



Call Script

“Hi my name is _____, and I live in District X of San Antonio.

I am calling [Name of City Council] to express my concerns about the proposed 2024 SAPD Budget. For me, community public safety simply does not mean 105 additional armed police officers patrolling my neighborhood. For me public safety is the ability to have more *[street lighting, more shelter and beds for both houseless folks and stray or abused animals, more non-police responder units for the SA CORE program, and more access to healthcare]*. Social services are imperative to the well-being of our communities and I urge you to keep investing in these instead. I ask that you VOTE to shift part of the additional 105 new SAPD police officers into these other public safety areas I have mentioned, and VOTE NO to the \$1.1 million SAPD fitness facility.”

Email Script

Hi my name is _____ and I live in District ____ of San Antonio. I am writing to you as my council representative to express my concerns about the proposed 2024 SAPD Budget.

I am extremely concerned about the additional 105 police officers that the city plans to hire, as we’ve seen time and time again more armed police officers does not equal public safety for all of us. There are too many tragedies involving police— Marquise Jones, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Perez and Erik Cantu were not served or protected by our police.

I urge you to VOTE to reduce the budget request to add 105 new SAPD officers to less officers so we can free up some of this funding for other public safety initiatives that address actual crime prevention, not just police response to crime.

To me public safety is the ability to have more street lighting, more beds for unsheltered folks and stray animals, speed bumps, mental health and a living wage. We deserve that our city leaders fight to invest more in the social services that maintain the well-being of our society.

This is why I also ask you to VOTE NO on the request to build SAPD a \$1.1M fitness center, we have plenty of gyms in our city that graciously offer police and military discounts. Officers receive up to 5 days administrative leave for physical fitness training that already comes out of taxpayer dollars, and I strongly believe we can use \$1.1M into helping more San Antonians, such as:



- Installing 150-200 central AC/Heating units for the elderly and other at-risk communities during extreme weather events. According to many local HVAC companies it costs \$6,000-\$9,000 to install a new unit.
- Increasing animal shelter capacity for 1,419 pets, and keeping our pedestrians safe from stray dogs. According to the local animal defense shelter it costs \$775 to rescue a pet and find them a permanent home.
- Paying for one full school year of meals for about 1,437 kids that have less means, according to a 2022 KSAT article, it costs an average of \$765 to feed one kid for an entire school year.
- Adding 2 more teams to the SA CORE Program, increasing the amount of calls they can answer per year to closer to 8,000. According to city staff mid-year budget adjustments, \$1.1 million should definitely cover this for next year.
- Increasing the budget to clean up vacant lots and add more street lighting. In Philadelphia, [cleaning up vacant lots](#) led to a 29% decrease in gun violence. In New York City, a randomized [trial of street lighting](#) reduced “outdoor, nighttime index crimes by 36%.

Thank you,
(Your name)

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