



THE
JUSTICE
COLLABORATIVE

LONG BEACH FRAMEWORK FOR RECONCILIATION

JUSTICE & POLICING RECOMMENDATIONS

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INTRODUCTION: A FRAMEWORK FOR RECONCILIATION

Long Beach is at a pivotal moment. On June 23, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted [this resolution](#) acknowledging racism as a public health crisis and adopting the Framework for Reconciliation. This Framework included the following four steps:

- ▲ [Acknowledging](#) the existence and longstanding impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach, and more specifically anti-Black racism.
- ▲ Listening to community members' accounts and experiences of inequity and harm caused by racial injustice.
- ▲ Convening stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas.
- ▲ Catalyzing action by presenting immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council to consider.

Now is the time to catalyze action and there is unprecedented support among policy-makers and community leaders who have been advocating for policies to address anti-Black racism for years. The reconciliation process is an important step towards making sure this opportunity is not missed. In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and decades of police brutality, Long Beach can and must take action to reduce police violence and use the city's finite resources to reimagine public safety and uplift its communities of color.

THE STATE OF LONG BEACH

As outlined in [The State of Black Long Beach](#), the divide between the daily realities of Black and White residents of Long Beach is stark. In contrast to its White residents, Black residents in Long Beach have struggled with high unemployment rates, high rates of poverty and incarceration, and increasing housing insecurity. Nowhere is this divide between Black Long Beach and White Long Beach more apparent than in the interaction between Long Beach residents and the police. The discrepancy is striking from the most minor interactions to fatal ones. The Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) is more likely to arrest Black residents for even minor infractions, detain and search Black residents, and shoot Black residents during police encounters.

The practice of stopping riders for transit fare evasion has become a smaller scale example of racially discriminatory practices by law enforcement across the country leading to many cities, like New York, Portland and Los Angeles easing their policies in the wake of campaigns by public transit advocates. However, Long Beach continues to [stop Black riders on suspicion of fare evasion at disproportionate rates](#). Of the 855 riders who came into contact with Long Beach police in 2019 for failing to pay their tickets on public transportation, 531, or 62% were Black.

Despite making up only about 13% of Long Beach’s population, Black drivers made up 24% of the LBPDP’s traffic stops in 2019. LBPDP officers were more likely to search Black people during even routine stops and more than twice as likely to physically pull Black drivers from their vehicles than White drivers. Notably, only 11% of searches involving Black detainees turned up drugs, weapons or other contraband.

Most significantly, the majority of police shootings in Long Beach involve people of color. From 2014 to 2019, nearly 90% of police shootings in Long Beach have involved people of color. Twenty seven percent of people shot by the police were Black, more than twice the city’s Black population. Forty-five percent were Latino. Nine percent were White.

In the current fiscal year, 44% of Long Beach’s \$556 million budget went to the police department.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Effective systemic change cannot occur without the support and input of the Long Beach citizens most affected by the inequities this framework seeks to resolve. The City, therefore, convened 18 web-based community meetings structured as open forum town halls, community listening sessions, and issue-specific community-led round table discussions. During these sessions, hundreds of Long Beach residents and community members recounted their personal experiences of police violence and harassment, stories of struggles with poverty and feedback about misguided City budgeting priorities, including their disapproval of the disinvestments in education and youth development. Many expressed their skepticism about the City’s intent to center community members in all stages of the framing, planning, and implementation stages of the reconciliation process.

The sessions spanned many hours over multiple weeks, garnering extensive community input. Across the commentary, several themes emerged:

1. Center Community Voices, Remain Transparent to the Residents, and Repair Trust by Effecting Transformational Change

This reconciliation framework process follows many years of citizen complaints and City efforts at discussing and resolving the social and equity stratifications within Long Beach communities. The communities most impacted by racial injustice -- namely, Black and Brown residents -- are tired of being pacified with meetings and token pronouncements that affirm their grievances while failing to dismantle the systems that oppress them. The City must do more than listen: the commitment to soliciting feedback from residents must be followed by legislative and political action aimed at affecting change.

Long Beach must show its citizens that this reconciliation framework process is different from all of its predecessors. The community must be treated like an equal member in the analysis, problem solving, and assessment process. During the community meetings, participants identified key steps to centering their voices and stated goals:

- a) Involve community members in the development of legislation and policy as they are negotiated and drafted;

- b) Identify performance metrics for the implementation of key reforms;
- c) Regularly report progress, both positive and negative, to the community for feedback and joint problem solving.
- d) Model information sharing process after South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work.

2. Hold Police Accountable

Community members and stakeholders emphasized the city's history of enabling Long Beach Police Department officers' misconduct, violence, and lack of accountability. They demand transformational change within the department and among the strategies city leaders employ when addressing institutional failures within the department. Meeting participants identified several solutions to glaring department deficiencies:

- a) **Use of Force Payouts:** The city spends millions of dollars to settle use of force claims against LBPB officers. But the claims, disciplinary processes, and settlement details are shielded from public review. Residents believe that settlement costs are not deducted from the LBPB budget and that instead, these lawsuits are settled using money from other areas of the city budget cutting resources from education, recreation, and support programming for Long Beach youth. Community members believe that financial responsibility for use of force settlements would incentivize the LBPB to better train, control, and discipline their officers; thus, reducing excessive use of force incidents.
- b) **Resist the Power of Police Unions:** Public perception of police unions, including LBPB, reveals a deep belief that these well-funded operations use hefty bargaining power over elected officials to negotiate above and beyond the traditional employment protections demanded by non-law enforcement unions. Officers are left with unmitigated power to act with impunity and without consequence. Importantly, these protections prevent and disincentivize officers from holding their colleagues accountable by reporting bad behavior. Notwithstanding any opposition by the police union, community members demand that the city establish the following changes:
 - Open police records: disciplinary and complaint records should be open to the public and free from destruction by the department.
 - Independent Investigations: Misconduct investigations, prosecutions, and audits should be done by an independent body outside of the Long Beach governmental structure.
 - Citizen Police Complaint Commission: the power of the commission must be strengthened, including the addition of subpoena power and public access to investigations and findings.
 - Escalating Disciplinary Sanctions: Incidents of police misconduct should result in increased sanctions and demerits that lead to firing of officers after a maximum number of complaints. Adherence to the so-called "blue code of silence" should be punished and dismantled.
 - End Qualified Immunity: Officers should not be shielded from the consequences of their misconduct by the legal protection known as qualified immunity.

- c) **Police Qualifications, Hiring Requirements, Culture:** The LBPD feels like a surveillance and oppression agency in the marginalized communities that they serve. Community members believe that, in addition to the militarization of the department, there is a lack of education, psycho-social training, and peacemaking skills. Framework meeting participants recommended:
- Mandatory formal education at the college level with curricular requirements including:
 - › Mental health
 - › Social work
 - › Restorative justice
 - › Deescalation
 - › Anti-racism theory and practice
 - Officers must pass cognitive tests with threshold mental and emotional competencies that help officers avoid irrational, knee-jerk reactions to the inevitably dangerous circumstances of their profession.
 - LBPD should limit the hiring of former military members to avoid a culture of militarization and warfare within the department.

3. Defund & Demilitarize Police

Community members identified increased militarization and expansion of police presence as an underlying cause of police violence and an attendant culture of warfare between law enforcement and the communities they surveil. Meeting participants noted examples of budget bloat and excess, such as high-end vehicles and unnecessarily advanced weaponry, as money better spent within the community. They suggested:

- **DEFUND:** Cut the police budget and workforce by at least 50%.
- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** Officers should be required to live in the communities that they serve, which will increase their accountability and their commitment to the people among whom they live.
- **NON-LETHAL WEAPONS:** Equip patrol officers and personnel responding to non-violent emergency calls for service with non-lethal weapons only.
- **END OVER-POLICING:** Significantly reduce the presence of police officers, surveillance, and control in communities of color.
- **PURGE GANG LISTS:** Review use of gang lists and gang injunctions; remove as many people as possible.

