

**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** The Ad Hoc Committee

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Dear Council Members, et al,

My name is Bethany Carpenter, and I pastor Bardsdale United Methodist Church. Our building is in "Bardsdale" in the county, yet we have many members who live, work and vote in Fillmore, proper, as well as long time members of families who have been part of this community for generations.

I vote. And I speak. We vote. We speak. And we follow the One who loves justice and equality, and asks all of us to work so that "Thy kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven."

I and we are trusting that there will be meetings about Racial Justice in Fillmore, and that they will be open to all people, and that they will be advertised, so that we know when and where the meetings will be. Also, trusting that there will be times set aside to hear from one another, and that the conversations will be civil.

My understanding is that 80% of the folks who live in Fillmore live below the poverty line. These folks are mostly the field workers and orchard workers; people of Color...an excellent topic of discussion.

The police force with many non-resident folks, is also a good topic of discussion. I am also on the Board of One Step a la Vez.

Racism is a disease we can heal, with conversations, empathy, and a real desire to make Fillmore a better place for everyone.

Black Lives Matter.

Systemic Racism needs to be brought into the Light, so that we can choose to change the system to be equitable and just.

Let me know when and where, please.

And thank you for the brave work we are all about to embark on...

Blessings to you, each and all, to

your families, and in your service to this community and the world.

Bethany Carpenter,

Pastor,

Bardsdale UMC,

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Hello all!

Thank you for your time and service in reviewing all of the public comments.

My husband and I both live and are registered voters here in Fillmore. We are on the board at One Step A La Vez and enjoy serving the youth of our community. We own and operate two businesses right here in Fillmore. One that is Female-Owned (my interior design company), and another that is Female & Black-Owned (our organic walnut provisions company).

We both agree that there should be Ad Hoc Committee. We attended the community discussion at City Hall on July 11th and were moved to hear the shares of two former Mayors, many residents, and of the youth.

More specifically, hearing about how a young 18-year-old woman of color was subjected to racism and sexual harassment at our local high school, along with her friends, was particularly difficult to digest. She also said the white male was not reprimanded.

As these shares are ones that are shocking and also have become the norm, we welcome the formation of this committee in an effort to bring about a much-needed change in our community.

We feel that the formation of the proposed Ad Hoc Committee represents initial and necessary steps to provide a voice, sounding board, and understanding of the impact of systemic racism on POC in our City of Fillmore. It is our hope that our City Council leadership will vote to approve the committee in an effort to initiate a much-needed change for our community.

Thank you for your listening.

With gratitude,  
Nicole Facciuto & Eric Hargrove

--

Nicole Facciuto, LEED AP  
nicole.facciuto.design  
[nicolefacciuto.com](http://nicolefacciuto.com)

Founder, CORKY'S NUTS  
[corkysnuts.com](http://corkysnuts.com)

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**Erika Herrera**

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[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Regarding City Council Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

My name is Kate English, I am the Director of One Step A La Vez, a youth resource and community center in Fillmore and serving youth through the valley that has been engaged in racial justice work for 12 years.

I would like to be invited at a later date to address the council with a presentation about juvenile justice statistics in Ventura County, especially as relevant to Fillmore youth.

I would like to thank Manuel Minjares & Lynn Edmonds for attending the Community Conversation about systemic racism on Saturday. Unfortunately the event was not attended by other city council members, school board members or law enforcement and so many missed hearing story after story about the ways Fillmore citizens face systemic racism, racial bias and racial profiling right here in our town.

Regarding an Ad Hoc Committee of the City Council  
I suggest naming these minimum purposes of the committee:

- To examine issues of racial disparity and systemic racism as it relates specifically to community members of color in Fillmore
- To put special focus on racial profiling by police in Fillmore
- To put special focus on community driven, conceived possible solutions
- To report back to the city council both quantitative and qualitative data
- To propose policy and budget changes that will help to dismantle systemic racism as it exists in Fillmore

I suggest the committee makeup include 3 community members of color (or at least one more community member than the number of city council members appointed). The members should be proportionally racially and ethnically reflective of the Fillmore community. The committee members should commit to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

We know this happens everywhere but right now we have an opportunity for self examination. Fillmore will not be the most racist place nor the least, but all people of good conscience know that racism exists everywhere and continues to hurt people of color. There can be no good reason not to look in the mirror regarding racism.

Thank you for hearing my public comment.

Kind regards,

Kate English (she/her/hers)  
Executive Director

[REDACTED]

## Erika Herrera

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[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:41 AM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public comment for 7/14/2020

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Meeting Date: 7/14/2020  
Agenda Item: 8.C  
Contact Information:  
Roberto Munoz

[REDACTED]

Hello,

I've lived in Fillmore 23 years, almost my entire life, and I wish to voice my support for creating the ad hoc committee to engage in community conversations and act on issues of systemic racism here in Fillmore.

Fillmore needs to:

1. Look closely at racial disparity and institutionalized racism - in our city, in our police dept., in our schools, in our social services (or lack thereof)
2. Take a deep dive into the issue of racial profiling by our police in Fillmore. It's prolific and ingrained and only by digging deep could we possibly address the core of this problem.
3. Ensure that this Ad Hoc committee focuses on community-conceived and community-driven solutions to these problems
4. Ensure the committee illustrates the issues that arise back to the Council and larger community with data - quantitative and qualitative
5. Ensure the committee fully understands why and considers City policy and budget changes as important, key tools to aid in the dismantling of systemic racism
6. Ensure that FUSD School Board members are part of this committee. We need them to be present and show up, to listen, to contribute and be an active part of working towards solutions.
7. Ensure that the committee includes a minimum of 3 community members of color ( or at least one more community member than the number of city council members appointed) The members should be proportionally racially and ethnically reflective of the Fillmore community and commit to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

Fighting systemic racism is the best way to keep our ENTIRE community safer. Let's move forward together.

