

Re: Item 27

Thank you for considering this resolution. It is of the utmost urgency that Long Beach acknowledge the deep and enduring history of racism and environmental injustice in our city.

As many communities throughout the nation are now recognizing, cities can only have persistent environmental injustice issues by turning certain parts of their territories into sacrifice zones. A City cannot have sacrifice zones without disposable people. A City does not have disposable people without racism. We have a toxic legacy of 100 years worth of quick dirty-energy fueled development that has locked communities of color into place - into an ever widening spiral of poor health, poor jobs, and not enough recourse. Racism is being recognized throughout the country as a public health emergency, and I urge every Councilperson to do so tonight. Our only enemy is 100 years of carbon pollution locked into the sky - and equitable redesign of our institutions is a viable pathway for co-beneficial combining of climate stabilization policies and economic justice. If the novel coronavirus has taught us anything, it is that we can make institutional changes in Long Beach very rapidly to save lives and ensure people's well-being. We should do the same with environmental and climate injustice, now.

From: L A Hollie [<mailto:LydiaHollie@outlook.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:58 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item 27: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Long Beach Acknowledging Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing a Framework for Reconciliation

Importance: High

-EXTERNAL-

Documents matters.

First, of all the tragic police involved shootings in California, Los Angeles County, and the city of Long Beach, the extrajudicial execution of Mr. George Floyd captured your attention like no other. Those police involved shootings were deemed “justified” or “within departmental policy.” Just like the death of Matthew Shepherd in 1998 prompted this city to author the Human Dignity Policy, many citizens in our state, region, and city suffered unspeakable hate crimes that went unheeded by the authorities. The city’s response referred the matter to the Human Relations Commission, which conducted a yearlong “listening” session, a series of public meetings involving experts and others, gathered and analyzed data and our findings. It was a grueling process. Ultimately a report and recommendations was drafted (by Herb Levy on behalf of the Commission) and submitted to the City Council. The Human Dignity Program was established in 1999. At that time, the esteemed Gene Lentzner was the Chair, and I served as the Vice Chair of the Commission. What we did not do was ignore the participants of those public meetings. We did not do was ignore the research and the data we collected. We utilized that data and research immediately for the benefit of the entire city. The rest is history.

Secondly, the opposite is true in the present illustration. Ironically, the city included The State of Black Long Beach report among the documents listed under Additional Resources on the Framework for Reconciliation on the Long Beach webpage. However, I bring to your attention the conspicuous and glaring absence of The State of Black Long Beach: A Call to for a Black Agenda (2013) from the proposed resolution, “Acknowledging racism as a public health crisis and establishing a framework for reconciliation,” wherein the city includes “The Economic Equitable Growth Profile of Long Beach (2018) (“Equity Link Report”), “which highlighted disparities for communities of color in the city, the City Council now recognizes as an opportunity to set the example for reconciliation...”

Yet, the State of Black Long Beach report predated the city’s Equity Link Report by seven years and the city, in its usual form, ignored it. That document specifically addressed the health, educational, social, political, and economic disparities in the Black community, both in the historical and present contexts. And what was the city’s response? Crickets. Now, the city “recognizes as an opportunity,” to address these “disparities” so this entire effort is nothing more than opportunism.

Furthermore, the city’s Equity Link Report adds insult to continuing injury because it contains flawed data. Dr. Norman, co-author of The State of Black Long Beach, informed the city on April 4, 2019 concluded his critique as follows:

“Our concerns suggest we cannot in good faith agree that the City should base any policy or decision-making on the Equitable Growth for the City of Long Beach document. It does not correctly conceptualize, define, or understand equity, some of the data are incorrect, suspect,

or may not even pertain to Long Beach. We therefore contend that the report is ill suited to guide any analyses, recommendations, or usable solutions to inequity in our city. Long Beach deserves better.”

A Critique of an Equitable Growth Profile of Long Beach by Alex J. Norman, D.S.W. Marc Coleman, Esq. William J. Crampon, Ph.D.

And what was the city’s response? Crickets.

Yet, this resolution that you are expecting to approve today is regarding “reconciliation.”