4. Invest in Non-Police Resources

Community members acknowledged that police officers often are burdened with calls for service for which they are not trained, poorly equipped or, admittedly, disinterested in handling. Officers should not be saddled with the responsibility for addressing social issues that should fall outside of the criminal legal process. Money should be diverted from the LBPB budget to other social agencies and community service organizations that address the root causes of people's contact with the criminal legal system. Framework meeting participants suggested:

- **MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE:** Invest in crisis intervention, psychiatric care, and mental health services so that people struggling with mental illness receive the kind of support that encourages long-term stability. Provide the Department of Mental Health with more resources to help families struggling to support and care for relatives with serious mental illness struggles.
- **BLACK/BROWN BUSINESSES & PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:** The city should provide capital for Black businesses and entrepreneurship as a way to reinvest in the community, provide jobs, and advance economic equity.
- **YOUTH SERVICES, RECREATION, AND DEVELOPMENT:** Invest in significant expansion of publicly-funded educational, recreational, after-school, and leadership programming for Black and Brown youth and young adults. These include job training, music and arts programs, libraries, sports and public park opportunities, and health services.
- **HOUSING JUSTICE:** In a quickly gentrifying and increasingly unaffordable city, low-income and working class residents should be protected. The city should establish policy that invests in affordable housing, stabilizes rents, and protects renters.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CENTERS:** Police intervention and surveillance should be replaced by community-run justice centers where local residents identify, develop, and implement solutions to neighborhood problems that until now have been addressed by the criminal legal system.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES:** Community members proposed various other community support services that could be funded through money diverted from the police budget:
 - Senior programming
 - Public health and wellness services, including free healthcare
 - Violence reduction programs
 - Legal representation for immigrants
- **CONSISTENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** The City should hold regular community town halls that discuss city issues with an equity lens, not just for police department issues but for the entire city government.

- **CONCENTRATION OF CANNABIS AND ALCOHOL BUSINESSES IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR:** The City is allowing an overrepresentation of these businesses in communities of color. We must limit the number and concentration of these businesses in Black and Brown communities, and spread them across the city.
- **DECRIMINALIZATION:** Officially decriminalize or decline to prosecute offenses that can be addressed by services that target the underlying causes of the currently criminalized behavior.

PROPOSED POLICIES IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policing in America has become the one-stop response to our communities’ public health and public aid problems. Police officers must enforce traffic laws and respond to domestic disputes. They must manage mental health crises and drug overdoses. They must deal with homelessness and school discipline. Police officers, of course, are neither trained nor equipped to be part of our social support systems, and so it’s unsurprising that they often make them worse. Police should no longer occupy all of our vital support systems in our communities. Here are several ways to make our communities safer for everyone. The following concrete steps present a way forward, one that would begin to reduce reliance on policing:

1. Shift Spending From Police Departments to Service Agencies Better Suited for Emergency First Response.

In the best of times, local communities struggle to meet the health needs of highly vulnerable people, including those who struggle with their mental health, substance use disorder, poverty, housing insecurity or lack access to health care. Because of this, law enforcement by default has served as the first responder.

Police officers are not drug counselors, social workers, or health care professionals. They are trained to respond to crime. The response to people in distress by police, thus, all too often leads to arrest and incarceration. When a person is suffering from a mental health crisis, police confrontations regularly involve force—and often deadly force. The criminalization of actions stemming from behavioral health or poverty challenges makes communities less safe because it shifts resources to law enforcement when those resources would be better dedicated to housing, health care, or substance use treatment.

Long Beach must mobilize healthcare resources to identify and prevent healthcare crises for vulnerable populations. To that end, crisis response teams should remove law enforcement from their strategies and instead build teams with medical and crisis workers who respond to emergency calls that indicate behavioral health issues.

Model First Responder Programs should:

- Decouple behavioral health crisis response units from law enforcement agencies to reduce unnecessary law enforcement contact with vulnerable populations.

- Staff emergency call centers with mental and behavioral health crisis experts who can de-escalate over the phone as well as divert calls to behavioral health crisis responders.
- Ensure behavioral health response teams are staffed with medical and crisis response experts.
- Proactively engage with behavioral health system super-utilizers prior to crisis needs arising.
- Ensure crisis response units are mobile and capable of meeting vulnerable populations where they are as well as referring them to appropriate emergency services.
- Fund community-based providers to whom vulnerable populations in crisis can be referred.
- Train local law enforcement to recognize behavioral health crises, or behavior borne of poverty or homelessness, and divert people away from the criminal justice system and to appropriate services and providers.
- Establish cross-discipline outreach targeting unhoused people.
- Create mobile health clinics for less mobile or marginalized populations.
- Establish a system of community wellness checks that will help identify those who are homebound but in need of medical care or assistance.

There are several effective models of crisis response teams that do not include law enforcement and instead build teams with medical clinicians and social workers who respond to emergency calls for behavioral health concerns. These models share characteristics like decoupling behavioral health crisis response units from law enforcement agencies and staffing emergency call centers with mental and behavioral health crisis experts. These include:

- The Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program, in Eugene, Oregon, is a mobile crisis intervention team that responds to calls related to behavioral health. Teams consist of a medic and a crisis worker and provide “immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical need or psychological crisis, assessment, information, referral, advocacy and (in some cases) transportation to the next step in treatment.”
- Denver Alliance for Street Health Response (“STAR”) provides mobile crisis service to provide 24/7 mental health support, which includes psychiatric emergency services, psychiatric consultation, crisis consultation, and information and referral to community programs. The program was funded with a local ordinance imposing a sales tax that passed with 70% of voter support. It is currently in its pilot phase.
- Contra Costa’s Mobile Crisis Response Team visits clients and their families to prevent acute psychiatric crises from becoming emergencies that require law enforcement involvement or involuntary hospitalization.

- Portland Street Medicine embraces the objective of providing “quality medical care to Portlanders who are facing unstable housing or are sleeping on the streets.” Comprised of a volunteer coalition of medical providers, social workers, care managers, and lay people, these teams go to unhoused or housing unstable populations to identify those in need and provide care.
- Warren County, Iowa’s mobile crisis response teams were designed to intervene before the police. The service helps alleviate the number of calls local law enforcement officials are receiving and provides people with an alternate route of care and will provide a follow-up after 24 hours.
- Olympia, Washington’s Crisis Response Unit (“CRU”) is an emergency response corps of behavioral health clinicians that is dispatched by the local emergency system (911).

2. Invest in Violence Interruption Programs.

Violent crime, particularly gun violence, devastates too many communities across America. Solving gun violence, however, is not going to be achieved by increasing the number of police or policing budgets. *To interrupt the cycles of violence that devastate our communities, and to prevent future violence from occurring, we need to shift funding away from law enforcement toward violence interruption programs.* The violence interruption model of violence prevention is a public health approach to violence prevention that stops lethal violence before it occurs and stops its spread by interrupting ongoing conflicts, working to change behavior related to violence, and changing community norms. Violence interruption is based on proven public health techniques and is designed to change the entire community outcome by reducing shootings and killings. It is not only a more compassionate way to prevent violence in our communities than policing, it is also more effective. Violence interruption programs reduce gun violence through targeted community interventions that interrupt ongoing conflict and prevent violence. Such programs focus on shifting community norms surrounding conflict resolution.