## Erika Herrera

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:46 AM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda item 8.C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Meeting Date: 7/14/2020  
Agenda Item: 8.C

Contact Information:  
Christina Villasenor  
[REDACTED]

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Christina Villasenor, and I've been a resident of Fillmore for 11 years. I would like to strongly voice my support for the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee to help create community conversations and take action on issues of systemic racism here in Fillmore that have been raised by residents in this City.

Some may be skeptical and ask as to why now? Do we really have a problem that warrants this? Yes we do. The problem of systemic racism and its deep roots in our institutions - and particularly for our town, is most visible, most tangible through our Sheriffs Dept. - has always been here, and communities of color have been the victims of it, have suffered it, have talked and aired grievances in their own circles and to sympathetic ears about it and in some small, individual cases, have fought against it.

Now, propelled forward into the national spotlight by witnessing the filmed atrocities of police brutality and vulgar displays of racism, from big cities to small towns like ours, communities are self-examining and creating a dialog about racism - where it's institutionalized, where it's blatant, what both of those look like, and in partnership with residents, leaders of the community and leaders of these institutions, conversations are beginning to identify racism, understand it and call it out, and put concrete actions and policies in place to change our communities for the better.

For Fillmore to be able to do this successfully and engage with community members fully, we need to:

1. Look closely at racial disparity and institutionalized racism - in our city, in our police dept., in our schools, in our social services (or lack thereof)
2. Take a deep dive into the issue of racial profiling by our police in Fillmore. It's prolific and ingrained and only by digging deep could we possibly address the core of this problem.
3. Ensure that this Ad Hoc committee focuses on community-conceived and community-driven solutions to these problems
4. Ensure the committee illustrates the issues that arise back to the Council and larger community with data - quantitative and qualitative
5. Ensure the committee fully understands why and considers City policy and budget changes as important, key tools to aid in the dismantling of systemic racism
6. Ensure that FUSD School Board members are part of this committee. We need them to be present and show up, to listen, to contribute and be an active part of working towards solutions.
7. Ensure that the committee includes a minimum of 3 community members of color ( or at least one more community member than the number of city council members appointed) The members should be proportionally racially and ethnically reflective of the Fillmore community and commit to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

This needs to happen in Fillmore. It may have taken witnessing terrible manifestations of racism to harness our voices, but residents are no longer going to be silent. Let's move forward together.

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Good Morning,  
My name is Jennifer Orozco and I wish to share my comment in the City Council meeting today. The following is my whole comment.  
Thank you, Jennifer Orozco

My comment:  
Hello City Council Members,

My name is Jennifer Orozco. This year I will be a senior at Fillmore High School and I am the president of the Social Equality Club.

I would like to share one definition of systemic racism:

A form of racism that is embedded as a normal practice within society or an organization. It results in racial discrimination in the criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power and education, etc.

I would like to discuss one way I have observed systemic racism in Fillmore as it relates to housing.

I have never seen any construction being done to make homes for people with low income. When I was in fifth grade in Rio Vista I started to notice nice, expensive, huge homes being built. I knew for a fact my family and my friends' families could never afford to live there. I also started to notice that the majority of families living there were white wealthy families. I began to question if there would be any investment to build homes for people with low income in the other areas of Fillmore. Latinos are the majority of the people who make low income and live in these old homes. 6+ years have gone by, where are the homes for the financially struggling families, or at least why haven't you made any improvements to the homes that are slowly rotting away?

Thank you for hearing my comment.

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment 7/14/2020 agenda item 8.C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

My name is Luana Barajas and I am writing to let the council know that I support the creation of an ad hoc committee to help create community conversations to take action and address the issues with systemic racism in our community. I know that there are members of the community who do not think this is needed but I have witnessed first hand the detrimental effects of profiling and over policing in our community. I do not dislike the police officers in our community and have great respect for the work that they do but I do think that we need to restructure how our tax dollars are spent. I do not believe that such a large portion should go to the police force. We are in great need of mental health services for all (but especially for our youth) here in town. We need more after school programs and extracurricular activities for our youth. We need more funding for educational programs and community outreach. There are many vacant lots in Fillmore and many of our residents suffer from food insecurity. What about creating community gardens to help empower and feed our citizens? There are so many great things we could do in our wonderful town and so I am asking for you not to increase the police budget and to look at reallocating funds towards programs that improve the health and opportunities of Fillmore residents. I know all of this may sound radical and scary but I am asking you to have an open mind, to research, and to truly look at what is best for our community.

**Luana Barajas**

*"I'm no longer Accepting things I cannot change. I'm changing things I cannot accept." -Angela Davis*

**Erika Herrera**

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[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 Agenda Item 8.C.

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 8.C.

After having gone to the open-air meeting in front of City Hall this past July 11th (which police and the school board had been urged to attend), I think it is crucial that this ad-hoc committee be formed. One thing that I learned from that meeting is that the citizens of Fillmore have many serious concerns about not only police practices but the racist culture that is being perpetuated by keeping quiet about these topics. One thing that council members have dismissively told us is that people do NOT take enough initiative, therefore we never see legislature passed that we want. Forming this committee shows that the community wants to take initiative. Officializing this committee will restore some of our faith in the city because it shows that you care for us as people, not just for our money. By expanding a public discussion platform, it would ensure Fillmore residents' a voice. Though there are city council meetings open to the public, they still lack a lot of accessibility. I heard from the open-air meeting about the racist remarks the Fillmore Gazette had to say in regards to the city council meetings being translated to Spanish. With that said, I would rather take part in a discussion where there isn't some form of "gatekeeping," in this case, racist rhetoric by a publication that supposedly represents my community. I learned a lot just hearing community members speak out over a microphone. I want to keep that model going.

