

Joel Slavit

From: Sandhya Laddha
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Lydia Lee
Cc: Steve Lubin; emma; SVBC Redwood City Team; Joel Slavit; Susan Doherty; john_l; SVBC Committee Peninsula; cd@cyclistvideoevidence.com; Rob Waring; Andrew Hsu
Subject: Re: [SVBC SMC Committee] Fwd: August 19, 2021 San Mateo County BPAC Virtual Zoom Meeting

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Hi everyone,

Wanted to bring in an additional perspective to the above discussion. Below is a public comment shared by Katie DeLeuw.

It aligns with one of Steve's suggestions - asking the agency to explore alternatives to traffic enforcement.

Hi Joel, hope you are well! I am submitting the comment below to the BPAC for tonight's meeting. Thank you.

Greetings BPAC members,

My name is Katie DeLeuw and I am a resident of South San Francisco. I appreciate your commitment to bicycling and walking in San Mateo County. I too am an advocate for bicycling and safer streets through my roles on the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Board of Directors, BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force, and SVBC North San Mateo County Local Team. I am writing to you today as an individual and not as a representative of these groups.

I am providing public comment on Agenda item #8: Bicycle Safety/Law Enforcement Discussion. I am unable to attend the meeting but wanted to share my thoughts in advance and hope you can take this into account. While the intention of increasing enforcement is to support and improve the safety of bicyclists, the impacts of enforcement often result in inequitable outcomes. For example, one possible inequitable outcome is that increased enforcement may mean increased ticketing and citations, which not everyone can afford. Another is that increased video surveillance could threaten people who are undocumented.

As you likely know, many bike advocacy organizations, Vision Zero policies, and Safe Routes to School programs have in the past included enforcement as one tool to improve safety for walking and biking. However, many of these same organizations and programs are now reassessing their policies around enforcement as they and society as a whole reflect on the systemic racism that is perpetuated through policing.

I encourage you to think about whose safety you are prioritizing, and whose safety you are impacting as you consider changes to enforcement. Please consider options for safer streets that include street redesign and community partnerships over increased law enforcement.

Thank you,
Katie DeLeuw

On Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 7:23 PM Lydia Lee wrote:

At the risk of adding to the length of this email thread, I agree with Steve's general sentiment below. Policing is a charged topic but I hope that doesn't preclude suggestions for how people who are charged with public safety can serve us better.

In particular, getting more police on to bikes is a great idea. Police in cars are scary; police on bikes less so. I think it would be appropriate for SVBC to make these kinds of recommendations.

Lydia
(member of Menlo Park's Complete Streets Commission)

On Aug 18, 2021, at 6:54 PM, Steve Lubin wrote:

Dear fellow bikies,

Many people do not ride bicycles (especially in urban areas) because they feel it is not safe due to speeding and aggressive drivers. The number of cyclists will never increase so long as this fear persists. It will be a long time, if ever, before the physical infrastructure alone allows a wide range of people to feel safe on bicycles.

Policing exists and affects our world. We should be engaging police and encouraging community policing. We should work to get police out of cars and onto feet and bicycles so they can get to know their communities.

Many police currently are actively antagonistic to cyclists and do nothing to discourage those drivers who assault cyclists. We should be working to educate police of the dangers to cyclists and ask them to support cyclists' right to use the roads.

A good start would be to encourage police to listen to complaints from cyclists so they can understand our point of view.

Whenever I have complained to police about lack of enforcement against dangerous drivers, the response has been to crack down on cyclists running stop signs. It would be far more effective for us to join forces with all those who are unfairly targeted by police and try to raise both the quality and appropriate level of force used in policing.

During the recent SVBC Summit I listened carefully to the sessions on "Depolicing Traffic Enforcement". I was hoping to hear great ideas about alternate traffic enforcement. I did not hear a single concrete suggestion. When I asked what I should do when assaulted by a driver, the response was that my question "perpetuates the white supremacy agenda".

I would love to hear alternatives to policing that can keep me and all current and potential cyclists safe. Please help me find this alternative. In the meantime I would like to work toward improved policing for all.

Regards,

Steve

On 8/18/21 5:23 PM, Emma Shlaes wrote:

I just want to reemphasize that SVBC's position is to not encourage enforcement as a solution in traffic safety and will examine alternatives to traditional types of traffic enforcement until there is a means to achieve equitable enforcement. [You can read](#)

[more on our blog](#). This decision was vetted through SVBC's Policy Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. It is also in line with many partner organizations, like the Safe Routes Partnership, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, many of whose statements are linked in the blog post.

On Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 1:03:51 PM UTC-7 [john l](#) wrote:

I want to call your attention to one item on the agenda and that is the role of law enforcement and their ability to take action against motorists who potentially affect the safety of cyclists using the roadways. Representatives from the County District Attorney's office, the sheriff, and CHP will be present. I hope that this will be an educational opportunity to inform cyclists how justice is served and to inform law enforcement of the reality faced by cyclists.

John Langbein

On Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 09:40:52 AM PDT, Emma Shlaes wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joel Slavit**

Date: Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 5:36 PM

Subject: August 19, 2021 San Mateo County BPAC Virtual Zoom Meeting

To:

Dear BPAC Members and Interested Parties:

The purpose of this note is to transmit the attached BPAC Meeting Agenda Packet that contains the August 19, 2021 Meeting Agenda and the Draft June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Note, the public link for our August 19th BPAC meeting, which starts at 7:00 pm, may be accessed through Zoom online, as noted in the Meeting Agenda, at: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/98215054624>.

The meeting ID is: 982 1505 4624. This meeting may also be accessed via telephone by dialing US: [+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833). Enter the meeting ID: 982 1505 4624, then press #.

BPAC members, please kindly confirm your attendance via e-mail so that we can ensure we have a quorum. Please allow sufficient advance preparation to ensure you are able to connect to the Zoom meeting by the 7:00 pm start time. BPAC members and guest speakers have been sent unique Zoom access codes to directly enter our meeting as panelists, if you didn't receive one, please let me know.

Joel Slavit, AICP

Senior Sustainability Specialist

County of San Mateo

Office of Sustainability, Livable Communities

455 County Center, 4th Floor

Redwood City, CA 94063

jslavit@smcgov.org

www.smcsustainability.org



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Emma Shlaes

Deputy Director | she/her/hers



[Register for the Bike Summit August 12 & 13!](#)

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Stephen Lubin

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Cheers,

Sandhya Laddha

San Mateo County Advocate | she/her/hers



[Register for iSilicon Valley Bikes!, a fundraising ride that explores Silicon Valley - 9/19/21](#)