The best of these programs include peer-based mentoring, job assistance, and other community support. When done well, they have been successful. In Baltimore, for example, a violence interruption program reduced serious violence by 69 percent. Law enforcement agencies often rely on the traditional responses of surveillance, stop-and-frisk, mass arrests, and prosecution. They fail time and time again to reduce violence. Research shows how flooding communities with law enforcement sows distrust, renders the police even less effective, and can lead to spikes in violence. There is public support, too. Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute found that 68 percent of likely voters support funding programs to train community leaders to de-escalate potentially violent situations.

3. Invest in dispute resolution experts for neighborhood and domestic disputes.

Domestic and neighborhood disputes are among the most common calls for law enforcement. In some places, these calls are almost 50 percent of all calls received. The vast majority are not violent, however, and most end in no arrest. In some jurisdictions, mandatory arrest policies for domestic

violence calls mean that arrests occur, but there is no evidence that they reduce domestic violence. In fact, the knowledge that police response means arrests, potential incarceration, and collateral consequences means that many victims don't call law enforcement at all. The truth is that while federal, state, and local governments have thrown money at policing for interpersonal violence, little has changed. There is a better response: mobile, crisis-response units employ first responders that are not police to respond to calls involving neighborhood disputes and domestic disturbance.

Social workers and teams that work to de-escalate disputes cost less, and are likely to create opportunities to engage community members in conflict resolution. Instead of armed officers, crisis-response teams are trained to mediate conflict, and often know and live in the neighborhoods to which they're responding. They cost a fraction of the money spent on policing initiatives that simply haven't been proven to work. In the vast majority of situations, like calls for excessive noise or neighborhood disturbances, an unarmed response from a mediator who can negotiate between the disputing parties is all that is needed. In France, for example, trained mediators respond to the vast majority of calls involving interpersonal conflict. Instead of calling for police, communities can and should be trained to reach out to crisis management teams in their own neighborhoods to help resolve the majority of disputes.

4. Institute Unarmed Traffic Patrols.

Every year, approximately 20 million drivers interact with the police. These police encounters often lead to unwarranted searches, tense confrontations, and, in some cases, deadly force. Consider, for example, the arrest of Sandra Bland, originally pulled over for failing to signal a lane change only to die just three days later in jail. Such policies disproportionately impact communities of color. Black drivers are 30 percent more likely to be pulled over than White drivers, and people of color are significantly more likely to have their cars searched and their cash seized than Whites. Despite this, the roads aren't any safer. The national death rate from traffic accidents has remained the same over the last decade, and there's no evidence that police patrols decrease other types of dangerous driving or vehicle safety. Unarmed traffic patrols can better respond to traffic accidents and direct traffic or conduct other calls for service. A proposal in Berkeley, California, for example, would replace police with a city department of transportation, staffed by unarmed public works officials, who would conduct parking enforcement and stop cars for violations such as running a stop sign or driving at night without headlights. Even more serious traffic incidents do not require armed police; for example, traffic patrol officers with substance abuse training could be trained to respond to violations of driving while intoxicated.

5. Support, don't police, people experiencing homelessness.

People who experience homelessness are often the targets of police calls and unnecessary arrests that only make it harder for people to find stable housing. In Portland, for instance, the Oregonian reported that people experiencing homelessness accounted for 52 percent of arrests, despite being only 3 percent of the city's population. The vast majority of those arrests—over 80 percent—were for nonviolent offenses, such as disorderly conduct, drug possession, or failure to appear for court. Studies have also shown that people experiencing chronic homelessness are often repeatedly

arrested and booked, experiencing constant negative repercussions associated with jail and court involvement. Specialized homeless units reduce these unnecessary and harmful police interactions. Organizations like [Portland Street Response](#) provide compassion and appropriate care by medics and trained, non-law enforcement community workers. Such groups are also better able to conduct affirmative outreach, by building community trust and leading the way for other, long-term solutions.

6. Create Integrated Crisis Centers.

For those suffering from an acute mental crisis, law enforcement typically responds by arresting individuals and transporting them to an emergency department, where wait time, care, and community support are likely unavailable. Police officers are then forced to spend countless hours waiting in emergency rooms, despite the fact that most people experiencing such crises do not require involuntary admission. Instead of criminalizing those who require stabilization in the midst of a crisis, non-law enforcement [integrated crisis drop off centers](#) meet their needs. Integrated drop off centers are community-based mental health systems, with a “no rejection” policy, for individuals experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis. Such centers allow crisis management teams, or even trained law enforcement, to drop off individuals in the midst of crisis, reducing incarceration and police contact. A survey of voters conducted by Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute found that 76 percent of respondents supported the use of an integrated drop-off center in lieu of arrests.

7. Train Civilians to Respond to Property Offenses.

Instead of armed officers, unarmed, citizen officers, trained in interviewing and de-escalation techniques, can be tasked with walking foot patrol beats and handling reports of counterfeit bills and other low-level property offenses.

8. Institute Civilian Control of Crime Labs.

One of the oldest, and most problematic, links between faulty science and criminal justice is the state crime lab, which collects, stores, and processes evidence for use at trial. Crime labs are far from neutral; they were developed in parallel with police departments and maintain close ties to the same people in charge of arresting, interrogating, and investigating. As a result, incorrectly processed or stored forensic evidence is at the heart of many wrongful convictions. After years of study, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report concluding that, alongside other reforms, forensic science must function independently of law enforcement. According to best practices, law enforcement agencies should not collect and control the testing of evidence, and crime labs should be independent third party functionaries. They should not control the maintenance of evidence required for securing a conviction. Civilian scientists, with scientific training in the collection, maintenance, and testing of evidence, must instead be at the helm of independent labs in order to ensure the reliability of results.

9. Demilitarize Transit

Armed officers have no place on city transit and no special training to maintain safe and better transit communities. Divesting from policing transit makes us safer and yields significant savings which can be used elsewhere. If safety is a concern, transit systems can hire more transit staff to ride the trains and buses to support drivers and ensure adherence to train and bus rules. Our transit systems do not require armed officers to keep the peace.

10. Create School Wellness Centers

For children growing up during the era of mass incarceration, seeing armed officers in their schools is commonplace. Federal programs like the Community Oriented Policing Services (“COPS”) have provided millions of dollars to hire and train local police, including police in schools. Police officers do not have specialized training in adolescent or childhood development. They are not mental health experts, social workers with licensed degrees, psychologists, or school counselors. They are not educators. To be clear, school resource officers are career law enforcement officers, with arresting authority, and a license to carry a weapon. Police officers patrol school hallways just like they do city streets. More than one and a half million students attend schools with a School Resource Officer (“SRO”), but no counselor. SROs can be replaced with Student Safety Coaches. The Student Safety Coaches can specialize in mental health, restorative justice, de-escalation, and building positive relationships with their students.

CONCLUSION

In the face of our current health, economic and policing emergency, cities must consider cutting their outsized police budgets in order to prioritize investment in housing, mental health and wellness, public health and healthcare. Cities like [Austin](#), [Los Angeles](#), [San Francisco](#), [New York](#), [Chicago](#), [Baltimore](#), [Oakland](#), Philadelphia and [Salt Lake City](#) have taken steps to reduce their reliance on policing as communities and policy-makers recognize that we need to fund services and solutions.

In response to the multitude of community voices advocating for reimagining public safety, Long Beach must do the same. Elected officials in Long Beach must meet the moment and respond to the demand for change as voiced by their constituents. The City adopted this [Timeline of Racial Inequities in Long Beach](#) to acknowledge the root causes of inequities, learn from our past, and build a future where we all can thrive. The Black community in Long Beach is demanding a reinvestment in its communities. This includes measures to reallocate funding from the policing budget to effective initiatives that improve safety and well-being. The City of Long Beach must take a critical look at the budget and re-invest in creative alternatives to policing, social service programs, housing, mental health and wellness, and public health and healthcare. A budget is a reflection of our values. Especially now, Long Beach needs a budget that values and prioritizes care over cages.