## Erika Herrera

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting 07/14/2020 for Agenda Item 8.C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Name: Irene Canchola  
Agenda Item: 8.C

Comment:

I've been a resident in Fillmore for 5 years now but have been familiar and visited the town for over 16 years. I'll be honest this town has been known as a ghetto town so when my husband and I moved here, I understood why it was seen as "ghetto". There are mainly hard working Mexicans/Latinos that make this town and they work in agriculture but the ones that run this town are 95-98% White, so then it all made sense. The things that are funded do not benefit the majority of the latino population (which are more likely to be lower income families/individuals). What should be funded in this town are the schools, students activities, community activities, mental health and opportunities for those who make this town whether they're illegal or not. Obviously racism plays a role in this and needs to be discussed and dismantled in order for the city of Fillmore to thrive and be seen in a brighter light.

I'm requesting the following:

1. Freeze any police budget increase for the upcoming fiscal year.
2. Creation of a city committee that will work toward dismantling racist systems and processes throughout our City. Committee membership should reflect the city's demographics, of course.
3. City Council members pledge to undergo anti-racist education for themselves so they are able lead this city toward a more equitable future.
4. City Council members pledge to study anti-racist public policy and implement anti-racist practices throughout Fillmore's city departments.
5. Update the city's entire website with current 2020 information for all city departments so that citizens are able to attain up to date information on their city's projects and happenings.
6. Invest resources to create government-community partnership, community leadership, small business growth, affordable housing, community arts and cultural institutions, safe places to gather and play, mentorship programs, and vocational training.
7. Post a large Black Lives Matter banner across City Hall, to show our support to the current racial justice movement.
8. Paint Black Lives Matter messaging on a highly visible street in the downtown Fillmore area to show our support to the current racial justice movement.

Let's be honest and come together for everyone!

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Cc:** Tim Holmgren; Mark Austin; Diane McCall; Lynn Edmonds; Manuel Minjares  
**Subject:** General Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Mayor Holmgren and Council Members,

On June 23, 2020, the City of Santa Barbara unanimously adopted a resolution “declaring racism as a public health crisis and condemning police brutality”. Full text of that resolution can be found [here](#).

Just yesterday, on July 13, 2020, the City of San Buenaventura voted unanimously to adopt a similar resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY”. Full text of that resolution can be found [here](#).

I urge the City Council to follow suit and adopt a resolution (1) declaring that Black Lives Matter (2) declaring that racism is a public health crisis, and (3) condemning police brutality. I ask that this issue be added to the agenda at the next council meeting.

Change begins with acknowledgement. Naming the problem of white supremacy and publicly condemning the violence that results from it is a critical first step to starting deeper conversations that will help us explore the ways in which our own local institutions reinforce these systems and how we can reimagine them going forward. A simple proclamation stating the three aforementioned items will demonstrate your intent as elected public servants to make our community more safe and inclusive for everyone. Now is not the time for silence. Black Lives in your community Matter.

Thank You,

Jennifer Hernandez, Fillmore Resident, Parent, and Homeowner

# Santa Barbara Declares Racism a Public Health Crisis, Condemns Police Brutality

City Leaders Crafted Resolution with Healing Justice: Black Lives Matter Santa Barbara



*Demonstrators march against police brutality (May 31, 2020) | Credit: Daniel Dreifuss*

By **Tyler Hayden**

Wed Jun 24, 2020 | 10:50am

In partnership with Healing Justice: Black Lives Matter Santa Barbara, city leaders crafted a resolution that declares racism a public health crisis and condemns police brutality. The City Council unanimously adopted the resolution on Tuesday. “These are just words,” said Councilmember Meagan Harmon. “We are the ones who must animate them. We have to see that through with every single vote we take and every issue we hear before us.”

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The full text follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY

WHEREAS, we are haunted by the searing vision of a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on a subdued man's neck, as other officers witnessed Mr. George Floyd's pleas for help be ignored by the very people who are trained to help and assist; and

WHEREAS, from slavery to Jim Crow laws to the modern criminal justice system, black people in this country have been brutalized and dehumanized for centuries, including Santa Barbara County's first black enslaved resident, Jerry Forney; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2015, 26-year-old and Oxnard, California resident Meagan Hockaday was fatally shot in her own home by Oxnard Police; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, America witnessed the shooting and killing of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man going for a jog, by two white men in Glynn County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, 26-year-old emergency medical worker Breonna Taylor was shot and killed by police inside her home after a "no-knock" raid; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, 21-year-old Sean Reed was fatally shot by Indianapolis Police; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2020, 38-year-old Tony McDade was fatally shot by Tallahassee Police, and

WHEREAS, we are haunted, too, by the knowledge that these are not isolated events in our country. The number of names and similar experiences is unconscionably long, and an undeniable part of the history of this nation; and

WHEREAS, we extend our condolences to Mr. Floyd's family and friends and to all who grieve his death. We offer our thoughts to the countless members of our community who have been personally impacted as well; and

WHEREAS, we condemn the actions of the police officers involved; and

WHEREAS, we strive to remain ever thoughtful in our work — as public officials — to ensure that all members of our community feel part of Santa Barbara and feel protected, listened to, and served by their public servants; and

