the improvement of race relations in Fort Worth. I moved to this city in 1956. It was my first time to live where racial segregation was the custom and the law. "White" and "colored" signs were posted above the water fountains in downtown stores. "Whites only" signs were posted in windows and on doors of restaurants. Adds for employment were posted in the newspaper under headings like "whites only" and "colored." Racism was open, obvious, and notorious.

Starting in 1965 with the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act, open expressions of racist attitudes were gradually muted in polite society. But through the 1980's and 1990's and to the present, Texan and United States courts have consistently punished black offenders with much longer sentences than were imposed on white offenders who committed the same or similar crimes, and courts regularly denied probation or bond to black offenders where those mercies were more readily available to whites. Racism remained blatantly obvious in the statistics reflecting disparities in sentencing practices.

Local police forces are the "front end" or the criminal justice system, the place where minority populations are exposed to law enforcement officers who too often feel free to be abusive to minorities. A pattern and practice of police violence against minorities is out there, not only in Fort Worth, but throughout Texas and the US.

Fort Worth citizens grew restive and demonstrated against the police shooting of Atatiana Jefferson in her own home in 2019. And then in 2020 George Floyd was murdered by a white cop who ignored the "I can't breathe" gasps of his dying black victim. When the George Floyd video went viral last summer, there was at last a national expression of wide-spread white outrage over police violence against blacks. And there was hope that America was ready to demand change.

But the hoped for initiation of official Fort Worth action to control or eliminate police brutality against persons of color faded over the summer of 2020. The City hired expert witness who gave sound advice about how to curb the abuses of individual police officers. But the hoped-for community power to obtain the discipline and discharge of officers guilty of racially motivated abusive practices faded into oblivion. City elected officials used the pandemic to duck public meetings with outraged citizens. The hope-for chance to modify the contract between the City and the police officers association which prevents public review of offense complaints against police officers came and went in August, 2020. The city council let hired staff re-negotiate the contract between the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and the City. The Council then approved what was already a done deal.

There are still a few ripples on the surface of the water. On November 9, 2020, Fort Worth Weekly published the attached article describing "A 37-page ledger of incidents of police misconduct – including illegal arrests, excessive force, and assault" with "334 names of current police officers with incident reports and infractions against them." [See attached story, "Large Document Reveals Misconduct by Fort Worth Police." ]

There are also records of the political contributions that the "Committee for Public Safety Fort Worth Police Officer's Association," a Texas Political Action Committee, makes to the Fort Worth City Council and to other elected officials. Data from the required public disclosure filings of that Committee as compiled on a website called Transparency USA shows that during the first three quarters of the year 2020:

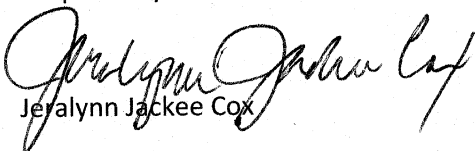
- the Fort Worth Police Officers Association contributed \$206,969.00 to their Political Action Committee;
- the lobby group "Guardian Public Strategies" contributed \$39,070.75 to the Fort Worth Police Officers Association Political Action Committee; and
- the Police Officers Association expended \$130,595.82 to the lobby group Guardian Public Strategies. [See attached PAC reports concerning the Committee for Public Safety Fort Worth Police Officer's Association, compiled by Transparency USA]: and
- the Fort Worth Police Officers Association PAC made donations in the following amounts to elected members of the Fort Worth City Council: \$15,000 each to Mayor Betsy Price, and to council member Cary Moon's Campaign, to Gyna Bivens Campaign, to Jungus Jordan, and to Kelly Allen Gray's Campaign; and \$5,000 to Councilman Carlos Flores.

The Fort Worth PD lobby fund buys political cover from 7 of the 9 members of the Fort Worth City Council for the sins and omissions of our local cops. And the City of Fort Worth generously funds its cop shop. The City's FY 2020 budget for Police Department Salaries & Benefits was \$235.5 million, an increase of 6.71% above the FY2019 budget for that police salaries and benefits. [See attached Police Department budget summary from city of Fort Worth Budget, FY 2020.] Cops lobby fund gives to city council member; city council appropriates increased funding for the police salaries and benefits, and preserves contract terms that protect secrecy about complaints against cops. Something for everyone in that loop.

But those who were hoping that the Fort Worth City Council might discipline the officers who abuse community residents have been left without a remedy from the City. There is a bitter taste, and a desire for a council that would be more caring for the well-being of its citizens.

So when you consider how to create a council that is responsive to the legitimate grievances of its constituents, you might decide that it would be better to have a Council that does not have a history of receiving large donations from a police officer political action committee. Allowing an independent redistricting committee to draw the council district boundaries might be the best solution to a conflict of interest problem.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeralynn Jackee Cox

Attachments as listed above

# Large Document Reveals Misconduct by Fort Worth Police

By Edward Brown - November 9, 2020



A 37-page ledger of incidents of police misconduct — including illegal arrests, excessive force, and assault — was provided to the *Weekly* today. The release comes three months after the local grassroots group No Sleep Until Justice DFW filed a request through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The request was filed as part of the group's mission to advocate for transparency from local law enforcement, justice, and accountability.

