

Ramirez, Angelica

## Public Comment

**From:** Patrick Lorenz <patricklorenz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Hearing on Racial Equity and 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.**

I would like this comment to be read into the record:

Moving to Santa Barbara from New Orleans was an eye opener, and not in the namaste sense. As a white man used to seeing and interacting with Black men and Black women on a daily basis back home, it took going to a Black Lives Matter rally here to see as many. While that may be my privilege talking, it was shocking just how little I knew of the Black experience here. What wasn't shocking was hearing that the virus of racism and white supremacy that plague communities elsewhere exists here, too. This is evident upon hearing of the Black experience from those who live it and of those who have died from it. My girlfriend told me of her old classmate Meagan Hockaday, who was murdered by police in Oxnard.

The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Meagan Hockaday and all the others is an unacceptable product of racism and white supremacy. We can't hit snooze again. Lives are at stake Black community members are being suffocated by this virus every day and it's affecting their mental, emotional, and physical health. It is not enough to condemn blatant acts of racism. We must make our institutions anti-racist.

**Therefore, we demand:**

- Institutional and financial support for an annual Juneteenth Celebration – not just this year but every year
- The Sheriff update its Use of Force policy to center on de-escalation
- End isolation/quarantine for inmates attending court or contacting their lawyers
- The District Attorney implement diversion programs and pursue alternatives to incarceration

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Thank you for your time,  
Patrick Lorenz

## Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Karena G <mgainesbiology@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** please read comments into record

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How is it that in our community, that the majority of our city budget is spent on Police. Even more than on fire prevention/fire fighters. How is it that we spend more on arresting the homeless population to keep our streets quote unquote presentable, than providing them with housing and basic care and mental health facilities? How is it that, although the Black population is only about 1% or the population of SB, there is a disproportionate amount of arrests in the black community? The only answer is institutionalized racism that has never been checked.

We love to think that none of this could happen here, that we are enlightened, that were free of prejudice, and this is absolutely incorrect. Instead of addressing known problems we turn a blind eye. There is so much we need to do as a community, and this is only the beginning.

We need to:

- Defund the police and reallocate those funds into the community to support at risk populations and provide for the whole community. Not only the wealthy.
- The adoption of a resolution condemning police brutality and declaring racism a public health emergency
- Institutional and financial support for an annual Juneteenth Celebration - not just this year but every year
- The protection and preservation of Black landmarks like St. Mar AME, Friendship Baptist Church, and Franklin Neighborhood Center
- The creation of a Civilian Review Board for the Santa Barbara Police Department