

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Clarissa Ersoz <caersoz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 3:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: D-4, 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.

Hi there,

I am writing to send my public comment related to racial equality within our criminal justice system here in Santa Barbara city and county.

First, I'd like to support all demands from the Black Lives Matter Santa Barbara.

Many people in Santa Barbara believe that our law enforcement officers are not part of the problem. But they are, including the very person who runs the county Sheriff's office, Bill Brown.

I condemn Bill Brown for his recent endorsement of the carotid restraint and his resistance to banning it from use. This is just another example of his racist track record. Previous examples being his opposition to SB-54 and Prop 47.

SB-54 sought to designate California as a sanctuary state and prevent state law enforcement agencies from divulging the immigration status of the incarcerated to I.C.E. agents. It also protects immigrants' identities in public schools, medical clinics and courthouses. Bill Brown opposed it.

Prop 47 sought to reduce prison overcrowding by freeing people held for low-level crimes and nonviolent drug offenses. Most were imprisoned simply because they could not afford to post bail. Bill Brown opposed it.

It's evident from this Bill Brown does not deserve to hold any public office.

Meagan Hockaday died in Oxnard at the hands of police. This happens here, it happens here everyday. It's made evident as well in the number reported by the Independent, which many others have cited: that although only around 1.3 percent of Santa Barbara's population is black, when force is used, 8.7 percent of the time, the target of their force is black.

Therefore, I support all the demands of Black Lives Matter, including:

- 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-escalationEnd isolation/quarantine for inmates attending court or contacting their lawyers
- The District Attorney implement diversion programs and pursue alternatives to incarceration

Thank you, Clarissa Ersoz