WHEREAS, as public officials, it is our duty to use our legal and moral authority to protect all members of our community no matter their race or color or where they fall on the power spectrum. It is our duty to foster a community free of fear, intimidation and violence — a community in which people are not targeted or hurt unnecessarily by law enforcement — and to provide equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, we know many of the young people in our community have seen this video and other similar news, and are trying to process these traumatizing events with their families. However, the current public health situation makes it that much more difficult as they are unable to connect with friends, extended family, or school staff; and

WHEREAS, the struggles of black people have been highlighted most recently by alarming findings that black Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate compared to white Americans due to systemic, structural racism; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those with disabilities, are also more likely to be subjected to unjust treatment by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the recent acts of racism have sparked advocacy, activism, and protests across the Country with groups such as Black Lives Matter demanding action be taken to end this violence; and

WHEREAS, multiple protests have been independently led by students and adults, showing the powerful nature of an activated community that wants to do better and confront all bias and anti-blackness; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming community, we value human rights, peace, respect, inclusivity, and equity, and recognize that we derive strength from our diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara City Council denounces in the strongest possible terms the actions and inactions by these police officers that resulted in Mr. Floyd's death and to do our part to ensure that this does not happen in the City of Santa Barbara by taking the following actions:

1. To urge the Santa Barbara Police Department to continue to commit to fair and impartial policing policies, continue to develop and implement comprehensive programs to ensure equitable justice policing practices at all levels of the agency; and
2. Direct the City Attorney's Office to return on July 21, 2020, with a City Council presentation on options for establishing an independent civilian police oversight system; and
3. To declare racism as a public health crisis; and
4. To condemn any and all police brutality.

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Wed Jul 15, 2020 | 00:19am

<https://www.independent.com/2020/06/24/santa-barbara-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis-condemns-police-brut>

AGENDA ITEM  
12B

Date: July 10, 2020

Council Action Date: July 13, 2020

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** City Councilmember Lorrie Brown and Deputy Mayor Sofia Rubalcava

**SUBJECT:** That the City Council, by Resolution, declare that Ventura stands for racial justice and acknowledge that Black lives do matter

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the Resolution, title as follows:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY”

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 25, 2020, sparked a heightened sense of national awareness regarding police brutality and excessive use of force. The City of Ventura joins so many in condemning Floyd's death while in police custody.

A national, nonviolent movement has been demonstrated locally to address the racial, social and policy issues impacting Black Americans. As a city of approximately 110,000 people we are diverse, and we stand with those who advocate for freedom, equality and justice while addressing historic and ongoing challenges of racism.

Accordingly, Lorrie Brown, Ventura's first city councilmember of Black heritage with Deputy Mayor Sofia Rubalcava, a Latinx of Mexican heritage, agenzized this matter for the City Council to stand in solidarity and ask that more attention be paid to the injustices highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement, and to declare that Ventura stands against implicit bias, racial inequality and supports equal justice for all.

Subject: That the City Council, by Resolution, declare that Ventura stands for racial justice and acknowledges that Black lives do matter  
July 13, 2020  
Page 2 of 3

In August 2019, a year before the tragedy of George Floyd, Councilmember Brown, Deputy Mayor Rubalcava and Police Chief Schindler began a conversation with concerned residents to discuss and ask questions about the Ventura Police Department's policies on profiling, hiring practices and use of force.

On June 1, 2020, following Floyd's tragic death, Police Chief Schindler responded to community concerns and publicly addressed the hiring, training, and use of force policies and practices of the Ventura Police Department.

On June 2, 2020 Mayor Matt LaVere posted a statement expressing his disgust at the actions of the police officer that killed George Floyd, while calling out the tragic actions and inactions of the police officers involved in the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On June 4, 2020 Mayor Matt LaVere posted the Ventura Police Department's response to "8CantWait," with comprehensive policy recommendations.

On June 5, 2020 Police Chief Schindler and Mayor Matt LaVere released a video expressing their solidarity against police brutality.

On June 12, 2020 Councilmember Brown expressed her sadness at the death of Mr. Floyd in the Mayor's weekly address.

At the City Council meeting of June 29, 2020, Councilmember Brown shared her experience with bias in policing and made the motion to have counsel draft a resolution to acknowledge that Black lives do matter, honor the victims of racism such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, condemn police brutality, reinforce our commitment to combating implicit bias towards blacks, people of color, women, immigrants and LGBTQ and formally adopt the policy recommendations the Mayor suggested in his posted response to the "8CantWait" demands regarding unnecessary and potentially fatal uses of force,. This motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Rubalcava and carried unanimously by the City Council.

In drafting this resolution, Councilmember Brown collaborated with her colleagues, including, Mayor Matt LaVere, Deputy Mayor Rubalcava, and city staff, including Police Chief Darin Schindler and City Attorney Gregory Diaz.

We request that this Resolution be adopted by the City Council as the first step of many against the institution of racism.

