

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 1

LATE
DIST

From: Felicity Landa <felicitylanda@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:48 PM
To: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob
Subject: Support for Healing Justice's request for funding a Black / African American Cultural Center in Santa Barbara

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.

County Supervisors,

I am writing as a resident and community member of Santa Barbara County, from District 1. I have been participating in County Board meetings and City Council meetings for year, ever since supervisors and city council members made commitments to do better at supporting Santa Barbara county's Black / African American community. I have seen almost none of those commitments come through, regardless of the persistence this community has shown in supporting Healing Justice and their demands.

Healing Justice has continued to persist in uplifting and strengthening this community regardless of receiving no funding--besides a measly DEI consulting contract-- jumping through ridiculous bureaucratic hoops that don't seem to exist for anyone else, and have been left out of important conversations concerning the money the county set aside for Racial Equity, conversations that they centered with their organizing and activism. What does the county have to actually show for the \$500,000 they set aside for racial equity? I've listened to the presentations, there is nothing that actually uplifts those who are directly impacted by the lack of racial equity in the county in meaningful, impactful, and concrete ways. Equity means that everyone is provided with the tools they need in order to succeed, and yet provision seems to have been sacrificed for a version of equality that only exists on paper. It's time to invest in actual concrete ways of supporting Black / African American residents of the county. Use the remaining \$270,800 to invest in preserving Black futures and Black History, through the cultural center.

The time is now, this is how we uplift our community and truly invest in racial equity. This is your opportunity to make sure your promises are not empty, and this funding is long overdue. This community has continued to show up for Healing Justice, we have continued to make our voices heard, and it's clear now a year later that we aren't going anywhere. Invest in a Black/African American cultural center now. No more excuses.

Felicity Landa
Community Member and Resident of District 1

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Sandee Taylor <sandee.c.taylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:57 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: June 15th public comment

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 Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

It is embarrassing and unethical to be ignoring and diminishing the work and demands from Healing Justice Santa Barbara. Did you learn anything in 2020? Your silence, your semantics, and your resistance to give Black & Brown leaders the resources speaks loudly and I continue to pray for you to be liberated from your willful ignorance. You represent the people of Santa Barbara yet you continue to ignore our requests for the establishment of a Black & African American Resource center.

I support your investment to the fullest extent and then some (actually a lot more) towards the Black & African American Resource Center There's no dollar amount to rectify the harm and oppression that has occurred and continues disregard Black people in Santa Barbara, but you can definitely start with a resource center sit your ego and your belief system aside, and start listening and supporting the people who take care of the each other and the community.

Thank you for your time.

Sandee Taylor

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Bonnie Dawson <bonnierella@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Publics Comment 6/15

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.

Hello,

I am making a public comment on agenda item 10 in regards to Healing Justice Sant Barbara. The county must invest in the establishment of a Black/African American cultural resource center. For our collative well-being it is important that the county of Santa Barbara invest in Black Histories and Black futures.

Our community has spoken. Community safety is not an increase in the Sheriffs budget, but rather an investment in Black, Indigenous, and people of color as they build communities based on collaboration, mutual aid, and cooperation. The time for this is now.

Thank you,
Bonnie Dawson