Fort Worth's Secretary Office responded with a \$1,731 bill last August, prompting a fundraiser to meet the city's demand that half of that fee be paid within seven days. The lengthy document is unredacted and includes 334 names of current police officers with incident reports and infractions against them. The list does not have a stated start date.

No Sleep Until Justice president Thomas Moore said, "Fort Worth police department does not hold their officers accountable in an appropriate manner, which undermines the public trust in police, wastes taxpayer money, and keeps everyone less safe."

Prevalent among Fort Worth police officers are allegations of illegal searches, excessive force, lying, and theft. Many officers have several or more



incidents logged. The document does not indicate whether officers were disciplined or faced criminal charges. Police accountability remains exceedingly rare in the United States, even when incidents of misconduct are documented or when sworn citizen complaints are lodged. As noted in a 2020 article in *The New York Times*, "It remains notoriously difficult in the United States to hold officers accountable, in part because of the political clout of police unions; the reluctance of investigators, prosecutors, and juries to second-guess an officer's split-second decision; and the wide latitude the law gives police

officers to use force."

Earlier this year, two police monitors were hired by city leaders to investigate sworn complaints against police officers. Requests by the *Weekly* for a list of disciplinary actions resulting from police monitor investigations have been denied. Fort Worth's Secretary Office is seeking a legal brief from the State Attorney General's office. The maneuver can allow public information to remain private through FOIA caveats.

This past August, preliminary results from an independent review panel found that Fort Worth police officers too frequently resort to verbal attacks and heavy-handed policing tactics ("Law Enforcement Reform on the Horizon?" Aug. 12). Panel co-chair Dr. Alex Del Carmen, a criminologist with decades of experience in training police, said Fort Worth police department's Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) lacks a coherent chain of command. The OIA is responsible for addressing incidents of police misconduct. Carmen said the lack of a clear command structure generally makes police discipline less uniform.

Moore said Fort Worth needs a community oversight board that is given authority to discipline or fire officers.

The Fort Worth police union "has been allowed to grow too strong and has used collective bargaining to hold this city hostage," he said. "Public servants should not be allowed to unionize without accountability, and they should not be trusted to hold themselves accountable."

The Fort Worth Police Officers Association [FWPOA] frequently signs checks of \$15,000 or more in local elections, according to recent campaign finance disclosures.

There "is an inappropriate relationship [with] nearly every city councilmember [who] has taken significant political donations from the FWPOA and then turned around and ruled in favor of the

FWPOA's requests despite reservations and criticisms from both citizens of Fort Worth and police accountability experts."

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PUBLIC RECORDS SEARCH

First Name Last Name State

[Overview](#) > [Texas](#) > [PACs](#) > Committee for Public Safety Fort Worth Police Officer's Association

Committee for Public Safety Fort Worth Police Officer's Association  
Texas Political Action Committee

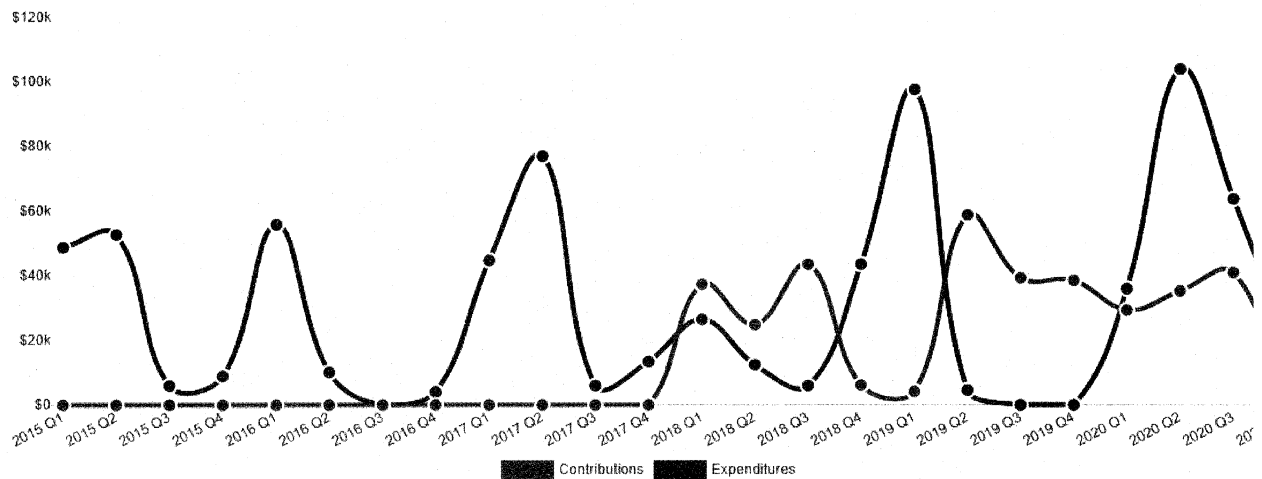
\$429,419  
CASH ON HAND

\$246,040  
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$326,014  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

