



## On the Budget

The Mayor's budget recommendation does indeed reflect the many challenges we've faced this year. Speaking for myself, 2021 has been very sobering. There were projects I had to put on hold in order to address this year's shootings in West and South Berkeley, and we saw a number of fatal collisions throughout the city. and I want to thank Councilmember Wengraf for her leadership on these issues and other safety issues. I want to thank the Mayor very much for including George Florence traffic calming and the Strawberry Creek Lodge food program. I also support BPD's crossing guards.

On the Public Security cameras, which are separate from automated license plate readers. I know that public safety issues elicit strong passions and that everyone becomes a subject matter expert after a proposal has already been placed on the table, but I want us all to imagine what its like for your home, your neighborhood, to be at the center of shootings that have increased for 3 years, imagine what its like to wake up and not know whether today could be the day that you, your child, your loved one is struck or killed by a bullet.

For gun violence to be primarily a political or philosophical exercise is a luxury that my neighbors and I in the gunfire zones do not have. There's a lot of rhetoric around the efficacy of this or that proposal to prevent crime. I have to say that with 48 shootings, we are well past prevention and for years now, people have demanded a concrete response to the gun violence that is already afflicting our neighborhoods. Security Cameras are for investigation and holding accountable those who have been coming to our neighborhoods, firing off rounds into peoples' cars and homes. This isn't just a west and south berkeley issue, gun violence is a threat to the entire city. We need a multipronged, pragmatic, and solution-oriented approach to public safety. This and Cease fire are just two steps we are taking, in addition to expanding bike patrol, regulating ghost guns, and in addition to re-establishing the West Berkeley Fund through the Bayer Development agreement to support community resiliency. These aren;t just young people we're talking about. We are talking about grown adults who have been perpetuating violence for decades, violence that disproportionately impacts my neighborhood, and people who look like me.

This violence isn't going away nor are we going to back down. Some people might be ok with Berkeley neighborhood being afflicted with gun violence with no response on behalf of the city and are satisfied to trot out the same litanies we've heard for years, but I am not one of them.