

#4

Ramirez, Angelica

Public comment - Group 5

From: Diana Puente <puentediana@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Ramirez, Angelica
Subject: Re: Comment for SB County Supervisors Meeting

LATE
DIST

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.

Thank you Angelica. Here is my statement and I will also try to call in this afternoon.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments for today's SB County Board of Supervisors meeting. I have been a resident of this County for almost six years. During that time, my work has been focused on Isla Vista and UCSB, supporting students in their work in the community.

Racism and white supremacy are real and persistent in Santa Barbara County, as has been attested to repeatedly over the last few days and over decades and centuries by our Black, Indigenous and Brown communities.

As the Santa Barbara Independent reports, although "only around 1.3 percent of Santa Barbara's population is black...when police get physical — with kicks, punches, baton-strikes, and take-downs, as well as other forms of muscle like tasers, pepper spray, and canines — 8.7 percent of the time, the target of their force is black."

We also know that racism and white supremacy extend well beyond law enforcement and are embedded in our systems and institutions that impact every other aspect of Black lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply demonstrated the enormous and persistent inequalities and the continuing impact of racism across our society. It has prompted massive institutional and systemic changes and has also highlighted our ability to act individually and collectively.

Our communities responded to the new COVID-19 reality with incredible speed, innovation, and dedication of resources. In a matter of moments - days, weeks and months, we pivoted. We have now experienced collectively the knowledge that we can make tremendous, fundamental changes that we didn't imagine or believe were possible.

The pandemic of anti-Black racism is not new, it is foundational to this country, yet it continues to be an immediate, pervasive threat to our entire community and we must take action now. Unlike the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been shown a road map for protecting, supporting and healing our community, we must commit ourselves to the journey.

I stand with our Black community in speaking out against white supremacy and in favor of real racial equity throughout SB County and to demand transparency and accountability from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff.

Sincerely,
Diana Collins Puente

On Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 9:46 AM Ramirez, Angelica <aramirez@countyofsb.org> wrote:

Hi Diana,

Yes, you can resend an email public comment, however, we are not reading letters into the record that were received after 5pm yesterday.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Bests,

Angelica Ramirez

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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aramirez@countyofsb.org



www.countyofsb.org

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From: Diana Puente <puntediana@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:26 PM

To: sbcob <sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>

Subject: Re: Comment for SB County Supervisors Meeting

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,

I would like to rescind my request to have my statement submitted to the record for the meeting. I would like to be able to submit a statement later this evening. Would that still be possible?

Thank you,

Diana

On Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 5:03 PM Diana Puente <puentediana@gmail.com> wrote:

I would like my comment to be entered into the record for the June 10 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

White supremacy is alive and well in Santa Barbara County, as has been attested to repeatedly over the last few days and over decades and centuries by our Black, Indigenous and Brown communities.

As the Santa Barbara Independent reports, although “only around 1.3 percent of Santa Barbara’s population is black...when police get physical — with kicks, punches, baton-strikes, and take-downs, as well as other forms of muscle like tasers, pepper spray, and canines — 8.7 percent of the time, the target of their force is black.”

We also know that racism and white supremacy extend well beyond law enforcement and are embedded in our systems and institutions that impact every other aspect of Black lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply demonstrated the enormous and persistent inequalities and the continuing impact of racism across our society. It has prompted massive institutional and systemic changes and has also highlighted our ability to act individually and collectively.

Our communities responded to the new COVID-19 reality with incredible speed, innovation, and dedication of resources. In a matter of moments - days, weeks and months, we pivoted. We have now experienced

collectively the knowledge that we can make tremendous, fundamental changes that we didn't imagine or believe were possible.

Our local communities and government led the way then and must lead the way now. The pandemic of anti-Black racism is not new, it has existed for centuries, yet it continues to be an immediate, pervasive threat to our entire community and we must take action now. Unlike the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been shown a road map for protecting, supporting and healing our community, we must commit ourselves to the journey.

I stand with our Black community in speaking out against white supremacy and in favor of real racial equity throughout SB County and to demand transparency and accountability from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff.

Sincerely,
Diana Collins Puente

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Brianne <briannebridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:38 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hearing on the 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.

Hello,

I would like my comment read into the record.

Santa Barbara needs to recognize how important the Black Lives Matter movement is and initiate positive change. The SB County Sheriff needs to be transparent AND be held accountable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brianne Bridge

Ramirez, Angelica

From: heather hagen <heatherhagen74@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:51 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: 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.

Although, I realize I am too late for my comments to be included in the meeting, I expect my input to be considered and hope that it will be saved with the public comments from the meeting:

To The County Board of Supervisors,

You've heard the demands and I am writing to, again, voice my support for them. However, I would like to be specific in what I think is necessary beyond this, and that is abolition. I want to see immediate support from Santa Barbara County's elected officials and a concrete plan for defunding the police and sheriff's departments. The prison industrial complex is a system that uses policing, courts, and imprisonment to avoid solving real problems within society. Each incarcerated person represents a problem unaddressed. The bloated budgets of prison industrial complex institutions, namely the police and sheriff, must be diverted to community care to address these problems.

The very idea that we need police to keep us safe, is white supremacist. It has become blatantly obvious, even those who have been in denial about this, that the police, in fact, do the exact opposite of keeping Black people safe. Continuing to repeat this white supremacist lie is erasure, it denies the humanity of our Black community members. We don't need police to keep us safe, we need to work on building a safe and healthy community that does not depend on imprisonment to avoid solving its problems.

Putting people in cages does nothing to solve any of the problems that lead to harm like dangerous drug use, poverty, violence, or mental illness. By separating people from their communities and isolating them in abusive and violent environments, these problems get worse.

I take seriously the harms that happen between people, safety is important, but in order to reduce harm we must change the social and economic conditions in which these harms take place.

Communities that have sufficient housing, food, education, healthcare, and jobs have the lowest crime rates. The best way to reduce harm is to build healthy communities where all people have their basic needs met. If you find yourself resistant to these ideas, I challenge you to do the work of researching and educating yourself. Education leads to support for abolition and abolition is a crucial element in dismantling systemic racism.

Sincerely,
Heather Hagen