June 23, 2020

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: 6/23/20 Board of Supervisors Agenda Items #10, #11 and #12

Dear President Chavez and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As leaders of 50 community-based organizations, we firmly stand with the tens of thousands County residents using their voice to demand change. The Black Lives Matter movement has transformed and uplifted the calls for bold action on a legacy of racial injustice in our County.

President Chavez’s and Supervisor Cortese’s referral—acknowledging that Black Lives Matter and committing to the Black freedom struggle, affirming that the County commits to actions and reform towards the fight against racial injustice, police brutality, systemic oppression and violence regionwide and within our organization, and calling on the Administration to report to the Board of Supervisors in August with a timeline, goals, recommendations for partnerships, and next steps regarding the County’s internal and external efforts to commit to the Black Freedom Struggle and the role of the organization for action and reform towards racial justice, police brutality, systemic oppression, and violence—is an opportunity for the County to examine its own role in perpetuating structural racism within its systems and throughout our community, including systems of policing, prosecution, and incarceration that harms people of color, particularly Black people.

Santa Clara County has a meaningful track record of advancing immigrant, women’s, and LGBTQ+ rights; funding our safety net; and championing workers and workers’ rights. Now is the moment to go further. Echoing the themes that many of us put forward in a recent letter to the City of San José, we believe the County must, at minimum:

- Divest and redirect resources away from policing, incarceration, and corrections and invest in community-based solutions—mental health and healthcare, recovery services, housing, education, youth development, workforce development, and infrastructure. Many of Supervisor Simitian’s policing and corrections reform recommendations are well-taken, but this moment calls on us to fundamentally shift the paradigm and reimagine public safety. This moment calls on us to shift funding and support from punitive institutions to responses and interventions focused on resources that can truly keep communities safe;
- In this work, center the voices of individuals of color, specifically Black people, historically harmed by County-sponsored institutional racism and systems of oppression, those traditionally left out of decision-making processes, and, where appropriate, in partnership with diverse community-based organizations that have long served and represented the voices of
those community members impacted by systemic racism, over-policing, and unnecessary or extensive incarceration;
• Devote meaningful resources to finding and rooting out racial disparities in County structures, practices, and policies; embed this analysis in all future decision-making processes including those related to budgeting and policy-making; and gather, analyze, collect, and report on data that can illuminate racial disparities and measure the effectiveness of efforts to tackle such disparities; and
• Move forward on senior County management participation in Government Alliance for Race & Equity (GARE).

Although the nonprofit community, at its best, has allied with communities of color and low-income communities to pursue social justice and dismantle inequity and racism, we as a nonprofit community must acknowledge that we have more work to do in our understanding of our own role in perpetuating institutional racism—and we need to tackle that. Now is the moment for the Board, for the County, for our nonprofit community, and for all of us to step up boldly and reverse generations of failed policymaking. Now is the time to do the hard, necessary work to reimagine our County as an equitable one and reinvest so that it is no longer confined by the structures of racism and oppression.

We stand at the ready to assist in this effort to imaging and creating a world free of racism and inequity, where every Black person and person of color has the social and economic power to thrive.

Sincerely,

Richard Konda, Executive Director
Asian Law Alliance

Darcie Green, Executive Director
Latinas Contra Cancer

Dorsey Moore, Executive Director/CEO
San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School

Alison Brunner, CEO
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

Kyra Kazantzis, CEO
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Poncho Guevara, Executive Director
Sacred Heart Community Service

Erin O’Brien, President & CEO
Community Solutions

Esther Peralez-Dickmann, Executive Director
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

Andrea K. Urton, LMFT, CEO
HomeFirst Services

Elise Cutini, CEO
Pivotal

Sparky Harlan, CEO
Bill Wilson Center

Bill Kitson, Interim CEO
United Way Bay Area
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mindy S. Berkowitz</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley</td>
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<td>AnnaLisa Chung</td>
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<td>Verónica Goei</td>
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<td>Interim Deputy Director of Operations</td>
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<td>Dolores Alvarado</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Sarita Kohli</td>
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<td>Tanis Crosby</td>
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<td>Jennifer Loving</td>
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<td>Greg R. Kepferle</td>
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<td>Shiloh Ballard</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Chris Wilder</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Leslye Corsiglia</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Brendan Rawson</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana</td>
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<td>Beth Leary</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Family Supportive Housing, Inc.</td>
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<td>Sheri Burns</td>
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<td>Christa Gannon</td>
<td>Founder &amp; CEO</td>
<td>Susie M. Rivera, Executive Director Santa Clara County</td>
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<td>Shelley Swan</td>
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<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Kathy Córdova</td>
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<td>André V. Chapman</td>
<td>Founder &amp; CEO</td>
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<td>Sharon Winston</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Kevin Zwick</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Housing Trust Silicon Valley</td>
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<td>Rose Mukhar</td>
<td>Executive Director &amp; Principal Attorney</td>
<td>Justice At Last, Inc.</td>
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<td>Michele Lew</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>The Health Trust</td>
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<td>James Reber</td>
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<td>San Jose Parks Foundation</td>
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June 23, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara  
70 West Hedding St.  
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Recommendations relating to the support of the Black Lives Matter movement to maximize the impacts of the movement and eliminate systemic and institutional racial inequities