August 11, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802



RE: Agenda Item #14; Racial Reconciliation Report

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

While we acknowledge your effort to understand and address centuries of systemic racism, we find it necessary to remind you that police violence is the reason this “Framework for Reconciliation” was initiated.

The Office of Equity’s introduction to the Framework, the Resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Long Beach City Council, and the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Report, each begin by citing the murder of George Floyd by four police officers in Minneapolis. The Report further acknowledges the persistent disparities in life expectancy, health, and economic outcomes for Black residents and people of color, demonstrating the impacts of historically racist policies and practices in Long Beach. This Initiative has since become a holistic approach to systemic racism, as it examines the intersections of government, education, public safety, housing, health, and economic equity.

We appreciate that you are critically examining how the City of Long Beach has been complicit in affirming systemic racism, but community questions on “what we are reconciling,” and “with whom,” continue to linger. Our community’s collective grievances have been clear and again we remind you that this process of reconciliation began due to police violence.

What happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis, is no different than the killings of our own community members, at the hands of the Long Beach Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies: Tyler Woods, Hector Morejon, Danté Jordan, Feras Morad, Noel Aguilar, Carey Smith-Viramontez, Martin Hurtado, Barry Prak, Jason Conocenti, Doug Zerby, Lionel Gibson, Cezanne Mount, Kerry Michael Bounsom, Luis Ramirez, Jordan Michael Griffin, Catherine Gomez, Marcella Byrd, Ron Settles, and so many others. Moreover, the murder, which you also condemned, of Ahmaud Arbery by white vigilantes in Georgia, also happened in Long Beach. In July of 2018, here in Pan American Park, in a neighborhood where many law enforcement officers live, a suspected white supremacist vigilante killed a beloved father, grandfather, and uncle, Frederick Taft at a family gathering in the middle of the day. Yet, LBPD failed to adequately investigate the murder, by their own admission, and has yet to condemn it.

We are encouraging you to support this Reconciliation Initiative and demand the Long Beach Police Department undergo far more than the four-step process presented in the “Framework for Reconciliation.” For the City to truly achieve reconciliation, the Long Beach Police Department itself must **acknowledge, listen, convene, catalyze** and meaningfully address the structural harm, policies and practices.

The public’s cry to “Defund LBPD” speaks to the overdue need for the city of Long Beach to work with its residents to “Re-Imagine” community safety and meet the basic needs of its communities. There is basic work being held under the police department that does not belong to that department, such as youth, gang, crossing guards, quality of life, mental health and homelessness issues -- that is work that belongs to other professions. Defunding the department may consist of simply shifting that non-emergency work to the more appropriately fitting city departments (such as the move of crossing guards to public works) and to community groups who are not militarized and trained to kill, but who are licensed, certified, and trained in community care, trauma, and are culturally informed and better equipped to serve our residents.

We demand the City of Long Beach hold its Police Department accountable for the exorbitant costs they are incurring on behalf of the city, such as the officers who have all been involved in killing people like: Mathew Hernandez (*who murdered Feras Morad*), Jonathan Cole, John Fagan, Brian J. Green, Jason Kirk (*involved in killing Juan Calderon, 2007 and John del Real, 2013*), Craig M. Hazlewood, Rodolfo Rios, Jayson Torres, Berando Barajas, Justin Krueger, Benjamin Hearst, Vuong Nguyen, Daniel Martinez, Jeffrey Meyer, Randall J. Beach, Ivan Garcia, Bradley Muhlenkamp, Nicolas Becerra, Christopher Brammer (*involved in killing Lionel Gibson*), Elieser Domingo (*involved in killing Juan Avila, 2017 and Sinuon Pream, 2017, costs our city nearly \$10M*), Fernando Archuleta (*involved in killing of Lionel Gibson, 2016, cost \$2M and shot Ronald Clark, 2017, cost us \$200K*), Jeffrey Shurtleff, Eric Barich, Victor Ortiz, Lorenzo J. Uribe, Salvador Alatorre (*murdered Jason Conoscenti, 2014, cost us \$2M, used excessive force on Perry Grays, 2018, cost us \$380K and used excessive force on Ray Cash, 2018, cost \$260K*), in addition to the officers who are simply over using excessive force like: officers Eddie Sanchez, Bryan Passion, Sergio Ruvalcaba, and Francisco Vasquez. And note how several of these officers are repeat offenders and *still* employed by the city of Long Beach.

The City of Long Beach has got to hold this police department accountable for the injustices they are responsible for, the racism they continue to perpetuate, and the violent offenses and brutalization they commit, and for the generational trauma historically plagued on our Black and Brown communities by the Long Beach police department.

Black Lives Matter, LBC 

From: Castillo, Ernesto [mailto:Ernesto.Castillo@sen.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:42 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Cc: 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>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Alanah Grant <Alanah.Grant@longbeach.gov>; Matthew Hamlett <Matthew.Hamlett@longbeach.gov>; Alvarez, Cynthia <Cynthia.Alvarez@sen.ca.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative (Sen. Gonzalez)

-EXTERNAL-

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds everyone well. I wanted to share the Letter of Support from the Senator for the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative.

The Initiative sets four clear goals, informed by community input and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization.

The four goals are:

1. End systemic racism in LB, in all government and partner agencies, through internal transformation.
2. Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention.
3. Redesign police approach to community safety.
4. Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

These goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Senator is committed to supporting the realization of this initiative.

Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ernesto Castillo | *District Representative*

Gender Pronouns: (He/Him/El)

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 **Senator Lena A. Gonzalez**
REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 33



California State Senate

SENATOR
LENA A. GONZALEZ
THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by acknowledging, listening, and convening the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, catalyze, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. As the State Senator representing the Long Beach Area, I am committed to supporting the realization of this vision.

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I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Sincerely,



Lena Gonzalez
Senator, Senate District 33

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Framework for Reconciliation Recommendations and Racial Justice Initiative

Tiffany Semoy Davy and Dave Shukla and Derald Tucker and Elaine Bernal
Monday July 20th, 2020

Recommendations Summarized:

- 1. We recommend the City Create a Truth and Reconciliation Commission- It is therefore recommended that listening sessions of the same scale to which this Framework for Reconciliation began be held in the following years; 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, and 2030. Recommended period for future biannual Listening Sessions: May 25th through July 4th.**
- 2. We recommend full funding and expansion of services, outreach, and the creation of benchmark targets for the Black Infant Health Program and the creation of a Black Wellness Center.**
- 3. We recommend the City of Long Beach support the creation of a fund for the creation of a California Wellness Trust, to support Prevention Funding and to support efforts underway in the state (CAPF).**
- 4. Create a Commission For Rental Tenants, wherein renters can communicate to City about harassment, code violations and report retaliations for discrimination in access, services, and wherein information related to legislation is properly disseminated and the community is heard and supported by the appropriate resources to avoid displacement and encourage mediation**
- 5. We request the creation of an Equity Mandate Commission in order to monitor a Just Recovery from our current state(s) of crisis and going forward towards a regenerative economy in which we have examined with truths we must not turn a blind eye to coming out of COVID-19.**
- 6. We recommend the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in 2020.**
- 7. We recommend the immediate Creation of an Office whose primary focus is to sort out many of the complex legal and public policy issues around open data access, public data access and use and retention, citizens' data privacy and protections, etc. Something like what the GDPR has already called for in Europe: a Chief Public Data Officer, or perhaps Chief Public Data Protection Officer, housed in the City Auditor's Department.**
- 8. We recommend the Creation of a Neighborhood Justice Center to be not centered within the city but rather working in conjunction to mediate and avoid court**

escalation in matters we should strive to keep out of our current carceral landscape.

