

#1

de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: J <josehoopsterbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:51 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: SB County Board of Supervisors



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.

To: County Clerk
From: José A Navarrete, resident of Solvang

Please read this public statement onto the record of the board of supervisors' meeting:

“Good morning, Honorable Supervisors.

I find it troubling that better care is not taken to translate the materials on the County Public Health website into Spanish. It is currently in Google Translate mode and makes no sense. While I understand this is only temporary, the prospects don't look good. And honestly, it's been nearly a month already....

You see, there is a group of us local court certified interpreters/translators—Public Servants and Officers of the State Judiciary—who offered to help for free when this crisis began taking shape last month. Trying to do our part as a valuable resource to the community, we have been met with disdain and indifference.

Sadly, county officials decide to use 'bilingual' staffers to translate their materials, which leave much to be desired: at best, lackluster...at worst, nonsensical. You should be relying on true language professionals, actually trained and experienced as full-time linguists. Would you think of hiring people as doctors and nurses who do not possess a medical license?

There is no difference here. The public deserves better. Contrary to the belief of these 'bilingual' staffers and those that enable them, the Mexicans and other Spanish-speakers in our communities are not sub-literate. It is irresponsible, offensive and disingenuous to justify these shoddy translations by claiming to target folks who won't understand their own language. Please reconsider your Language Access strategy.

Otherwise, I thank everyone in the county for doing their part in keeping us all safe. Please let US do what we do best. We're here for you and all.”