Dear Members of the Board,

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County is writing to provide its full support for the recommendations relating to the support of the Black Lives Matter movement to maximize the impacts of the movement and eliminate systemic and institutional racial inequities.

FIRST 5 is united against racism in all forms, and in the mission that every child has a right to grow up healthy and safe. We stand for equity and inclusion for every child, every family, and every member of society because we value the lives of George Floyd (a father), Breonna Taylor (a sister), Ahmaud Arbery (a son), Tony McDade (a son), and Nina Pop (a sister). We pledge to continually examine and evolve our work, with humility so that equity and inclusion are centered in everything we do.

Systemic factors hold inequity in place, and we must dismantle the root causes of racism. We will keep working shoulder to shoulder with our families, our partners, and our community to build a world of equal opportunity, shared prosperity and growth, and strong communities so that children can grow healthy and thrive.

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County remains steadfast in our support for the Black, African American, African/African Ancestry communities and communities of color in Santa Clara County. We continue to work closely with the County and our community-based organizations to unite all people to talk about issues of racism, oppression, and inequality because all Black lives matter. Black, African American, and African/African Ancestry communities in the United States have shouldered the burden of systemic racism for the last 400 years. This past week serves as a continual reminder of the pervasive, unabating systemic inequities throughout our society and government.

As a community, we must strengthen our partnerships to support the Black, African American, African/African Ancestry families and all families of color and create systems of accountability to create a more just and equitable society. Only together can we find common ground for the necessary healing, accountability, and reform.
The lives of Black children and all children of color matter. The time for healing and systemic transformation is now.

In partnership,

Jolene Smith
Chief Executive Officer
The Honorable Cindy Chavez  
President, Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara California

Re: Resolution 101800: Consider recommendations relating to the support of the Black Lives Matter movement to maximize the impacts of the movement and eliminate systemic and institutional racial inequities. (Chavez/Cortese)

Dear President Chavez,

On behalf of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Silicon Valley Chapter, I write to request support of all legislation and resolutions that positively addresses reforms to combat the systemic racism prevalent in the United States, and in the County of Santa Clara, condemns police brutality, racial profiling, and the excessive use of force and that requires that the African/African American Community of Santa Clara County is given a significant voice in investigating of systemic and institutional racial inequities in Santa Clara county and in establishing the reforms needed to create equity and equality for all members of African Descent in our county.

As residents of California’s Silicon Valley, we are proud to call the United States our home. Our communities and our businesses thrive on diversity and inclusion. And as Americans, you know that freedom from oppression is our life blood. Now, more than ever, we need our elected officials to represent us in our quest for just and equal treatment for all U.S. residents. We ask you to condemn racial injustice, systematic oppression, police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive uses of force. These practices undermine the laudable efforts of many law-abiding police officers who work hard to protect us all while respecting civil rights. Misconduct by any officers erodes public trust in all officers and makes us all less safe.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to support all measures and resolutions designed to strengthen the efforts to eliminate police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive uses of force in Santa Clara county, including measures by the Board of Supervisors to:

(1) Conduct stringent oversight and independent investigations into instances of police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive uses of force; (2) Hold individual law enforcement officers and the police department accountable for misconduct; (3) Request that the independent auditor investigate (i) individual instances of police brutality, and racial profiling, and (ii) police departments that violate civil rights and report finding to the Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis; and (4) Enact unbiased law enforcement policies to decrease the disparate impact of police brutality and use of force on black and brown people and other historically marginalized communities.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to support Resolution 101800 and for the Board of Supervisors to conduct an independent review and analysis all county and city funding (including the creation of new building, the leasing of existing buildings, funding for programs, etc.) that is provided to all entities in the City and county in the last 5 years to determine if there is a disparity in the offerings provided to certain entities in a disparate and unequal manner and which has negatively impacted the African/African American Community for several years. Further, as President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Silicon Valley Chapter, I ask for a seat at the table so that the voices of our members, representing the interests of African/African American women and girls, voice can be heard.

Working together, we can and will make a difference! If you have any questions, please contact us at info@ncbw-svc.org.