- 9. We recommend the City add an Equity Impact & Analysis section to all City Council Agenda Items.**
- 10. We recommend the creation of a City-Sponsored Apprenticeship Program for Citizen Science Research.**
- 11. We recommend that the City Divest from the militarization, commodification and waste within the Long Beach Police Department.**
- 12. We recommend the the Health Department review with LA County EMS our one active* SART facility [Community Hospital of Long Beach] and conduct an assessment of alternative first responders other than LBPd ahead of the reopening of Community Hospital.**
- 13. We recommend the City update the Blueprint for Economic Inclusion in light of the tremendous changes wrought in the United States by the coronavirus.**
- 14. We recommend that the City of Long Beach intentionally begin transitioning away from oil, gas, and fossil fuel industries.**
- 15. We recommend the City Incorporate the Principle of Charity into Framework for Reconciliation Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Engagement and other meeting**

The murder of George Floyd focused attention on the centuries of injustice experienced by members of the Black Community throughout the United States. In response to continued civil uprisings for George Floyd, the City of Long Beach began the Framework for Reconciliation Process after declaring systemic racism a Public Health crisis.

In order to proceed with honor in service of the public reckoning on racism in America following the brutal murder of George Floyd, justice can neither be achieved nor swept under the rug in a single calendar year.

It is critical that in moving from Listening Sessions acknowledging first-hand accounts of racism to policy recommendations for this City to address systemic racism, we make the following recommendations moving forward:

1. Community Agreements:

We recommend the City Incorporate the Principle of Charity into Framework for Reconciliation Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Engagement and other meetings:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_charity

We believe this will help streamline and make our future discussions more productive.

2. On The Reconciliation Process:

Every two years the city should commit to reconvening this Framework for Reconciliation – all four steps from acknowledging to listening to stakeholder engagement to council recommendations – and commence each iteration no later than the anniversary of George Floyd’s murder on May 25th 2020.

The schedule should run from May 25th through June 19th to the end of the July 4th holiday at least, wherein it continues the public listening sessions to acknowledge and address systemic and anti-black racism within our greater community, in line with other efforts of reconciliation.

Black community members should be engaged and empowered to lead and ground the Framework process, and maintain the agreement to center the experiences and voices of the Black residents and workers of Long Beach.

This process must not simply be received and filed, as was the case of the Everyone In Economic Forum, a process that resulted in a number of substantive recommendations towards increasing equity in multiple sectors that have gone without the commitment or resources or direction to city staff from the Council necessary to enact cohesive, beneficial and lasting changes for the Black community.

The fact is we are just now, in 2020, addressing a crisis that has gone on for centuries and that we keep stretching worldwide. The differences between the necessary mitigation, preparedness, and recovery should inform. We must be honest about the time it will actually take to address the complexities and connections of this centuries old crisis.

- **It is therefore recommended that listening sessions of the same scale to which this Framework for Reconciliation began be held in the following years; 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, and 2030.**
- **Recommended period for future biannual Listening Sessions: May 25th through July 4th.**
 - 2028 and 2030 are particularly significant years, for in both, the community will brace to understand the impact bringing the 2028 Olympics to Los Angeles and Long Beach will have upon Black, Indigenous and other People of Color.

These Listening Sessions will be necessary to achieve accountability and feedback on whatever Recommendations come out of the first and subsequent iterations of this process. We need a decadal program, and a level of accountability and respect that the Black community in Long Beach has not yet seen.

Due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the City has not been able to hold safe and formal physical space to conduct these sessions. As important as it was that we started right away, doing this sort of community engagement, much less public policy deliberation and decision-making, online renders the input mediated and at a remove.

Until this City can conduct public listening sessions in appropriate physical spaces with their elected representatives and appointed city staff in the same room with them – most likely after a vaccine for COVID-19 is widely available, or rendered unnecessary by prior efforts to eliminate this disease – it will be hard to legitimately understand this process as anything other than the usual focus-group model of civic engagement and the check-the-box model for grant funding. What we want is for this process to be viewed as legitimate by every citizen in town.

Given everything else happening concurrently in this country right now, we should understand the gravity and implications of this process. Around the country, people are starting to demand Truth and Reconciliation processes in their localities after the past three and a half years of illegality at the federal level. Many towns and cities are making proposals on public safety much more ambitious and far-reaching than Long Beach, even with this process ongoing, at present. Never before in this country's long history of suppressing dissent, not in the 1930s or 1960s or 1990s even, has the Executive Branch or the Department of Justice unleashed the full might of our military on our own citizenry. That has since occurred in the past 8 weeks of this national police riot and state-sponsored terror.

- **It is therefore recommended that a Truth and Reconciliation Commission be established to acknowledge and address systemic racism within all local Long Beach institutions, past and present.**
 - **The T&R Commission should be established as a safe space all together separate from Local Law Enforcement Departments and Agencies.**
 - **The T&R Commission must not be chosen by the Mayor, but be an open and accountable process like that of choosing the next Independent Redistricting Commission.**

- **We recommend the City add an Equity Impact & Analysis section to all City Council Agenda Items.**
 - **Similar to the Fiscal Impact section on all agenda items.**

3. On Health Equity:

We must acknowledge the history of trauma associated with the healthcare system and the Black community in our nation, Long Beach too, then has much work to do and should begin so by setting benchmarks for what changes must now be made.

As a community of members that experiences either collective or individual trauma on an everyday basis, the fact remains that the need for resources remains great for all aspects of health within the Black community.

- **We recommend full funding and expansion of services, outreach, and the creation of benchmark targets for the Black Infant Health Program and the creation of a Black Wellness Center.**

In 2018 it was acknowledged that the budget for the (BIH) program was operating with half of their original inaugural budget, Funding to be not only restored to original 1980 levels but targets to close the gap on infant mortality with a focus on mitigation practices introduced well before pregnancy.

4. On Prevention funding:

- **We recommend the City of Long Beach support the creation of a fund for the creation of a California Wellness Trust, to support Prevention Funding and to support efforts of the California Alliance for Prevention Funding underway in the state.**
 - **The City can contact the Healthy California for All Commission and support community based prevention as the state considers Health reform for an equitable future.**

5. On Housing:

- **We recommend the City Create a Commission For Rental Tenants, wherein renters can communicate to City about harassment, code violations and report retaliations for discrimination in access, services, and wherein information related to legislation is properly disseminated and the community is heard and supported by the appropriate resources to avoid displacement and encourage mediation.**
 - Provide Road map to Home-ownership with deliverable goals for 2030 (50% renter rate), 2040 (45%), 2045 (30%), & 2050 (25%). Wherein by 2050 the City of Long Beach would have completed work in support of its citizenry along a timeline to transition the city from a 60% renter population to a 25% rental population.
 - Produce the following reports on housing for the rental market from the year 2000 to date, 1900 to 1930, 1930-1970 and 1970-2000, alongside timeline of State/County/City legislation pertaining to housing, housing market trends, development & investment, discrimination, redlining, neighborhood covenants, rents, mortgages and CPI vs. PPI as it relates to the reality of demands made of renters based on credit/income/background/education/demographics/age/etc.
 - Special commission report should be created on the creation of the credit agencies & their credit scoring in the late 60's and their evolution and significance from creation to date, T&R Commission should determine what relative issues there may be with allowing a system created by two Stanford graduates (Fair Isaacs Corporation) that serves as a barrier to a population within the context of our Rental and Home Lending practices.
 - We request the office of the City Manager to review existing provisions for affordable/inclusionary housing for contracts signed between 2014 and 2020, in

those publicly or privately contracted projects where housing supply units are still being constructed. We also request new requirements on the entire housing supply at point-of-sale for 1) alignment with the inclusionary housing policy, 2) public health audits for Covid 19 and 3) Environmental & Energy efficiency audits by dwelling.

