

“Dear City Council,

My name is Jessica Nardiello. I was born and raised in Lindsay, and have been very active in our community. I graduated high school at 15, and graduated from COS at 18 with an AA in math/science. I am currently a senior at UC Santa Barbara studying Feminist Studies. Before I transferred to UCSB, I was involved in the Orange Blossom Festival and the Hospital Guild. My Grandma, Lucy Nardiello, belongs to many clubs in the community so I've had the privilege of being able to be involved in the community through her.

I am writing this statement to be read today because I would love to see the city of Lindsay be pioneers in this country, state, and valley. I would love for us to be role models, and to show people that by saying Black Lives Matter, it doesn't mean any other lives are less valuable, it just means we recognize Black lives need more help and that WE are willing to be that help. I want Lindsay to be a place where all are welcome (I'm not saying it currently isn't), but imagine how much more welcoming of a community we would be if people EXPLICITLY knew what we stand for, and if we left no room for interpretation on our morals and values.

I am also writing today because I've had the pleasure of speaking to Council-Member Laura Cortes, and Lieutenant Nave regarding a petition I created about a month ago. In my petition, I outline each policy, why it's problematic, and why it should be changed. I, and 550 other people agree that these policies are problematic and could cause serious injury or death, and we would be proud of the City Council if they did something to change these policies. In no way am I trying to insinuate anything about our police, I respect the job they do and I understand it's a hard one; my goal with this petition is to make Lindsay as safe as possible for its residents and officers. I want our officers to go out into our community as well prepared and trained as possible.

I emailed the petition to city hall and commented the link to it in the “you know you grew up in Lindsay when” page, if any of you are interested in reading it. It outlines a few problematic policies our police department follows. I outlined 3 main problematic policies; including the carotid control hold, mental health and de-escalation training, and tear gas. I understand we are a small community, and many of these policies may never need to be used, but even so I would like to see them change. If a situation ever arose where any of those policies were deemed appropriate to use, I would like them to not even be an option.

When I spoke with Lt.Nave, he mentioned people at the academy spend a full day (8hrs) going over tear gas/pepper spray/etc., but they only spend roughly 3hrs discussing mental health in their entire time at the academy. I certainly am not a mental health expert, but I know that it takes more than 3 hours to be able to thoroughly understand the causes and symptoms of mental health, and how to interact with someone who has mental health issues. I would love to see our officers receive more training on the causes and implications of mental health, and how to best interact with the mentally ill. Even though our Governor has “banned” the carotid control hold; all that means is that it will no longer be taught at the academy. Officers who have previously learned it will still be allowed to use it, and I would like for no officers in

Lindsay to be allowed to use it. The policies our police follow also allow for them to use the carotid hold on people who are pregnant, disabled (people who have Down syndrome) , and have spinal injuries. It's been proven to be deadly, and there's no space for something like that in Lindsay.

I hope you will read the petition and seriously consider making some much needed changes to the policies our police follow.

Respectfully, Jessica Nardiello”