Sincerely,

Aileen F. Casanave  
Aileen F. Casanave  
President  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Silicon Valley Chapter
Hello Board of Supervisors,
My name is Khalid. I've been an educator and community member in San Jose since 2008. I'm invested and entrenched in the city and its future.

With that said, I'm sending this letter in support of the Black Lives Matter resolution and next steps to implement the resolution throughout the city of San Jose.

Black Lives DO Matter. And more than just a catchphrase or slogan, San Jose can and needs to engage in equitable and actionable steps to show and support this assertion of truth, immediately.

Respectfully,
Khalid White

Dr. Khalid White
CEO/Owner
Blkmpwr, LLC.
(Black Empower)
www.blkmpwr.com

www.Facebook.com/blkmpwr
www.Instagram.com/blkmpwr
www.Twitter.com/blkmpwr
Dear President Chavez and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As leaders of community-based organizations, we firmly stand with the tens of thousands County residents using their voice to demand change. The Black Lives Matter movement has transformed and uplifted the calls for bold action on a legacy of racial injustice in our County.

President Chavez’s and Supervisor Cortese’s referral—acknowledging that Black Lives Matter and committing to the Black freedom struggle, affirming that the County commits to actions and reform towards the fight against racial injustice, police brutality, systemic oppression and violence regionwide and within our organization, and calling on the Administration to report to the Board of Supervisors in August with a timeline, goals, recommendations for partnerships, and next steps regarding the County’s internal and external efforts to commit to the Black Freedom Struggle and the role of the organization for action and reform towards racial justice, police brutality, systemic oppression, and violence—is an opportunity for the County to examine its own role in perpetuating structural racism within its systems and throughout our community, including systems of policing, prosecution, and incarceration that harms people of color, particularly Black people.

Santa Clara County has a meaningful track record of advancing immigrant, women’s, and LGBTQ+ rights; funding our safety net; and championing workers and workers’ rights. Now is the moment to go further. Echoing the themes that many of us put forward in a recent letter to the City of San José, we believe the County must, at minimum:

- Divest and redirect resources away from policing, incarceration, and corrections and invest in community-based solutions—mental health and healthcare, recovery services, housing, education, youth development, workforce development, and infrastructure. Many of Supervisor Simitian’s policing and corrections reform recommendations are well-taken, but this moment calls on us to fundamentally shift the paradigm and reimagine public safety. This moment calls on us to shift funding and support from punitive institutions to responses and interventions focused on resources that can truly keep communities safe;
- In this work, center the voices of individuals of color, specifically Black people, historically harmed by County-sponsored institutional racism and systems of oppression, those traditionally left out of decision-making processes, and, where appropriate, in partnership with diverse community-based organizations that have long served and represented the voices of those community members impacted by systemic racism, over-policing, and unnecessary or extensive incarceration;
- Devote meaningful resources to finding and rooting out racial disparities in County
structures, practices, and policies; embed this analysis in all future decision-making processes including those related to budgeting and policy-making; and gather, analyze, collect, and report on data that can illuminate racial disparities and measure the effectiveness of efforts to tackle such disparities; and

- Move forward on senior County management participation in Government Alliance for Race & Equity (GARE).

Although the nonprofit community, at its best, has allied with communities of color and low-income communities to pursue social justice and dismantle inequity and racism, we as a nonprofit community must acknowledge that we have more work to do in our understanding of our own role in perpetuating institutional racism—and we need to tackle that. Now is the moment for the Board, for the County, for our nonprofit community, and for all of us to step up boldly and reverse generations of failed policymaking. Now is the time to do the hard, necessary work to reimagine our County as an equitable one and reinvest so that it is no longer confined by the structures of racism and oppression.

We stand at the ready to assist in this effort to imaging and creating a world free of racism and inequity, where every Black person and person of color has the social and economic power to thrive.

In solidarity,
-Fil Maresca

Fil Maresca
Filco Events
408-298-6861 office
fil@filco.com
Dear SCC Board of Supervisors,

I have been a public defender in this county for over 8 years. I ask you to adopt the Black Lives Matter Resolution. I also support declaring racism a public health crisis. I hope that you will vote in favor of Item 12. Please attach my email in support to Item 12.

Thank you,

Jennifer Redding
Deputy Public Defender
Santa Clara County
120 W. Mission St.
San Jose, CA 95110
Direct: 408-299-7179
Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to you as a constituent born and raised in Santa Clara County. I am now a Deputy Public Defender representing indigent clients in our county though I am writing to you in my capacity as a private citizen.

I hope the Board, having taken such strong leadership in the COVID-19 crisis, will make the right decision and support Supervisors Chavez and Supervisors Cortese's efforts to adopt "Black Lives Matter" as a resolution and to deem Racism a public health crisis. We have a long way to go to right the many ignominious wrongs that racism has caused our community. This is an excellent start.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Yaamini L. Rao

--
"...throw away thoughts of all imaginary things
and stand firm in that which you are." -Kabir
SCC Board of Supervisors,

Make "Racism" a public health crisis and also adopt the "Black Lives Matter" as a resolution.

