

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Jasmine Lee <jasmine.jl.lee@gmail.com>
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To: sbcob
Subject: Comment for SB County Board of Supervisors Meeting 6/11/20



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Hi,

Too many people in Santa Barbara believe the dangers of racism and white supremacy are things that happen elsewhere, not in our community. I know racism and white supremacy exist in SB because almost every single one of my black peers can all share some type of oppressive, discriminative, or outright racist experiences during their time here. It exhausts them and impacts them on a daily basis. SB culture constantly lives in this false sense of heroic altruism when there's so much underlying racism and "Amy Coopers" out here. For those that do their best to assimilate and accommodate SB white supremacist ideology, they still are constantly looked at less than or othered. We know they exist because Meagan Hockaday, who grew up in Santa Barbara, was murdered by the police in Oxnard. We know racism exists because as the Santa Barbara Independent reports that 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."

What happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Meagan Hockaday and all the others is the outcome of racism and white supremacy being ignored until it literally murders someone. The truth is, Black community members are being suffocated by racism and white supremacy every day and it's affecting their mental, physical, and emotional 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

Please take a stand and make permanent changes. You took on this position of power. Find it in you to have humanity and compassion and justice again.

Best,
Jasmine