



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

TIME CRITICAL AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: July 14, 2020
Subject: Vote of No Confidence in the Police Chief
Submitted by: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Rationale:

Gov. Code Section 54954.2(b) (2) states that “Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of a legislative body presents at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).”

This item meets the criteria for “immediate action” as follows:

At the June 9 City Council Meeting, Police Chief Andrew Greenwood made comments to the Berkeley City Council advocating for shooting protestors of police violence, saying, “We can shoot people”, when asked about an alternative to tear gas.

Countless public comment and emails have been received by the City Council, with many stating: “We are in a historical moment, with global uprisings that bring attention to the harm caused by police—and demand action. While we work to reimagine policing in Berkeley, firing Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood is an immediate and necessary first step for public safety. Officer Greenwood has proven himself absolutely unfit to be in his role and a risk to public safety. We hope you will take swift action with the safety of Berkeley residents, the public, and free speech in mind.”

It is imperative that the City Council takes urgent action to end racial injustice and police brutality.



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Vote of No Confidence in the Police Chief

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution taking a Vote of No Confidence in the Police Chief.

BACKGROUND

On June 9, 2020, Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood made comments to the Berkeley City Council advocating for shooting protestors of police violence, saying, “We can shoot people”, when asked about an alternative to tear gas.

During this time of national recognition, reckoning of police violence and racial justice, the Chief’s comments were not merely a gaff, but an inexcusable declaration of police violence and the violation of the most basic rights of the United States Constitution, which he is sworn to protect.

Berkeley is considered the most progressive city in the country and should be leading the nation in police transformation. We must be working to find ways to respond to harms in our communities that do not put marginalized groups in constant danger. Chief Greenwood’s comments directly contradict this objective.

Chief Greenwood’s comments and actions are cause for a Vote of No Confidence. In order to transform our police, new leadership is required. The community is demanding change, now is the time to step up and listen to the demands of our beloved community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Protecting our communities during this climate and health crisis is an act of environmental sustainability.

CONTACT PERSONS

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

REFERENCES:

Article: Marchers in Berkeley demand resignation of police chief
<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/06/13/marchers-in-berkeley-demand-resignation-of-police-chief>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,
TAKING A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE CHIEF

WHEREAS, On June 9, 2020, Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood made comments to the Berkeley City Council advocating for shooting protestors of police violence, saying, “We can shoot people”, when asked about an alternative to tear gas; and

WHEREAS, During this time of national recognition, reckoning of police violence and racial justice, the Chief’s comments were not merely a gaff, but an inexcusable declaration of police violence and the violation of the most basic rights of the United States Constitution, which he is sworn to protect; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is considered the most progressive city in the country and should be leading the nation in police transformation. We must be working to find ways to respond to harms in our communities that do not put marginalized groups in constant danger. Chief Greenwood’s comments directly contradict this objective; and

WHEREAS, Chief Greenwood’s comments and actions are cause for a Vote of No Confidence. In order to transform our police, new leadership is required. The community is demanding change, now is the time to step up and listen to the demands of our beloved community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berkeley hereby take a Vote of No Confidence in the Police Chief.