Subject: That the City Council, by Resolution, declare that Ventura stands for racial justice and acknowledges that Black lives do matter  
July 13, 2020  
Page 3 of 3

Prepared by: Lorrie Brown, City Councilmember, Mayor Matt LaVere & City Attorney Gregory Diaz

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

There is not budgetary impact

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- A Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis and Condemning Police Brutality  
Exhibit 1 to Resolution      Mayor's Policy consideration and response to "8CantWait"

## ATTACHMENT A

### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_\_

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of San Buenaventura extends its condolences to the families and friends of victims of police brutality and to all who grieve the tragic loss of their friends and loved ones; and,

WHEREAS, the killing of Black men and women, including queer and transgender persons of color, is an unacceptable violation of the human rights due to all people; and,

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement, like the civil rights and other movements before it, has effectively articulated the injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class, and gender; including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, gender inequality, poor access to healthcare, and educational outcomes, demanding that action be taken to end this violence; and,

WHEREAS, acts of racism, are an undeniable part of this nation's history, continue to plague our country despite many pleas for change and has resulted in centuries of brutalization and dehumanization of Black people and people of color from slavery to Jim Crow to the criminal justice system; and,

WHEREAS, these are not isolated events and the list of names and number of similar tragedies is unconscionably long, we denounce racism, condemn police brutality, acknowledge implicit bias and believe that Black lives do matter; and,

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, America witnessed the shooting and killing of 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man going for a jog, by two white men in Glynn County, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, 26-year-old emergency medical worker Breonna Taylor was shot and killed by police inside her home after a “no-knock” raid; and,

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota during an arrest; and,

WHEREAS, other marginalized communities, including indigenous people, women, Latinx people, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those with disabilities, are also more likely to be subjected to unjust treatment by law enforcement, especially where training is inadequate and supervisors are not committed to equal treatment of all persons and thus create the need for additional pathways where all are comfortable and feel secure in making reports of misconduct and/or criminal activity; and,

WHEREAS, as public officials, it is the City Council’s duty to use its legal and moral authority to protect all members of the Ventura community, no matter their race or color, to foster a community free of fear, intimidation and violence — a community in which people are not targeted or hurt unnecessarily by law enforcement or vigilantes and to provide equal protection under the law; and,

WHEREAS, the demands of people of good will and multiple protests have been independently led by students and adults, showing the powerful nature of an activated community that wants to do better and confront all bias and anti-blackness; and,

WHEREAS, in alignment with the goal of creating a safe and welcoming community, the City values human rights, peace, respect, inclusivity, and equity, and recognizes that the City derives its strength from a rich diversity of thoughts, ideas and contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of San Buenaventura does hereby resolve, find, determine, and order as follows:

Section 1: The City Council denounces in the strongest possible terms the actions and inactions by those police officers that resulted in Mr. Floyd’s death and resolves to do its part to ensure that this does not happen in the City of San Buenaventura.

Section 2: The City Council hereby:

1. Declares that racism is a public health crisis;
2. Declares that Black lives do matter;
3. Condemns any and all forms of police brutality—whenever and wherever it occurs;
4. Adopts the Mayor’s statement regarding the “#8CANTWAIT,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as Exhibit “A;”
5. Commits to combatting both explicit and implicit bias, with an emphasis on evaluating hiring practices throughout the organization to ensure diversity amongst all levels of City staff and acknowledges that psychological profiles of white and black men and women will affect their testing scores on psychological hiring exams;
6. Pledges to use City funds, where and whenever possible, to encourage and expand existing partnerships and to form new partnerships with the county, public health and non-profits involving rehabilitation programs, social workers, mental health professionals, psychologists and school district specialists to serve in occupation-appropriate roles;
7. Recognizes the existence in many communities of the school-to-prison pipeline and continues to reinforce its policy to not use law enforcement personnel for student disciplinary purposes;
8. Recognizes that a criminal justice system that does not examine and account for racial bias poses a real threat to racial equality in our community;
9. Commits to formalizing a ban on the use of excessive force and reiterating the City Police Department’s existing policy that imposes a duty on all police officers to intervene and stop the excessive use of force and to keeping that policy current;
10. Pledges to invest in economic development initiatives that support housing, business, and education, all of which are proven factors to equalize and fight against racial disparity;
11. Recognizes the need for continual improvement and evaluation of the hiring practices at the Police Department in order to

increase diversity by using a variety of recruiting methods and tools to ensure diversity in race and gender in every officer classification and other recruitment efforts; and,

12. Celebrates the diversity of its workforce and encourage efforts to expand such diversity for the good of the residents and businesses we serve.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt LaVere, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Antoinette M. Mann, MMC, CRM  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
GREGORY G. DIAZ, City Attorney

BY: Gregory G. Diaz 7/8/2020  
Gregory G. Diaz                      Date  
City Attorney

# EXHIBIT 1

Mayor Matt LaVere's Facebook Post

8 Cant Wait

June 4<sup>th</sup>

Response TO "#8CANTWAIT" Policy Recommendations

I received numerous emails and phone calls from concerned citizens about the police use of force policies in our community. I appreciate hearing from so many of you. To follow-up on my statement earlier this week, I want to reiterate how important it is that we do better as a community and as a nation to combat racism and racial injustices.

Elected leaders and law enforcement leaders need to step up and create environments in their communities which ensure that everyone is treated equally and fairly under the law. There can be no room for racism, racial injustice, discrimination or inequality of any kind. That's not who we are as Venturans.

I want the public to know that the men and women of the Ventura Police Department maintain core values of integrity, courage, fairness, compassion, and respect for all persons. That is why VPD invests so heavily in recruiting and hiring the right people, building a strong ethical culture and performing regular evaluations. Ventura police officers receive extensive training (both in the Academy and in over 100 hours of annual training) in a number of important issues, including Professionalism and Ethics, Policing in the Community, Use of Force and De-Escalation Techniques, Working with People with Disabilities or Mental Health Concerns, Cultural Diversity, Anti-Discrimination, Implicit Biases, Ethical Decision Making, and Crisis Intervention Techniques. My experiences with Ventura police officers have shown me that our officers remain deeply committed to equality and to serving all members of the public with dignity and honor.

