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To Whom It May Concern

Re: Community Safety Partnership- LAPD- Statement of Conversations

To Whom It May Concern:

I served as construction project manager for the first phase at the Jordan Downs Redevelopment, Phase 1A. During my time at Jordan Downs, I became quite familiar with several officers within the Community Safety Partnership group of LAPD.

I heard many comments disparaging the community. Specifically, our targeted outreach to the men of Jordan Downs for jobs and training. Our focus was on young men that were often evicted out of Jordan Downs due to criminal history and were technically considered "homeless" even though they were unofficial residents. CSP Officers would tell me we were wasting our time trying to create opportunities for those that would not be "willing to work". They were wrong and our program was hugely successful, with a 70% success rate on our Section 3 hiring goals, and a 12% Black workforce.

I will share a specific conversation with CSP offices that resonated with me. CSP officers told me how they tried to organize a trip to a marine aquarium for the Jordan Downs children, but the parents wouldn't let their children attend. They disparaged the parents as bad or neglectful for not allowing their children to attend. I responded that it made sense, considering the long history of police brutality and terrorism within the Jordan Downs community at the hands of LAPD. I asked how they expected parents to allow their children to go with the people that had kicked in their doors, set up, locked up, killed and targeted their sons, brothers, fathers, cousins and uncles. How could they expect people to feel safe with their children in the hands of perceived predators?

My point in sharing this is that the investment of resources, to change the face of the police is just not worthwhile. Too much history has passed which is unfortunate. I support a reduction in LAPD funding, and CSP resources being diverted from CSP LAPD to groups like Project Fatherhood, Red-Eye Empowerment Center, Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club or Think Watts. These are groups that desperately need funding, groups that support families with no complicated history, groups parents can feel safe sending their children to for enrichment and activities.

Thank you.

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Former Project Manager at Jordan Downs Phase 1A