

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

**From:** Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt <lyonspruitt@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 7:22 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; donna.olivera@mixteco.org; Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
**Subject:** NAACP Letter for Racial Equity and Criminal Justice Reform Hearing, June 4, 2020 & Revised Demands  
**Attachments:** 008.jpg; 009.jpg; 010.jpg; 007.jpg; 002.jpg; 003.jpg



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Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
 President  
 Santa Maria-Lompoc NAACP  
 Phone: (805)-448-7869  
 Email: lyonspruitt@msn.com

"Democracy dies in Darkness." The Washington Post

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**From:** Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:26 PM  
**To:** sbcob@countyofsb.org  
**Cc:** dwilliams@countyofsb.org ; ghart@countyofsb.org ; jhartmann@countyofsb.org ; peter.adam@countyofsb.org ; steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org ; donna.olivera@mixteco.org ; Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
**Subject:** NAACP Letter for Racial Equity and Criminal Justice Reform Hearing, June 4-20

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt  
 President  
 Santa Maria-Lompoc NAACP  
 Phone: (805)-448-7869  
 Email: lyonspruitt@msn.com

"Democracy dies in Darkness." The Washington Post



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

SANTA MARIA-LOMPOC BRANCH

P.O. BOX 1092

SANTA MARIA, CA 93456

June 4, 2020

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 406  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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Assistant Treasurer**

Re: Racial Equity and Criminal Justice Reform Hearing  
June 4, 2020

Dear Chairman Hart and Supervisors,

My name is Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt, president of the Santa Maria-Lompoc National Association For the Advancement of Colored People. We are known as the NAACP and was founded in 1909 by 53 decent white people and 7 African Americans, in response to the horrific lynching of African Americans that was taking place all across the United States and to address existing racial and ethnic disparities.

Our mission is to ensure the social, political, educational, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. We envision a just society in which all individuals have equal rights without regards to race and/or any kind of discrimination.

Between 1920 and 1938, the NAACP flew a flag outside its offices that read "A Man Was Lynched Yesterday" to mark the lynching of Black people in the United States. It is a **SHAME** that almost a century later, Black people continue to be brutalized and killed by racists.

The Lynching of George Floyd by police is an unspeakable tragedy. Our communities are angry, outraged, deeply affected, and saddened. Sadly, police brutality against the Black community has been an ever-present occurrence, dating back to its roots as a method used to preserve the system of slavery. These are not isolated incidents. They are directly related to systemic racism that plagues our country at an even more alarming rate than the coronavirus. Our communities have been in a state of emergency long before the first COVID-19 case was brought to light.

I quote Benjamin Franklin in saying "**Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are!**" The uprisings taking place in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Louisville, Los Angeles, New York, other locations across the nation and world, including our own City are the result of the anger, fear, sadness, and distrust that have manifested for years throughout our community.

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

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The unrest we are seeing today is what happens when the road to justice is too long and drawn-out. These uprisings are a result of our communities feeling as though once again, nothing is going to be done.

I pose these questions to you: 1) How many of you have a white teenage son who puts on a hoody to go to the supermarket to get candy and is hunted down and murdered? 2) How many of you have a white teenage son who is jogging through the neighborhood and is brutally attacked and murdered with a shotgun? 3) How many of you have a 26 year old daughter who is asleep in her bed at 1 a.m. and the police use a battering ram and a No Knock Search Warrant to search her home on the premises of hidden drugs and she is shot 8 times and murdered? I submit to you that none of you do and the probability of this happening to your son, daughter, niece, nephew, or other family member is nearly zero.

We have become fatigued from following behind one casket after another, holding one memorial after another—Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Philandro Castile, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Freddie Gray, LaQuan McDonald, Emmett Till, and on and on, too numerous to name!

Sheriff Brown, I know you, and I respect you, however, I beg to differ with your plan to continue using your vertical lateral choke hold or any choke hold. All it takes is just one Derek Chauvin. I ask you, how many more people must die before ALL CHOKE holds are banned?

In 2019, police in the U.S. killed over one thousand people, 24% were Black, although Blacks only make up 13% of the population. **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! #WeAreDoneDying! This is a MOMENT for our community and country to STAND UNITED AGAINST SYSTEMIC RACISM!!**

Our National Office is calling for federal legislation similar to a Hate Crime bill to be developed, which would provide detailed procedures and penalties in cases of blatant police brutality. Our local DEMANDS and Call To Action are attached.

Additionally, we ask that there is a Reallocation of funds for services such

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

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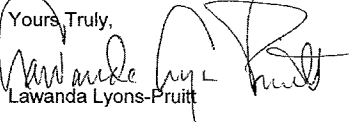
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Mental health, substance use, homelessness, or family issues that do not require an armed/uniformed response, but rather social services/mental health, in our Black, Brown, and indigenous communities.

Yours Truly,

  
Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt

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**LAWANDA LYONS-PRUITT**  
President



P.O. Box 1092  
Santa Maria, CA 93456

Office: (805) 757-3529  
Cell: (805) 448-7869  
lyonspruitt@msn.com

[www.santamarialompoenacp.org](http://www.santamarialompoenacp.org)



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**NAACP DEMANDS/CALL TO ACTION to  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor:**

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**WE DEMAND:**

- ♦ A STANDING CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD with Subpoena power versus Citizen Advisory Board/Internal Investigation Units.
- ♦ A Review of Santa Barbara Sheriff Department Use of Force Continuum with at least 6 levels of steps and clear rules on escalation.
- ♦ Ban the use of Knee Holds as acceptable Use of Force Continuum.
- ♦ Complete Ban of the use of ALL Choke Holds as acceptable Use of Force Continuums.
- ♦ Review under the Public Record Act All Law Enforcement Officers, misconduct information and disciplinary histories.
- ♦ Review of Santa Barbara Sheriff Department records of disciplining and charging of Officers/Deputies charged with misconduct.
- ♦ A State Review Board for all officers/deputies/detectives/superiors who use deadly force—tied to recertification credentials.
- ♦ Work with the California Department of Justice to create a statewide database with information on any Law Enforcement Officer/Deputy/Detective dismissed due to misconduct thus not allowing the dismissed to join another police agency/sheriff department.
- ♦ All Officers/Deputies/Detectives/Superiors complete Cultural Awareness Programs and Implicit Bias training.
- ♦ An Inclusive Plan that promotes diversity and committed resources to advance success.
- ♦ An immediate end to over policing in Indigenous, Black and Brown neighborhoods which creates fear and intimidation. Send in community liaisons' or social support people. When there is no crime, there is no reason for armed and uniformed patrols policing our community.

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**WE DEMAND:**

- ♦ Creation of an Inclusive Plan that promotes diversity and include committed resources to advance success
- ♦ Cultural awareness programs that combat bias and is presenter by someone who has training and a cultural lens in cultural competency.
- ♦ Implicit Bias training for all employees, including Sheriff deputies, detectives, superiors, and other employees. Training should be presented by someone who has training and a cultural lens in cultural competency/ implicit bias.
- ♦ Reallocation of funds and/or Funding of services such as mental health, substance use, homelessness, or family issues that do not require an armed/uniformed response, but rather social services/mental health services, in our Black Brown, and indigenous communities.

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