I have spoken with our Police Chief Darin Schindler regarding the 8 policy recommendations contained on the website <https://8cantwait.org>. For some reason, this website says that Ventura police policies contain only 3 of the recommended policies (#'s 3, 5 and 8). This is incorrect. I want to briefly discuss each of these policies, and specifically, how they relate to the Ventura Police Department. As you'll see, VPD policies contain 6 of the recommended policies. And even though there are 2 policies not explicitly followed, VPD has policies in place which largely track these 2 policies but contain minor distinctions which I explain below.

Recommendation #1: Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

Response: Venture police officers are NOT permitted to use a "chokehold", "stranglehold" or any other technique that is intended to stop the flow of air into a person's lungs. For example, the action of kneeling on an individual's neck (which resulted in the killing of George Floyd) is not permitted within the Ventura Police Department and our officers receive training to ensure such actions are not taken.

Recommendation #2: Require De-Escalation

Response: VPD currently requires de-escalation in several areas of VPD's policy manual and our officers receive extensive training in de-escalation. For example, VPD's use of force policy dictates that police officers may use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary and if an individual becomes compliant or situational circumstances change, officers are required to de-escalate.

#### Recommendation #3: Require Warning Before Shooting

Response: VPD policy requires an officer to give a verbal warning preceding the use of deadly force whenever feasible.

#### Recommendation #4: Exhaust All Other Means Before Shooting

Response: VPD policy requires officers to use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in any given situation. Sometimes exhausting all other means is not possible. For example, if an officer is responding to an active shooter at a school, it would not be feasible to first exhaust the use of verbal commands, a Taser, a baton, or any other level of force. Our officers are trained to go immediately to the most appropriate level of force and receive extensive training on only using the level of force necessary in any given situation.

#### Recommendation #5: Duty to Intervene

Response: VPD policy explicitly requires officers to intervene when they observe another officer using force beyond what is objectively reasonable.

#### Recommendation #6: Ban Shooting At Moving Vehicles

Response: VPD policy addresses shooting at or from moving vehicles. The policy specifically discourages shooting at or from moving vehicles and requires officers to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of shooting at it, wherever feasible. The policy does allow officers to discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle, but ONLY when the officer believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others (i.e. someone is shooting at officers from the vehicle). In speaking with our Police Chief, he remembers shots being fired at a moving vehicle only twice in his nearly 30 years of service. One incident was decades ago and the second incident was 6 years ago when a driver at the Ventura County Fair was shot in his vehicle after causing an accident and running over one of our police officers.

#### Recommendation #7: Require a Use of Force Continuum

Response: VPD's arrest control tactics program utilizes a use of force "paradigm" rather than a "continuum". But the principles are similar. VPD police officers follow the Koga Method which trains officers to think and act properly, responsibly and without undue force. Our officers are trained to choose the appropriate level of force, based on the situation, while following policy which dictates they use "only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary".

#### Recommendation #8: Require Comprehensive Reporting

Response: VPD policy requires that officers document all uses of force promptly, completely, and accurately. Those reports are approved by a supervisor and then all use of force incident reports are evaluated by a Tactical Review Committee. The Ventura Police Department takes its reporting requirements very seriously.

In sum, the Ventura Police Department has wide-ranging training and policies in place meant to guarantee that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. However, there is always room to continue learning and to improve policing. Chief Schindler, City Management and the entire City Council remain fully committed to ensuring that everyone in Ventura continues to be treated equally and fairly under the law. I look forward to continuing this discussion and appreciate everyone who has reached out to me with their ideas and comments.

**Erika Herrera**

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[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 for Agenda Item 8.C

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item: 8.C

**Comment:**

As a resident of our great, little, hardworking town of Fillmore, California, I respectfully request the following:

1. Freeze any police budget increase for the upcoming fiscal year.
2. Creation of a city committee that will work toward dismantling racist systems and processes throughout our City. Committee membership should reflect the city's demographics, of course.
3. City Council members pledge to undergo anti-racist education for themselves so they are able lead this city toward a more equitable future.
4. City Council members pledge to study anti-racist public policy and implement anti-racist practices throughout Fillmore's city departments.
5. Update the city's entire website with current 2020 information for all city departments so that citizens are able to attain uptodate information on their city's projects and happenings.
6. Invest resources to create government-community partnership, community leadership, small business growth, affordable housing, community arts and cultural institutions, safe places to gather and play, mentorship programs, and vocational training.
7. Post a large Black Lives Matter banner across City Hall, to show our support to the current racial justice movement.
8. Paint Black Lives Matter messaging on a highly visible street in the downtown Fillmore area to show our support to the current racial justice movement.

It is the time for our City's leadership to shine and show off their true American values. This country was founded on the quest for equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Everyone has a right to live out these values, no matter the color of their skin, or where they were born. As a community, we need to face our own prejudices, our own racist practices, our own white privilege, so that we can work to make these values true for everyone who lives here. I will not support racist rhetoric or any excuses coming from our City leadership who cannot see beyond white privilege or their racist mindset. I will not support any city council members, city committee members, or city commission members who will not move forward with embracing these American values for all. I pledge to work to remove all members from Fillmore council and committees who refuse to address our problems with race.

I love this town and really I'm excited for its future.

Thank you for your time.

Leticia Ortiz  
Fillmore, CA 93015

[REDACTED]

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public comment Meeting 7/14/2020

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***  
Agenda Item: 8.C  
Luis Munoz

Dear city council members,

My name is Luis Munoz, I am a resident of Fillmore and my family has lived here for over 17 years. I am writing in support for the creation of an Ad-hoc community conversation committee that will work to dismantle systemic racism rooted in white supremacy within our local institutions.

