

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment - Group 3A-28

**From:** Emily Benaron <emilybenaron@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:11 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Board of Supervisors Meeting - April 6th - Public Comment re: A-28



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Dear Board of Supervisors,

Regarding agenda item A-28- Adopt a resolution of Concern Regarding Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Thank you for the resolution to finally see racism as a public health crisis in Santa Barbara County. This is an important AND overdue step. I would like to have more clarity in the resolution of the actual steps that will be taken to facilitate anti-racism trainings, as well as how those in law enforcement, criminal justice, housing, education, healthcare, and public health positions will be held accountable to these standards.

It is of the utmost importance that BIPOC in our community are the qualified experts to help guide this resolution rather than white people. We must learn from their lived experience and listen. Also, this resolution must assert that funds will be reallocated from the County's Safety Budget into BIPOC led community-based organizations and to BIPOC individuals who are working towards creating a safer and healthier environment for our BIPOC community members that is based on equality.

Sincerely,

Emily Benaron  
Yoga Therapist & Wellness Facilitator

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Lisa Brabo <Lbrabo@fsacares.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:30 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** April 5, 2021 Mtg - Agenda Item A-28: Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

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Dear County Board of Supervisors,  
Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County is in support of agenda item A-28 - adopting the resolution declaring racism a public health crisis and the listed action steps for racial equity and justice. Racism results in widespread inequities across health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing in Santa Barbara County.  
Thank you for supporting this resolution.  
Lisa

**Lisa Brabo, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director  
[805.965.1001 ext.240](tel:805.965.1001)

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## de la Guerra, Sheila

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**From:** Kristin Fontes <kristin.fontes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:34 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public comment regarding item A-28 for BoS meeting 4/6/21

**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 County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kristin Fontes, and I am a board-certified community emergency physician who serves a large local population of Latinx and Indigenous patients. I am also a co-founder of Santa Barbara Healthcare Workers for Racial Justice, a grassroots organization of approximately 250 healthcare workers who aim to create an antiracist culture in healthcare through education, collective action, and structural change. I am writing to you as a physician and equity advocate, and not on behalf of any employer, hospital, or healthcare institution.

It is absolutely essential that you adopt this resolution. While the national spotlight on systemic racism is new, the issue itself is not. From a dark history of illegal and unethical experimentation on Black Americans to the increase in hate crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, racism negatively impacts the health, safety, and wellbeing of communities of color. Attention to this matter is long overdue.

Not only have I witnessed firsthand the pronounced disparities with COVID-19 disease severity, complications, and death among local Latinx patients; I also witness frequent instances of implicit, and at times even explicit, bias against people of color in my workplace. Research has even demonstrated that burnout among white physicians is associated with increased bias against Black patients. From the racist stereotypical narratives espoused by some of my coworkers, to the stark underrepresentation of physicians of color in our workforce, our local healthcare system has a great deal of work to do to deliver equitable care to our community.

The cumulative effect of the lifelong stress and trauma experienced by people of color in this country is inextricably linked to disparate health outcomes. We must be intentional with dismantling the policies that allow these disparities to persist. In addition to educating ourselves about the history of medical racism in the U.S. and the role implicit bias plays in our care delivery, we must also be empowered to address social determinants of health. Food and housing insecurity, predatory mortgage lending practices, environmental injustice, and criminalization of poverty are just a few of the inequities that contribute to the poor health I see affecting my patients every time I work in the emergency department. I can provide the best evidence-based treatment to my patients, but what good does it do them once I send them home to the environment that made them sick in the first place?

We cannot meaningfully address this issue without support and amplification from our elected officials. I am committed to using my voice and my position as a physician to advocate for my patients and colleagues, but we need solidarity across the county to keep this movement going.