- Provide metrics and population needs/deficits for Housing Authority of Long Beach programs,

6. On Public Safety:

As we embarked upon this Reconciliation Process with the City, some participants may have shifted focus from the truth that police terror of Black people is what brought us to this moment wherein the City responded to Civil Unrest by declaring systemic racism a Public Health crisis.

In assessing the needs of the community we must acknowledge that while the efforts to address systemic racism, inequities and anti-black racism morphed into a Reconciliation Process it is still unclear who has reconciled with whom.

Hours upon hours of stories of genuine and deep-rooted harm were expressed, data was collected and recommendations poured into City Staff however some of the very aspects we were attempting to “reconcile” were not addressed by those who have continuously implicated harm within City departments. Furthermore certain Departments and associations are further politicizing specific recommendations that came from the community bringing their truths to the reconciliation process in order to move towards healing.

- **We recommend that the City Divest from the militarization, commodification and waste within the Long Beach Police Department**
- **We recommend the the Health Department review with LA County EMS our one active* SART facility [Community Hospital of Long Beach] and conduct an assessment of alternative first responders other than LBPD ahead of the reopening of Community Hospital**
 - We believe that an individual who requests a SART should never be forced by the Police Department to “prosecute” in order to receive a SART examination
 - Determine best practices in alternative models of healing justice and mediation and further expansion of CALVCP inclusive therapy practices and providers
 - We believe that a community member should not ever come out of pocket nor incur any debt related to a SART Examination
- **We recommend the Creation of a Neighborhood Justice Center which would not centered within the city but rather working in conjunction to mediate and avoid court escalation in matters we should strive to keep out of our current carceral landscape.**

7. On Economic Inclusion:

This City has been given a very clear Equity Mandate over the past two months of civil unrest: people want a just and equitable recovery moving forward.

- **We recommend the City update the Blueprint for Economic Inclusion in light of the tremendous changes wrought in the United States by the coronavirus.**

The damage from the last 6 months of a conflicting and inadequate national response to the global pandemic will be with us throughout this decade if we do not respond with bold policy correctives. But more, the times demand a new direction.

How do we envision and then operate a city whose operations and outcomes are equity?

How do we take seriously such tremendous resources devoted to the system of conserving of property and property rights in this country, when that system still denies self-ownership over one's own person, over their own body, to women and poor people and Black and Brown and queer and "other" people? John Locke would be appalled.

If we take seriously the origins of that famous American credo: "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Property", how is it, 17 decades after the glorious and victorious end of the Civil War, that the certain people's freedom in this society necessarily depends upon depriving freedom from Black and Brown people, specifically?

The most inclusive thing we can do - and it is fully achievable by August 11th - is finally, mercifully, publicly acknowledge that Neoliberalism - the ideology of Thatcher and Reagan and Bush and Clinton and Bush and Obama and the current Republican Administration, all the way up to Grover Norquist and the Ayn Rand Institute getting millions of dollars in PPP grants - has been entirely discredited. Worldwide. That whole set of ideas about how the economy should work has been exposed for exactly how it functioned: to preserve the powers of wealth accumulation by the already wealthy. Their rising tide did not raise all boats - in fact, it now threatens to sink the entire planet. We should consign that whole class of arguments to the dustbin of history where it and kin of its ilk belong.

Every intelligent country that got the COVID-19 response right is immediately shifting not to space exploration, but to a Green New Deal. Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore - California should too, and we should view our actions in Long Beach as very much part of the Californian project - what Kevin de Leon famously declared was safeguarding the history, and future, of the American Experiment.

- **We request the creation of an Equity Mandate Commission in order to monitor a Just Recovery from our current state(s) of crisis and going forward towards a regenerative economy in which we have examined with truths we must not turn a blind eye to coming out of COVID-19.**

Our response and steps forward from the COVID-19 and resultant economic crises must be concerned with undoing harm and making right by bold policy decisions, not in the name of special interests but rather for those consistently left behind by design. Excusing the actions of harmful industries because the residents earn less is a racist practice, dismissing population worth by income has become commonplace and terms like low income and zip codes directly correlate to your life expectancy. These are truths.

8. On Environmental Justice & Environmental Racism:

The City of Long Beach conducted a considerable and costly amount of stakeholder engagement for the Land Use Element, much more so in 2017 and 2018 than the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in 2019, or what has been possible given our current health orders with the Truth and Reconciliation process in 2020.

Moving forward with this process of the Framework for Reconciliation, it must be said that the City of Long Beach has the opportunity to bridge those gaps.

Bold action is imperative to meet many interlocking conditions to provide jobs and opportunities for front-line communities zoned to live in unhealthy conditions for an industry that clearly disregards their well being.

Many of these problems, locally, originate in how the discovery of oil in California was initially managed in the 1910s and 1920s, including the Long Beach and Signal Hill oil strikes and resultant institutional arrangements with municipal oil and gas operations with the California Resources Corporation, which recently filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. From the quick and easy development fossil fuels provided for what became the nation's model State from the 1920s to 1940s, to the tremendous expansion of extractive operations and economies of dependency created around oil and gas in the 1950s through 1970s, there are a surfeit of examples of how the cyclical expansion and involution of the industry here in Long Beach changed the growth trajectory and energy paths for the State and this Country.

- **Climate Action and Adaptation Plan: Must be adopted in 2020.**
 - It is imperative for us to start from and lead with and at every stage incorporate the science. We must follow the science. It is advised there that we take up this unprecedented Equity Mandate in this City, and make the health and welfare and public safety of those who live and work and visit Long Beach the main drive ahead of shortsighted financial constraints.

- **Community Choice Aggregation: City must file Implementation Plan ahead of CPUC deadline of December 31st 2020.**
 - Doing so is in the best interest to not only our current community, local and global, but in efforts to mitigate Climate Change impacts we well know will impact those most vulnerable (as in the case with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19).
 - The City of Long Beach should either join the Clean Power Alliance, or build a better Joint Powers Authority for community choice energy for the Greater Long Beach Area. The latter offers several potential opportunities to work at scale and across ratepayer classes that should be explored.

9. On Just Transition:

This Framework will be meaningless without a fair and timely shift to a sustainable and regenerative economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for everyone in this city. The wicked time dynamics of effective climate stabilization are such that events like the Siberian Wildfires move the goal

posts - unless we act faster and bolder than we had imagined pre-COVID-19, the best efforts imaginable in 2019 will still fall short.

- **We recommend that the City of Long Beach intentionally begin transitioning away from oil, gas, and fossil fuel industries.**
 - Creating the jobs of the future should aim to empower each of our communities to thrive in order to ensure all can thrive sustainably.

We also need to think intentionally about the social structures of power behind recalcitrant Departments in the City Manager's Office - Long Beach Police Department and Long Beach Energy Resources two of the most salient - with adjuncts in things like other firms and companies, various trade and voluntary associations, and of course the vagaries of globalized supply/transport and ownership/control chains.

How do we incentivize the participation of good actors from bad sectors?

10. On Metrics, Data, and Privacy:

- **We Recommend the immediate Creation of an Office to sort out many of the complex legal and public policy issues around open data access, public data access and use and retention, citizens' data privacy and protections, etc. Something like what the GDPR has already called for in Europe: a Chief Public Data Officer, or perhaps Chief Public Data Protection Officer, housed in the City Auditor's Department.**
 - Example of the SCE smart-meter data / TOU-8 rate data and the Feasibility Study on Community Choice Aggregation for Long Beach
 - Tracking and Tracing and Reporting issues on COVID-19 - HIPPA, CDPA/GDPR, etc.

