



**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: 2nd Supervisorial District
Office
3rd Supervisorial District
Office

Department No.:

For Agenda Of: January 26, 2021

Placement: Administrative

Estimated Time: N/A

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Joan Hartmann, Third District Supervisor *KL GE J. HARTMANN*
Director(s) Gregg Hart, Second District Supervisor *GAHA*

Contact Info: Ethan Bertrand, 2nd District Representative, 805-568-2191

SUBJECT: Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion in the Community and Workplace

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion in the Community and Workplace (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended action consists of organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Summary

On December 1, 2020, as part of the update to the Board on criminal justice changes and actions to enhance racial equity in the community and County organization, staff proposed a County statement of commitment to equity and inclusion. During the hearing, changes were requested, and Supervisors Hart and Hartmann volunteered to further refine the statement. The Board directed the revised statement be brought back for approval.

Discussion

In addition to the County Executive Officer and Human Resources Director, the Supervisors worked with First 5 Director Wendy Sims-Moten for input to the revision. The final version is included as Attachment A. The County's statement will be used to guide actions and inform decisions in services and programs to the community and within our organization.

Background

The tragic death of George Floyd in May 2020 has prompted not only worldwide and local expressions of anger and demands for greater justice, but also self-evaluation and reflection by individuals and institutions as to values, practices, systems and intended outcomes. Many government agencies have adopted or are discussing statements or proclamations that express a commitment to equity and opposition to racism and systems that perpetuate it. These values are largely part of our commitment to equal opportunity and effective outcomes for our residents, and many departments of the County are and have been engaged in work to address these issues. A formal statement of commitment signals the importance of these principles to our community and workforce. In addition, more frequently, it is being requested by grant providers as a demonstration of the County's commitment.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no budgetary impacts of adopting the statement of commitment.

Attachment:

Attachment A - Statement of Commitment to Equity and Inclusion in the Community and Workplace