

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 1



From: beverlyanntaylor358@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 10:47 PM
To: sbcob; Miyasato, Mona
Cc: Gmail; Dudley, Joyce
Subject: December 1, 2020 Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Hart, Supervisors, and CEO Miyasato:

In reference to Agenda Item 2. Criminal Justice System changes and advancing Racial Equity and Inclusion in Santa Barbara County

- 1. Related to the information provided in the presentation from the District Attorney's Office: "Cite and Release: Reviewed 2,480 cases that were cited to appear in court after Courts reduced operations due to COVID-19. In the interests of justice and public safety, we rejected, infringed, diverted or dismissed 1,212 (49%) of those cases, thereby reducing the impact on the criminal justice system."

Additional information (see below) about these 1,212 cases would be useful for county residents. If it is not available for your December 1st special meeting, then I would request it be included in your next update.

Of the 1,212 cases

- Provide the number of cases that were rejected, # that were infringed, # diverted and # dismissed.
• Provide a breakdown of the type of cases in each of the four categories (rejected, infringed, diverted, or dismissed)
• Provide the racial breakdown in each category

A similar breakdown for the reduction in jail population over the past 18 months would also be useful.

- 2. Has our County, through its HR Department, through individual Department investigations or individual employee complaints, identified racial inequality as a problem? Are there concerns based on experience, investigations, litigation within our Departments that has led us to this conclusion? Have we identified a problem with racism within our county government? If not, are we highlighting and investing resources into a problem that doesn't exist? The arts, mapping out historic sites, etc. are proactive and positive, but to respond with such enthusiasm if a problem with our practices, policies, and our overall philosophy doesn't exist seems unnecessary and unwarranted.

Thank you,

Beverly A. Taylor

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Carolyn Chaney <cchaney@sfsu.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 10:13 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Racial Equity in our Justice System

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Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear SBC Board of Supervisors:

I am concerned that in our county brown people are systemically discriminated against. This happens in many areas, but especially in our "justice" system, where people of color are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated than white people. I simply hate it when I hear of innocent undocumented people being picked up for minor violations and then deported by ICE. This disrupts our community and makes everyone wary of our police. I worry for my grandchildren, who have brown skin.

I would like to see:

- 1). A civilian oversight committee for the Sheriff's Office, similar to one that has been operating successfully in Santa Clara County for many years.
- 2) A policy of not cooperating with ICE in any way and protection for our vulnerable undocumented workers.
- 3) Investment in programs that allow police to focus on policing and not mental health crises or homelessness or other non-criminal matters. This may result in diversion of resources away from policing and into other programs, such as trained intervention counselors.

Thank you for your attention and concern.

Carolyn Chaney

"Tell me, what do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Mary Oliver

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Julie Dillemath <info@juliedillemath.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 11:08 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Racial Equity public comment
Attachments: Racial Equity public comment

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Ramirez, Angelica

From: Julie Dillemath <info@juliedillemath.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 11:08 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Racial Equity public comment

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for holding the Racial Equity meeting tomorrow. As you must know by now, Black and Brown people are overrepresented in the numbers of arrests and incarcerations in SB County. I urge you to take action to:

- 1) reduce the jail population. The US has a way higher jail population than any other country, and yet our crime rates are not commensurably lower. Our current jail system is not effective, and in fact it is racist and perpetuates racist policies.
- 2) reduce the budgets of the SB sheriff and probation. These budget reductions need to go hand in hand with increases in funding for services like mental health crisis programs and resources for vulnerable community members.
- 3) have the DA create diversion from the current justice system to give people more chances and the right kind of help that they need. No one wants to be a criminal. Systemic racism in our society that affects all of us starting in childhood leads to a school-to-prison pipeline that we must interrupt at all stages. Locking people up does not solve long-term, systemic problems. It is our responsibility as a County to make significant changes toward racial equity.
- 4) create a civilian oversight system for the Sheriff's Office

I hope you take these concerns seriously and can work swiftly to start to dismantle the systemic racism in criminal justice system. Making changes towards racial equity will benefit ALL members of our community, and will have wide-ranging positive repercussions, including in the economy.

Thank you and I look forward to keeping tabs on your progress.

Sincerely,
Julie Dillemath Hollerer
Santa Barbara resident

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Joan Ariel <joan.ariel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 1:06 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Advancing Racial Equity and Inclusion

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November 30, 2020

TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County

FM: Joan Ariel and Ellen Broidy, Alegria Road, 93105

RE: Advancing Racial Equity and Inclusion in Santa Barbara County

We are writing as longtime residents of Santa Barbara and members of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Equity and Justice Team.

We want to convey our full support for the proposed changes that will go a long way toward advancing much needed racial equity and inclusion in our Criminal Justice/Legal System. These long overdue changes must be made decisively and at the earliest possible date. The crisis occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic demands an swift reduction in the jail inmate population, for the safety of inmates, staff, and the larger community. The need to address the racial disparities of incarcerated people, which has become all the more apparent during this time, deserves immediate action by the Board.

We urge you to take advantage of this critical time of reckoning and use it as an opportunity for Santa Barbara to model humanitarian and effective justice

practices which advance equity and reflect the voices and engagement of the community.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Barbara Parmet <bjparmet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:22 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hold Sheriff and DA Accountable

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

You all say you want racial equity. Yet Black and Brown people are disproportionately arrested, incarcerated, and supervised in Santa Barbara County. Racist policing destabilizes our community, disrupts families, and makes us less safe.

The Board can reduce the jail population. The Board can reduce the budgets of the SB sheriff and probation departments where inequities are happening. The DA needs to create more diversion from the justice system to give people more chances. The Board can invest in services that benefit the community, such as mental health crisis programs and resources for vulnerable community members. And you all can explore more options for creating a civilian oversight system for the Sheriff's office.

Thank you,
Barbara Parmet

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jillian Ellis <jillian.ellis5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:23 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Racial equity in the criminal justice system

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

My name is Jillian Ellis and I have been a resident of Santa Barbara County for three years. I am writing to you today about the upcoming hearing on racial equity in the criminal justice system. I am very concerned about racial disparities in stops, arrests, and convictions in our community. Over-policing always targets Black and Brown people and leads to the destabilizing of families and our community as a whole. Systemic racism is built into every police force, DA office, and prison system in this country--Santa Barbara County is no exception. As County Supervisor, you have a responsibility to this community and we are relying on you to hold the County Sheriff's office and the DA accountable for the racism that is ingrained in the criminal justice system.

I am calling on you to take immediate action on the following items:

- **Reduce jail population.** This is particularly important during the pandemic. Many people in jail have not been convicted of a crime, and they do not deserve to die of COVID-19 simply because they cannot afford bail.
- **Reduce the budgets of Santa Barbara County Sheriff and Probation offices.** We don't need more police, we need more community programs that will help people thrive.
- **Require the DA to divert low level offenders away from the justice system** to give people more chances rather than just locking them up.
- **Invest in community services** that work actively to improve people's lives: mental health services and crisis response teams, and resources for vulnerable and unhoused community members.
- **Explore options for a civilian oversight system** for the Sheriff's office. Law enforcement must be monitored and held accountable by an independent committee.

Thank you,
Jillian Ellis

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JILLIAN ELLIS
jillian.ellis5@gmail.com
jillianjellis.com