We want the city to begin implementing alternative metrics for economic success, two examples of this are shifting from the CPI to PPI as a measure of household stability and economic mobility, another would be specifically looking at alternatives to GDP & growth for judging the City's overall economic health and well-being.

11. On Collective Liberation and Alternative Models: Understanding Equity-Democracy Pathways

Educational achievement is one of the most common themes heard in conversations about addressing economic inequality. However, even after having been raised in similar neighborhoods, with similar familial structures, and with similar parental income, young Black men raised in the United States have lower rates of high school graduation, lower rates of college enrollment, and lower income as young adults, as compared to young men of other ethnicities.

Source:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/black-men-face-economic-disadvantages-even-if-they-start-out-in-wealthier-households-new-study-shows>

The pretense that our society functions as a meritocracy has seldom been as tenuous as in recent years. While promotion of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) fields to students from under-represented ethnic backgrounds continues to be the focus of K-12 educational initiatives nationwide, colleges and universities have been steadily attracting international students to their programs. Especially at the graduate level, international students represent a steadily growing share of the scientific workforce, and they face their own barriers to inclusion leading up to the completion of their graduate degrees. Many other nations offer promising students in STEM fields a free university education, while our nation continues to frame the debate over the cost of education in meritocratic terms.

In broader terms, post-secondary education at colleges and universities is increasingly a creator of economic inequality, and the recent admissions scandals have shaken the public's trust in education in general, and the public colleges and universities in particular, who have seen tremendous increases in fees and tuition during the last few decades.

A major turning point in the outlook of STEM careers was the 2006 overhaul of IBM's pension plan, which devalued the retirement benefits of not just new hires, but rather all employees.

Source: <https://www.kiplinger.com/article/retirement/t001-c000-s002-ibm-sets-401-k-standard.html>

Colleges and universities emphasize the employment of their graduates at multinational corporations, the same corporations who resist accountability and responsibility for their environmental impacts, unfair labor practices, and privacy / data security negligence.

While a continually larger share of political discussions are happening in forums maintained by Facebook and Google, and predominantly using Microsoft software, the extent of these companies' support of anti-democratic initiatives is still not commonly known or understood. For example, the ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) membership of each company was a source of intrigue and confusion, and all of these companies released statements of disavowal of the aims and methods of ALEC.

Google Chairman Eric Schmidt: "Well, the company has a very strong view that we should make decisions in politics based on facts. What a shock. And the facts of climate change are not in question anymore. Everyone understands climate change is occurring. And the people who oppose it are really hurting our children and our grandchildren and making the world a much worse place. And so we should not be aligned with such people. They're just literally lying."

Source: <https://dianerehm.org/shows/2014-09-22/conversation-google-chairman-eric-schmidt>

- **We recommend the creation of a City-Sponsored Apprenticeship Program for Citizen Science Research**
 - **ie., Climate Science youth ambassador program, STEAM Year-round Camps & after school programming**
- **We recommend the City Incorporate the Principle of Charity into Framework for Reconciliation Listening Sessions and Stakeholder Engagement and other meetings**

From: Maria Feldman [mailto:xoxijsf@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 6:07 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@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>

Cc: Suzie Price <Suzie.Price@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Budget and other Agenda Items for 08/11/2020

-EXTERNAL-

Dear All:

I wanted to take a brief moment and express my opinion and concern over a few of the agenda items for tomorrow evening. I do my best to keep up with everything that is being thrown at us during these disturbing times but it is a full-time job keeping an eye on Long Beach and Sacramento politics. I find myself wondering “Why bother to speak up?” and “Exactly WHO represents me?” Can all of this just be the dirtiest of politics during an election year?! I have many friends and acquaintances who ask these same questions but have chosen to stay silent and are looking to just sell everything and leave the State; something that is starting to sound attractive to me and my husband.

I do not wish to stray from this message, however. So in a nutshell, I am appalled that Long Beach is considering any measure of “defunding” the police. So much is being and has been asked of police and fire personnel in the last several years. If anything, they need more money to provide better training and more officers to patrol our community. The quality of life team especially needs more funds and assistance. So exactly what is the Health Department doing with its funds to assist in this tragic and disturbing issue that plagues every city? Mayor Garcia why aren't you expecting more and applying more pressure on the Health Department to do their part in sharing funds they receive?

Agenda Item #14, I don't mean any disrespect but are you kidding? I am amazed at how George Floyd has become a pawn for so many! What happened to him is beyond horrible and unacceptable but nobody mentions the drugs in his system that contributed to his death.....yes, I said it. Call me what you will but it is time that all the facts be laid on the table, not just those that money can be attached to.

Nothing specific is stated in this agenda item filled with “goals” and “actions” that wrecks of more taxes! I see the “general fund” mentioned, I see “reconciliation” used; let's call this what it is more programs, more hand-outs, more, more, more taxes!

I will not apologize for sounding angry and frustrated. Some of you may think that I am “bigoted” or “prejudiced” but I am far from that! I am a second generation American of Mexican descent with grandparents that emigrated from Mexico and parents raised with Spanish as their first language in Arizona and Texas and plenty of discrimination to go with it. I am one of seven, the eldest female, and was raised with the idea that my primary accomplishment in life should be to marry young, have children, and make a good home for my husband. My best friend from kindergarten through 8th grade was told she could no longer be my friend because I was a “brown skinned” Mexican. I too, like many women, have experienced sexual harassment and misconduct. None of these things kept me from paying my college tuition and expenses, move out of my parents' home, start a business at the age of 21, buy my own home, and eventually marry and raise two children (22 and 24) with my husband of 30 years!

There were no hand-outs, there was no “reconciliation”. If anything, any road block I encountered made me stronger and more determined. Hand-outs mean nothing to those receiving them. Free funds at the expense of tax payers are mostly misused!

I have lived in Long Beach my entire life and while I know racism exists and **always will**, I do not see it in our once thriving, wonderful city! Our bureaucracy is out of control and a 115 page document can be written asking for goals, reform, funding, improvement, increases, after school programs, more, more, more. A lot of paper could have been saved.....just ask for more taxes!

If you really want to take action. If you really care for Long Beach and your constituents and all the lives, every day being destroyed by bad COVID-19 policies then you as a collective whole reduce your pay, benefits and perks; and that includes all the City managers making unreasonable salaries on the backs of all of us who pay the taxes!

Many years ago, in one of the three flower shops my husband and I owned a black family came into the store. The mother had a child with her and a disagreement ensued between the mother and child. The mother hit the child across the face. My husband stepped forward to say something and the grandmother stopped him and told him to “stay out of it, you don’t understand our ways.” My husband wisely and respectfully stepped back. There is so much that cannot be explained or understood.

I mention this because so many think that if you just throw more, more, more money at a “problem” it will improve it and/or make it go away. It doesn’t. I heard a poll today that the people in the Hispanic and Black communities across our country are asking for MORE police presence and protection in our communities!!!

So, I ask you, exactly who is asking that the police be reduced and defunded!

I realize that my comments may sound random and disjointed but my mind is on my 89 year old mother, my 65 year old disabled (from a football injury in 1969) brother for whom I am Conservator, keeping our livelihood going, and wondering what my two children are going to do with their 4 year college degrees with no work/career in sight.

NO ON DEFUNDING THE POLICE. Make the Long Beach Health Department contribute funds!

NO ON AGENDA ITEM #14! Improve and build on what already exists!!!

Respectfully,
Maria Contreras Feldman

From: Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:12 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public comment for Agenda Item #14 for 8/11 City Council Meeting re: racial reconciliation

-EXTERNAL-

Dear City Council: In the report before you, 53% of participants support defunding the police and reinvesting money directly into the community. This represents a clear violation of the public trust and a hope from the community that public safety can be achieved through other means. What to spend on? 56% support education reform, including early childhood education, youth programming, and mentorship. Please take action to hold yourselves and city staff accountable for implementing these recommendations expeditiously.