Some of our city council members may question the need for such a committee. Perhaps some of them have never personally experienced the harsh reality of systemic racism in our society. Just because you have never experienced it, never learned about it, never heard about it, or chose not to believe it, doesn't make it untrue or factually incorrect.

Mayor Tim Holmgren, Diane McCall, Mark Austin, David Rowlands, and police chief Garo Kuredjian have shown no interest in meaningful community engagement to address our concerns. You hide behind the Brown Act and use Covid-19 as an excuse when it suits your interest.

For Fillmore to be successful and engage with community members fully, we need to:

Ensure that we examine issues of racial disparity and systemic racism rooted in white supremacy - in our city government, in our police department, in our schools, in our housing development policies, in our local history, and in our social services (which we lack).

To be critical of our police services ensuring zero tolerance for racial profiling and harassment of our residents.

Ensure this ad-hoc committee focuses on community conceived and community driven solutions.

Ensure this committee illustrates the issues that arise and report back to the community and city council both in quantitative and qualitative data.

Ensure the committee understands why and propose policy and budget changes that will lead us in a path to dismantle systemic racism rooted in white supremacy as it exists in Fillmore.

The committee should include a minimum of 3 community members of color (minimum one more community member than the number of city council members appointed). These members should be representative racially and ethnically reflective of the Fillmore Community.

Our community will no longer be silent. We must work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire community.

**Erika Herrera**

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[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting 7/14/2020

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Agenda 8.C

1. Karli Toledo

[REDACTED]

3. Reexamine and relocate funds from police services to other essential community needs such as mental health services and our youth.

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date 7/14/2020 Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Hi,

My name is Margaux Bangs, my number is 805-302-2119. I am writing in support of the creation of an ad hoc committee to help create conversations and action about racial disparity and systemic racism. This committee should at minimum examine issues of racial disparity in our city, schools, police department, housing policies and social services. This committee must focus on community conceived and driven policies to address these problems. This committee must include a minimum of 3 community members of color, and reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of Fillmore. The members should be dedicated to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

Thank you,  
Margaux Bangs

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:45 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment 7/14/20 Meeting

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Hello Erika,  
below is my public comment. please have my public comment read during agenda item 8.C

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Patricia Zavala. I would like to strongly voice my support for the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee to help create community conversations and take action on issues of systemic racism here in Fillmore that have been raised by residents in this City.

Some may be skeptical and ask as to why now? Do we really have a problem that warrants this? Yes we do. The problem of systemic racism and its deep roots in our institutions - and particularly for our town, is most visible, most tangible through our Sheriffs Dept. - has always been here, and communities of color have been the victims of it, have suffered it, have talked and aired grievances in their own circles and to sympathetic ears about it and in some small, individual cases, have fought against it.

Now, propelled forward into the national spotlight by witnessing the filmed atrocities of police brutality and vulgar displays of racism, from big cities to small towns like ours, communities are self-examining and creating a dialog about racism - where it's institutionalized, where it's blatant, what both of those look like, and in partnership with residents, leaders of the community and leaders of these institutions, conversations are beginning to identify racism, understand it and call it out, and put concrete actions and policies in place to change our communities for the better.

For Fillmore to be able to do this successfully and engage with community members fully, we need to:

1. Look closely at racial disparity and institutionalized racism - in our city, in our police dept., in our schools, in our social services (or lack thereof)
2. Take a deep dive into the issue of racial profiling by our police in Fillmore. It's prolific and ingrained and only by digging deep could we possibly address the core of this problem.
3. Ensure that this Ad Hoc committee focuses on community-conceived and community-driven solutions to these problems
4. Ensure the committee illustrates the issues that arise back to the Council and larger community with data - quantitative and qualitative
5. Ensure the committee fully understands why and considers City policy and budget changes as important, key tools to aid in the dismantling of systemic racism

6. Ensure that FUSD School Board members are part of this committee. We need them to be present and show up, to listen, to contribute and be an active part of working towards solutions.

7. Ensure that the committee includes a minimum of 3 community members of color ( or at least one more community member than the number of city council members appointed) The members should be proportionally racially and ethnically reflective of the Fillmore community and commit to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

This needs to happen in Fillmore. It may have taken witnessing terrible manifestations of racism to harness our voices, but residents are no longer going to be silent. Let's move forward together

Thank you,  
Patricia Zavala

**Erika Herrera**

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[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Joey Juhasz-Lukomski

[REDACTED]

My name is Joey and I am moving to Fillmore in August. I am the executive director of BikeVentura, a countywide organization dedicated to bicycle safety and education. Over the last two years, I have worked with the Fillmore Citizens Patrol to put on three very successful bike rodeos to teach Fillmore and Piru youth bike safety and distribute free helmets.

I support the creation of this committee to begin inclusive community conversation. I participated in the Community Conversation that happened on Saturday. What I saw was a safe, constructive conversation that was accessible and inclusive. Systemic Racism, Oppression by Police, and disenfranchisement are important issues to your community and they should be important to you too. Unfortunately, your city council meetings are NOT accessible and inclusive in the same way that this community conversation was. For people who are hurt by systemic racism, there are numerous barriers to being heard in these meetings. To be clear, the timing and structure of these meetings IS a part of systemic racism and white supremacy.

