

Good evening Mayor and Commissioners. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonights budget hearing. I write to urge you to direct the City Manager to remove the proposed Deputy Police Chief position form the FY 23/24 budget. As I have previously communicated with you it is my professional opinion that this position is not needed. Rather than appropriating \$192,788 to hire a Deputy Chief, allocate those funds for equipment and training that is needed. Allocate those funds to give the officers pay increases to better afford them the opportunity to live in an increasingly unaffordable community. Allocate those funds to hire a new officers who can make an impact on the streets by enforcing traffic laws and patrolling our neighborhoods. If the city believes these core needs of the department are being met, then I suggest using the \$192,788 to reduce the proposed tax increases.

Respectfully,  
Donie Lee