Padric Gleason Gonzales

From: Laura Hamilton [mailto:hamiltonsinc@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:11 PM

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

Subject: Please remove Point E from the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative

-EXTERNAL-

Honorable Mayor, Council Members, and Clerk,

Expansion of the Proactive Rental Housing Inspection Program has absolutely nothing to do with racial equity and reconciliation. An expansion of PRHIP during COVID-19 is absurd. City employees should not be visiting apartments, and tenants should not be put in a position to feel compelled to admit city employees into their homes. The risk of one infected employee spreading the virus to 100s of families throughout the city is enormous. All decent property owners have continued to maintain their buildings throughout the crisis even when faced with a significant drop in rent collections. If there are specific buildings with problems or that are owned/operated by slumlords, put existing PRHIP resources into dealing with them.

The City's resources would be better used to fight systemic racism in public institutions (police, health and human services, etc.) instead of going after private property owners. If you want to help renters stay in their housing, then make direct rent payments to property owners on their behalf. This in turn will help owners make their mortgage payments, pay property taxes & hazard insurance, and maintain their buildings.

It is my sincere hope that the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative will bring forth positive change. Having lived in Long Beach for 28 years, I have seen much improvement. I remember the days when LBPD was notoriously violent. When my father lived in LB from 1937-1939 (Navy brat), he attend Rogers Middle School. It was segregated!! Clearly the city is headed in the right direction but not as fast as we would like.

Thank you,
Laura Hamilton
Resident and property owner
90814, 90804, 90802

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ON A FRAMEWORK FOR RECONCILIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT acknowledges the existence and long-standing impacts of racism in Long Beach and the country and declares that Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE DISTRICT also acknowledges that the Liberal Arts and Pacific Coast campuses are on land that was inhabited by indigenous people for generations, primarily the Tongva and the Chumash, and that racism and colonialism are inseparable; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT understands that racism is a system that institutionalizes discriminatory practices and establishes structures to perpetuate inequities, which is harmful to all people, and expresses solidarity with peaceful protesters who are advocating for the eradication of racism; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT recognizes that Black people in the United States, including in Long Beach, have suffered and continue to experience trauma from racist, unjust policies and practices, such as redlining and discriminatory lending to prevent and limit home ownership; racial inequities in medical care; the “school to prison pipeline” that “disproportionately impacts the poor, students with disabilities, and youth of color, especially African Americans, who are suspended and expelled at the highest rates, despite comparable rates in infraction” according to Dr. Nancy A. Heitzeg; and discriminatory and violent treatment by law enforcement agencies, most recently exemplified by the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor; and

WHEREAS, Black people are disproportionately impacted by the current COVID-19 global pandemic, comprising 12% of the population in the City of Long Beach and yet accounting for 22% of the deaths attributed to COVID-19 as of June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT is to provide equitable student learning and achievement, academic excellence, and workforce development by delivering high-quality educational programs and support services to our diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, students who identify as Black comprise 14% of the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT student body, and the average course success rate for Black students is 53%, which is 11% lower than the LBCC average course success rate and 20% lower than the course success rate for White students; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted the “Framework for Reconciliation in Long Beach,” which was informed by countries such as Australia, Canada, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have employed Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to discover their nation’s past wrongdoings in hopes of resolving conflict, and by President Nelson Mandela and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that facilitated dialogues in post-apartheid South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach “Framework for Reconciliation” centers on four key steps: 1. Acknowledging the existence and long-standing impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach and the country; 2. Listening to accounts and experiences of racial injustice, inequity, or harm of community members; 3. Convening stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas; and 4. Catalyzing action, presenting immediate short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council’s consideration; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office issued a call to action for all community colleges in the state to mobilize around six topics: 1. A System wide review of law enforcement officers and first responder training and curriculum; 2. Campus leaders must host open dialogue and address campus climate; 3. Campuses must audit classroom climate and create an action plan to create inclusive classrooms and anti-racism curriculum; 4. District Boards review and update your Equity plans with urgency; 5. Shorten the time frame for the full implementation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Integration Plan; and 6. Join and engage in the Vision Resource Center “Community Colleges for Change” virtual community; and

WHEREAS, the Long Beach City College Faculty Association adopted a Resolution to Declare that the lives of Black Students, Faculty and Staff Matter, and other groups from across the campus, such as the Student Equity Subcommittee, the Latinx Faculty & Staff Association of Long Beach City College, and the Long Beach Council of Classified Employees, have issued statements of solidarity with the Black community; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT commits to continuing anti-racist initiatives such as the President’s Task Force on Race, Equity, and Inclusion; cultural curriculum audits; cultural heritage and history month celebrations; the Justice Scholars program to support formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted students; and professional development and training for employees and students on combatting racism, bias, and white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT was one of the first colleges to join the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance convened by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT encourages participation in the City of Long Beach’s Framework for Reconciliation and support for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Call to Action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT hereby requests that the Superintendent-President work together with LBCC’s participatory governance leaders, trustees, faculty, staff, and students, as well as other community leaders, educational partners such as Long Beach Unified School District, and local officials, to develop a Framework of Reconciliation for the Long Beach Community College District in support of the Black community and in alignment with the City of Long Beach and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 24th day of June 2020.

Vivian Malaulu
President

Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Vice President

Virginia L. Baxter, Ed.D
Member

Douglas W. Otto
Member

Sunny Zia
Member

Lou Anne Bynum
Interim Superintendent-President



Board of Trustees
Dr. Virginia L. Baxter
Vivian Malauulu
Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Douglas W. Otto
Sunny Zia

Interim Superintendent-President
Lou Anne Bynum

Long Beach City College • Long Beach Community College District

4901 East Carson Street • Long Beach, California 90808

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report - SUPPORT

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging, listening,** and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The Long Beach Community College District is committed to supporting the realization of this vision joint leadership meetings, training, policy changes, establishing a joint board/council advisory committee, re-evaluating the Long Beach College Promise from a racial equity perspective, and/or provide higher educational/workforce development credentially technical assistance. **The LBCCD Board of**



Board of Trustees
Dr. Virginia L. Baxter
Vivian Malauulu
Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Douglas W. Otto
Sunny Zia

Interim Superintendent-President
Lou Anne Bynum

Long Beach City College • Long Beach Community College District
4901 East Carson Street • Long Beach, California 90808

Trustees has already adopted the Long Beach Framework for Reconciliation at our June 24, 2020 Board Meeting (see attached resolution).

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity and serving the students of Long Beach City College.

If you need any additional information, you can contact me at (562) 818-1500 or email at untuak@lbcc.edu.

I stand here ready to work together and partner to serve our shared constituents.

Respectfully,

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Vice President, Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ON A FRAMEWORK FOR RECONCILIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

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WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT recognizes that Black people in the United States, including in Long Beach, have suffered and continue to experience trauma from racist, unjust policies and practices, such as redlining and discriminatory lending to prevent and limit home ownership; racial inequities in medical care; the “school to prison pipeline” that “disproportionately impacts the poor, students with disabilities, and youth of color, especially African Americans, who are suspended and expelled at the highest rates, despite comparable rates in infraction” according to Dr. Nancy A. Heitzeg; and discriminatory and violent treatment by law enforcement agencies, most recently exemplified by the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor; and

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WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted the “Framework for Reconciliation in Long Beach,” which was informed by countries such as Australia, Canada, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have employed Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to discover their nation’s past wrongdoings in hopes of resolving conflict, and by President Nelson Mandela and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that facilitated dialogues in post-apartheid South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach “Framework for Reconciliation” centers on four key steps: 1. