

**From:** [Julissa Ruiz Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
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Hello and good morning. I'm in support of the allocation of \$20 million dollars towards a housing trust fund. We've spoken with community, workers, and young people. We ask for this allocation to go towards affordable housing for farmworkers, low income folks, and young people. Everyone deserves to have a roof over their head without worries of eviction. We ask that yall continue to prioritize the needs of young people in our communities as there are many needs that have yet to be met. The mayor said during the last townhall meeting that the council has been prioritizing housing, however, it is worth mentioning that that wouldn't have been possible without youth and community outcry. If it weren't for us, the council wouldn't even have brought up housing in the first place. Stop patting yourselves in the back for the labor that young people and community did and for doing the bare minimum of allocating housing money towards housing. The city of Merced must invest city dollars towards affordable housing through a housing trust fund & get matched dollars for dollar by the state. We must take advantage of this. The city currently allocates \$0 of their general fund towards housing. There are more empty homes than there are people who are houseless. And yet, the council chooses to allocate almost 3/4ths of the general funds towards public safety, aka, police. The safest communities do not have the most police, they have the most resources. We must prioritize our marginalized communities. We must prioritize our young people. Young people deserve a universal income program, which yall denied. Young people deserve affordable housing. Young people deserve a youth community center. Young people deserve to have their needs met and to have their tax dollars go where they're needed. Let us remind you all that young people are not only the future, but the present.

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