



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: June 15, 2021
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 90 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Director, (805) 568-2485
Director
Contact Info: Eva Camarena, Executive Assistant (805) 568-2467

SUBJECT: Juneteenth Celebration and Community Report on Work Being Done for the Advancement of Black and African-American Equity in Santa Barbara County

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a presentation from community groups Healing Justice Santa Barbara and the Santa Maria-Lompoc chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) regarding the work they are doing in our county to advance Black and African-American equity in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the project is an organizational or administrative activity of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Community Services Department was asked by Supervisors Williams and Hart to bring a discussion item to the Board of Supervisors in recognition of the Juneteenth holiday and to enable the Board to hear directly from community groups who are doing substantial on-the-ground work to advance Black and African-American equity in Santa Barbara County. One group, Healing Justice Santa Barbara, is based

in South County and the other group, the Santa Maria-Lompoc Chapter of the NAACP, is based in North County.

Background:

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the issuance of General Order Number Three by General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, which ordered enslaved people in Texas – the last state to have the Emancipation Proclamation enforced – free. Juneteenth is a joyful holiday that has been celebrated by Black and African-Americans since the end of slavery.

The Community Services Department allocated a total of \$10,000 from the one-time funding the Board allocated to advance and support equity within Santa Barbara County during the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget hearings to Juneteenth celebrations in Santa Barbara County, split evenly between celebrations in the North County and South County.

As part of the County’s recognition of the Juneteenth holiday, Supervisors Williams and Hart requested the Community Services Department invite two community groups, one from South County and one from North County, to present on the work they have done in the last year to advance equity for Black and African-Americans living in Santa Barbara County.

Healing Justice Santa Barbara is a Black led and Black centered organizing collective focused on reimagining self-care as a collective investment in community care with the goals of providing a Black/African-American Cultural Resource Center, celebrating and funding the arts, public safety, support for our youth in education, environmental justice and sustainability, outreach, and meaningful collaboration. Furthermore, Healing Justice Santa Barbara hosts monthly Black Community Meetings for Black and African-American residents of Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Maria-Lompoc Chapter of the NAACP is a branch of the national oldest and largest civil rights organization. The Santa Maria-Lompoc chapter received its charter from the National Office of the NAACP on April 8, 1974 and is an advocacy organization that fights for the advancement of minority groups by bridging gaps in seven advocacy areas, including education, economic empowerment, healthcare, criminal justice, civic engagement, international affairs, and poverty issues.

Attachments:

Attachment A- PowerPoint Presentation

Authored by:

George Chapjian, Community Services Director