[Overview](#) [Donations](#) [Expenditures](#) [Loans](#)

Financial Activity



Top Donors

Total Donations	Name	Type
\$206,969.00	<a href="#">Fort Worth Police Officers Association</a>	ENTITY
\$39,070.75	<a href="#">Guardian Public Strategies</a>	ENTITY

Top Expenditures

Total Expenditures	Payee	Type
\$130,595.82	<a href="#">Guardian Public Strategies</a>	ENTITY
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Betsy Price</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Cary Moon Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Gyna Bivens Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Jungus Jordan</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Kelly Allen Gray</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$10,000.00	<a href="#">Bill Waybourn Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$10,000.00	<a href="#">Cleat PAC</a>	ENTITY



Texas

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## Committee for Public Safety Fort Worth Police Officer's Association

### Texas Political Action Committee

**\$429,419**  
CASH ON HAND

**\$246,040**  
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**\$326,014**  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

[Overview](#)[Donations](#)[Expenditures](#)[Loans](#)

### Payees

This page displays the cumulative amounts paid to these persons and organizations by this political action committee.

View By: [PAYEES](#) [PAYMENTS](#)

Total Expenditures	Payee	Type
\$130,595.82	<a href="#">Guardian Public Strategies</a>	ENTITY
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Betsy Price</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Cary Moon Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
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\$15,000.00	<a href="#">Kelly Allen Gray</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$10,000.00	<a href="#">Bill Waybourn Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$10,000.00	<a href="#">Cleat PAC</a>	ENTITY
\$8,750.00	<a href="#">Justin L Berry</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$7,925.15	<a href="#">Murphy Nasica &amp; Associates</a>	ENTITY
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Carlos Flores</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">David L Cook</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Griffin Jim</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Jake Ellzey</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Jane Nelson</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Jeff Whitfield</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Jim Lane Campaign</a>	INDIVIDUAL
\$5,000.00	<a href="#">Matt Krause</a>	INDIVIDUAL

# General Fund

*Final City of Fort Worth Budget  
FY 2020*

## Police

### DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

	FY2018 Final	FY2019 Adopted	FY2019 Adjusted	FY2020 Adopted	Change from FY2019 Adopted	
					Amount	%
License & Permits	15,495	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	0.00%
Intergovernmental	358,252	-	86,303	-	-	0.00%
Charge for Service	695,391	665,593	665,593	778,948	113,355	17.03%
Use of Money & Property	2,698	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Other	648,325	528,558	528,558	656,977	128,419	24.30%
Transfer In	4,874,495	1,734,360	1,734,360	635,000	(1,099,360)	-63.39%
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,594,656</b>	<b>\$ 2,944,511</b>	<b>\$ 3,030,814</b>	<b>\$ 2,086,925</b>	<b>\$ (857,586)</b>	<b>-29.12%</b>
Salaries & Benefits	221,710,743	220,700,149	228,055,969	235,504,912	14,804,763	6.71%
Gen Operating & Maintenance	31,565,933	32,948,080	33,050,383	31,365,303	(1,582,777)	-4.80%
Capital Accts	-	16,000	-	16,000	-	0.00%
Debt Service Accts	264,999	273,625	273,625	273,625	-	0.00%
Transfer Out & Other	112,164	-	33,084	-	-	0.00%
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$253,653,839</b>	<b>\$253,937,854</b>	<b>\$261,413,061</b>	<b>\$267,159,840</b>	<b>\$ 13,221,986</b>	<b>5.21%</b>

Fund	2019		2020		Change	
	AP	FTE	AP	FTE	AP	FTE
General Fund	1,917.00	1,877.38	1,973.00	1,883.96	56.00	6.58
Crime Control and Prevention District	364.00	332.17	281.00	276.38	(83.00)	(55.79)
Grant Funds	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284.00</b>	<b>2,212.55</b>	<b>2,257.00</b>	<b>2,163.34</b>	<b>(27.00)</b>	<b>(49.21)</b>

Note: Restated.

### DEPARTMENT PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Police Department, under the direction of the Chief of Police, develops and implements programs to deter crime and to protect life and property in Fort Worth. Specific departmental responsibilities are:

- The reduction of violent crime and gang-related activities through enhanced enforcement activities and crime prevention programs.
- Increased safety of residents and decreased crime throughout Fort Worth neighborhoods.
- Increased safety of youth and reduced juvenile crime through crime prevention and intervention programs.
- Enhancement of crime fighting and prevention tools and efforts through diverse recruitment, training, retention of high quality officers, technology, equipment, and capital improvements.

The Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) consists of the following three bureaus: Patrol, Support, and Finance/Personnel. Each bureau includes two commands, with divisions, sections, and units under each command. The majority of FWPD employees are in the Patrol Bureau, which consists of six divisions representing various geographic portions of the city and includes special response teams, the traffic division, and patrol support services that includes tactical medics, crisis intervention, and air patrol. The Support Bureau