I'm not saying YOU are racists by participating in the meeting, but please recognize this: for many reasons, it is not as easy or simple for black, indigenous, people of color, and spanish speakers to participate in these meetings as it is for wealthier, white, English-speakers. This results from centuries of inequality and inequity, so it doesn't all rest on your shoulders entirely. But it is your responsibility to work to undo some of that and make sure you are hearing from your whole community. You don't have to talk about all the times you weren't racist in your life, you have to figure out how this entire council can hear more voices from your community.

Stop telling people they just need to show up, when the system has been structured to make it very difficult for them to show up. You need to make it easy for them. This Ad HOC committee is a good first step to fostering community discussions that actually include full representation of your city...*if* they are given the power to do so and report those voices back to you, and you promise that you will listen to what this committee relays to you all.

I am excited to move to a more just and inclusive Fillmore soon, and continue to make comments to you all when you need reminding of what systemic racism is doing to our country, county, and city, and voting out people that are not committed to dismantling that.

Thank you for your time.

**Erika Herrera**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date 7/14/2020 Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Hi,  
My name is Sosanna Ingle my number is 805-651-9212. I am writing in support of the creation of an ad hoc committee to help create conversations and action about racial disparity and systemic racism. This committee should at minimum examine issues of racial disparity in our city, schools, police department, housing policies and social services. This committee must focus on community conceived and driven policies to address these problems. This committee must include a minimum of 3 community members of color, and reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of Fillmore. The members should be dedicated to educating themselves on issues of racial justice.

Thank you,  
Sosanna

## Erika Herrera

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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:57 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera  
**Cc:** Tim Holmgren; Mark Austin; Diane McCall; David Rowlands; Lynn Edmonds; Manuel Minjares  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 Agenda Item 8C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***

Mayor Holmgren and Council Members,

My name is Jennifer Hernandez. I live in Fillmore and am raising two children here.

I'm writing to comment on the creation of an ad-hoc "community conversation committee". I believe that this committee can be an important first step toward meaningful discussions and actions that create a more equitable and just civic institution that will prioritize the needs of the community.

However, I hope that this Council is willing to put in the work to make this committee and its conversations truly representative of and accessible to everyone in Fillmore.

I ask that you prioritize the following suggestions as you design this committee and form its purpose:

- 
- Ensure that the committee
  - is representative of this community by appointing a majority people of color to serve on it
  - 
  - 
  - Ensure language access throughout
  - this *entire*
  - process by making any subsequent discussions, documents, applications, meetings, etc about this committee (or any other topic at any and all City Council meetings) available in the language of preference for those who would like to participate
  - 
  - 
  - Focus on community led solutions
  - 
  - 
  - Focus on racial profiling
  - and discrimination in Fillmore
  - 
  - 
  - Give this committee real
    - budgeting power to enact change at the community level
  -

As it stands, even City Council meetings are not accessible to all members of your community. There are many barriers that people face in participating in civic processes, including language discrimination, lack of

accessible information about local meetings, and a long history of intentional exclusion in these spaces. This is a glaring example of how systemic racism affects our own local institution. Even passive exclusion of a significant proportion of the population you claim to serve from participation in essential civic processes is the definition of oppression. YOU have the power to change this.

This past Saturday, members of the community came together to discuss systemic racism, its history, and its present day effects. We heard Fillmore residents speak out about their experiences with police harassment, language bias, racial profiling, and youth incarceration. These experiences are real and deserve to be addressed. It is your job to listen to these voices and collaborate to find solutions. I commit to doing this work with you!

Thank You,

Jennifer Hernandez

[REDACTED]  
**To:** [Erika Herrera](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 for Agenda Item 8.C  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:38:58 PM

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**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***  
You're amazing! Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 14, 2020, at 5:22 PM, Erika Herrera <Eherrera@fillmoreca.gov> wrote:

Public comment received.

Thank you,

**Erika Herrera**  
Human Resources Director/Deputy City Clerk  
City of Fillmore  
250 Central Avenue  
Fillmore, CA 93015  
Phone: 805-946-1712  
[eherrera@FillmoreCA.gov](mailto:eherrera@FillmoreCA.gov)  
<image001.jpg>

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[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Erika Herrera <Eherrera@fillmoreca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment Meeting Date: 07-14-2020 for Agenda Item 8.C

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER - READ CAREFULLY\*\***  
**Name:** Leticia Ortiz

**Comment:**

As a resident of our great, little, hardworking town of Fillmore, California, I respectfully request the following:

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2. Creation of a city committee that will work toward dismantling racist systems and processes throughout our City. Committee membership should reflect the city's demographics, of course.
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are able lead this city toward a more equitable future.

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5. Update the city's entire website with current 2020 information for all city departments so that citizens are able to attain uptodate information on their city's projects and happenings.
6. Invest resources to create government-community partnership, community leadership, small business growth, affordable housing, community arts and cultural institutions, safe places to gather and play, mentorship programs, and vocational training.
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8. Paint Black Lives Matter messaging on a highly visible street in the downtown Fillmore area to show our support to the current racial justice movement.

It is the time for our City's leadership to shine and show off their true American values. This country was founded on the quest for equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Everyone has a right to live out these values, no matter the color of their skin, or where they were born. As a community, we need to face our own prejudices, our own racist practices, our own white privilege, so that we can work to make these values true for everyone who lives here. I will not support racist rhetoric or any excuses coming from our City leadership who cannot see beyond white privilege or their racist mindset. I will not support any city council members, city committee members, or city commission members who will not move forward with embracing these American values for all. I pledge to work to remove all members from Fillmore council and committees who refuse to address our problems with race.

I love this town and really I'm excited for its future.

Thank you for your time.

Leticia Ortiz  
Fillmore, CA 93015