**Attach it to Item 12!**

Thank you,

**Rebecca Lloyd | Legal Clerk (Lead)**  
Office of the Public Defender, Santa Clara County  
120 W. Mission St.  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 299-7929
Good Morning,

I am emailing to express my support to make Racism a public health crisis in Santa Clara County and adopt Black Lives Matter as a resolution. Please attach this email to Item 12 on the agenda for this mornings meeting.

Best,

Alexis Pena Tomasetti
From: Barkus, Stephanie  
To: bosagenda  
Subject: FW: Appeal to Supervisor Susan Ellenberg  
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:33:19 AM  
Attachments: image001.png

Please attach to item 12.

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From: Barkus, Stephanie  
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:32 AM  
To: bosagenda <bosagenda@cob.sccgov.org>  
Subject: Appeal to Supervisor Susan Ellenberg

I am a city of Santa Clara resident and I urge Supervisor Susan Ellenberg to support efforts of both Supervisor Cortese’s and Chavez’s effort to make “Racism” a public health crisis and also adopt the “Black Live Matter” as a resolution.

At last, many in this country have witnessed and have felt first hand through George Floyd’s tragedy what people like myself live on a daily basis. I have had too many murders in my family and it hurts that we have had to just live with it.

Please take this opportunity to stand up for me, my family and other people of color.

Stephanie Barkus  
Paralegal  
Office of the Public Defender  
151 West Mission Street  
San Jose, CA 95110  
Tel: (408) 535-4292  
Fax: (408) 938-1115  

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... The time is always right to do what is right.” MLK Jr.
To members of the Board of Supervisors:

My name is Jennifer Hultgren. I have been a Deputy Public Defender in Santa Clara County for 22 years. Through my representation of Black men and women in all areas of the Santa Clara County Courts, I have seen the bias, inequities and blatant racism in the prosecution and sentencing of my clients. It is clear that racism is a public health crisis. It has infected every portion of our society and decayed our justice system. Please make the right decision and support Supervisors Chavez and Supervisors Cortese's efforts to make "Racism" a public health crisis and also adopt the "Black Lives Matter" as a resolution.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hultgren
Deputy Public Defender
Jennifer.Hultgren@pdo.sccgov.org
120 West Mission Street
San Jose, CA  95110
(408) 299-7187
Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

I support Supervisor Chavez’s and Supervisor Cortese’s efforts to make "Racism" a public health crisis and also adopt a Black Lives Matter resolution.

Please attach this comment to Item 12. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Veronica Villalta
Senior Paralegal
Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender
120 West Mission St. | San Jose, CA 95110
Office: (408) 299-7767 | Fax: (408) 938-1106
veronica.villalta@pdo.sccgov.org

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Good morning,

I wanted to express my wholehearted support for Item 12: declaring racism as a public health crisis. We must adopt Black Lives Matter as a resolution.

This is only the first, as a county we must do better and put our words in action!

Montserrat Garcia Juarez
Research Clerk
Santa Clara County, Office of the Public Defender
120 West Mission Street, San Jose, California 95110
Please formally recognize Black Lives Matter and adopt this as a resolution. Please attach this to Article 12.

Thank you,

Kathryn Gomes
(408) 206-8587: Office Mobile
(408) 299-7246
To the Board of Supervisors, Santa Clara County,

Please attach to Item 12, my support, and that of my husband, Dr. Chris Waters, to Supervisors Chavez and Supervisors Cortese's efforts to make "Racism" a public health crisis and also adopt "Black Lives Matter" as a resolution.

I am an attorney, county employee and resident of Los Altos. My husband is CTO and co-founder of a business which employees 100 people in the high tech industry.

This is a critical issue which has been overlooked by all of us for too long and it is imperative that we address it with structural change. Superficial lip service has been the practice, and it has resulted in ongoing death and immeasurable inequities. We owe it to all our citizens, and especially to people of color and young people who model their behavior on what they see around them, to adopt both resolutions.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa Wardlaw and Chris Waters PhD.
Please attach to Item 12.

To Whom It May Concern,

Racism IS a Public Health Crisis. We need all hands on deck to acknowledge this and ask for real change. I urge you to make the right decision. I fully support Supervisors Chavez and Supervisors Cortese’s efforts to make "Racism" a public health crisis and also adopt the "Black Lives Matter" as a resolution.

Harpreet Samra, LCSW
Social Worker
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender
120 W. Mission St. | San Jose, CA | 95110
Office 408.299.7930 | Cell 669.287.2107 | Fax 408.938.1106

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