- What is the city reconciling if it includes a document produced by the city that scholars and researchers informed the city more than a year ago is fundamentally flawed?
- What is the city reconciling if it neglects to include the document produced by scholars of the Black community seven years ago for precisely purpose of developing policies that you are now calling for?
- Would this document have been included if the co-authors were White?

Finally, I am requesting that the city include The State of Black Long Beach: A Call for a Black Agenda, in the proposed resolution, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Long Beach Acknowledging Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing a Framework for Reconciliation,” Page 3, Paragraph 1,

“WHEREAS, additionally, although the City of Long Beach already has a number of data-driven efforts that provide a starting point on advancing equity in communities of color, including but not limited to [The State of Black Long Beach: A Call for a Black Agenda \(2013\)](#),...”

If the city does not include The State of Black Long Beach report in its proposed resolution calling for reconciliation, then it is clear that the entire process is nothing more than political expediency and political opportunism in attempt to reclaim political legitimacy and the city is devoid of the moral and ethical fiber to definitively dismantle the levers of white supremacy and racial oppression in this city. So, again, what is the resolution reconciling?

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia A. Hollie, JD/MAED

Co-Author, The State of Black Long Beach: A Call for Black Agenda (2013)

Former Chair, Human Relations Commission (2001-2003)

Former Chair, Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force (2005-2009)

Former Co-Chair, DHHS Weed and Seed Steering Committee (2007-2011)

Interim Chair, Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council (2009)

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.” Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, 1818-1895), Preeminent Human Rights Leader, 19th Century International Icon, Orator, Writer, Freed American Slave

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Carlos Ovalle [<mailto:csovalle@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:39 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; CityAttorney <CityAttorney@longbeach.gov>; Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>; Monique DeLaGarza <Monique.DeLaGarza@longbeach.gov>

Subject: FOR PUBLIC RECORD - ITEM NO. 27 - Framework for Reconciliation

-EXTERNAL-

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING IN THE PUBLIC RECORD

Mayor, Councilmembers, others:

The following was posted this evening on social media. It is a set of pertinent questions concerning the Framework for Reconciliation and need to be considered and addressed in public. Please see to it that these get answered in the shortest time possible.

1. Why did the city council allow the city attorney to defend against the lawsuit filed by Police Officer Alex Lawrence when the officer acted in the best interest of the community against the worst racist instincts of the police administration - resulting in a continuation of racist decision making in the LBPD and the loss of \$2.5 million from the eventual jury award to the officer - as well as a significant loss of the officer's highly professional service to the city - - all while the LB POA, who was suppose to represent him, instead represented the racist inclinations of the LBPD brass and the toxic inclinations of the City Manager and City Attorney to avoid transparency at any cost?
2. Why does the LBPD academy use instruction materials and teaching concepts advocated by the discredited Force Science Institute and continue to pay for instruction and conferences by the FSI that support junk science and advocate training methods that encourage the use of deadly force as opposed to de-escalation concepts?
3. Why does the city attorney invent outrageous legal arguments to circumvent adherence to SB 1421 rather than accommodate the spirit of the law, as evidenced by two lawsuits filed by the Beachcomber?
4. Why did the city council allow the city manager and chief of police to cancel the IACP contract after spending \$48,000 and why does the city council allow the city attorney to fight against release of the IACP Phase Four Report, when it contains 126 pages of recommendations to reform the LBPD?
5. Why is the LBPD allowed by the City Council to remain the only police jurisdiction in California that forbids Officer Involved Shooting (OIC) investigators to interview LBPD officers involved in shootings?

6. Why is the LBPD the only jurisdiction in CA. that does not have a preamble to its Use of Deadly Force policy that recognizes "Human Life is precious and the taking of a human life must be taken only as a last resort". ?
7. Why does the city council allow the Charter provisions for the CPCC to be violated by the City Manager and allow illegal interpretations of their powers to continue?
8. Why has the city council never questioned the fact that the CPCC has never held a hearing or exercised their power of subpoena, swearing of oaths and taking witness testimony in the 30 years of its existence?
9. Why does the city council consistently allow lawsuits to move forward when they are clear losers - and then not demand that new policy be implemented to fix the problems associated with \$30 million in lawsuit payouts over the past five years - and tens of millions in the years before that?
10. Why do city council members take campaign money from the LB POA when their influences are not in the best interest of the public?

Sincerely,

Carlos Ovalle