Thank you for your attention to this critical public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin E. Fontes, MD

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Kristin E. Fontes, MD, FAAEM, FACEP  
She/Her/Hers (what's this?)  
(760) 855-9189

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Abigail Restivo <abigailrestivo@ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:46 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Item 28

**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 whom it may concern;

My name is Abigail Restivo and I am a first-year undergraduate student studying medicine at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I am writing to you today to discuss whether or not racism should be declared a public health crisis. According to the study done by *The Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, “Fatal police shootings are a public health emergency that contribute to poor health for BIPOC. Urgent attention from health professionals is needed to help drive policy efforts that reduce this unjust burden and move us towards achieving health equity in the US.” This study reported that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) have significantly higher death rates than white people when it comes to encounters with police- and police brutality- making it a public health crisis. People of color should not have to fear for their lives on a daily basis, which is why I am asking you to adopt the resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Thank you,  
Abigail Restivo  
[abigailrestivo@ucsb.edu](mailto:abigailrestivo@ucsb.edu)

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Chris Lange <monarchsrule@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Support and comments re 6 April 2021 Agenda, Item A-28

**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.**

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

April 5, 2021

Item A-28, Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Santa Barbara County

As a county resident since 1978, and a more recent social justice advocate through Santa Barbara SURJ, I support the adoption of this Resolution of Concern, with qualifying comments below.

1. To be clear, the title should add "systemic", or the phrase "systemic and structural" to describe racism.
2. The language of the Resolution is quite vague. This is not a homily but a call to action; there needs to be specific references to actionable items, such as anti-racism training; measurable commitment in the form of funding largely redirected from public safety budgets, and specific infrastructure goals in the sectors of health, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing countywide.
3. Last but not never least, as a white Ally I cannot see the entirety of racism -- but BIPOC residents can, and do. This Resolution needs to explicitly acknowledge and plan for soliciting and utilizing input from these valuable natural experts.

Thank you for the chance to express my views.

Christina Lange  
36 W. Micheltorena Street  
SB CA 93101  
805-284-3492

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Lorin Cuendet <lorin.cuendet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 4:58 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** agenda item A-28

**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 Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to voice my support for the adoption of agenda item A-28 - Adopt a Resolution of concern about racism as a public health crisis.

While I am writing to voice my support, I would also like to encourage the board to consider how to make this agenda item more actionable and also to develop a system of accountability for any commitments made. I also believe this would be the time to consider using some of the funds allocated to the Sheriff into BIPOC led community-based organisations.

Finally, let's ensure that BIPOC folks' lived experiences qualify them as subject matter experts on racism. They have understandings of the complexities of racism that white people don't.

Best regards,

Lorin Cuendet

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Genevieve Flores-Haro <genevieve.flores-haro@mixteco.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 5:35 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Ana Huynh; Vanessa Teran; Arcenio Lopez  
**Subject:** Comment on Item A-28 on April 6, 2021 Agenda

**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,

On behalf of the Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project(MICOP), we submit our support of Item A-28. We cannot continue to ignore the impacts of racism and white supremacy within our communities, and must lead by example when seeking to address how racism intersects with our communities' overall public health, especially as we navigate the current COVID-19 global pandemic. There cannot be true equity nor justice if we do not tackle the roots of these issues within our own backyard.

MICOP applauds the city of Santa Barbara for this initial step and we look forward to future collaboration with city staff and current councilmembers to end anti-Asian American/Pacific Islander racism, anti-Black racism and anti-Indigenous/migrant racism in our region for good.

Thank you!

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*Genevieve Flores-Haro, MPA*

Associate Director  
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project  
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Pronouns: she/her + they/them

Pronombres: ella + elle/elles


*MICOP's mission is to support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant community in California's Central Coast.*

Learn more by visiting us at: [mixteco.org](http://mixteco.org)





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**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Alex Weinstein <alexwe@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 5:43 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Support the resolution

**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 County Board of Supervisors,

I write to you as a physician who has lived and worked in Santa Barbara for 34 years.

I strongly urge you to adopt this resolution identifying structural racism is a public health crisis.

As elected leaders in our community. I know that you have seen the science and the data that articulately describes the health impacts of racism. We hear the stories.

I, as a doctor, can do far less to help my patients than you can as our elected leaders to increase awareness about social determinants of health. This costs the county no money to adopt a resolution against racism. This is consistent with the best practice in public health research acknowledging the role of racism as one of the social determinants of health. And most importantly, it is the right thing to do. I ask you to please do the right thing and adopt this resolution. Racism is a public health crisis and results in preventable illness and death. Acknowledging a problem is the first step toward its resolution.

Please take a stand against racism. Thank you.

Alex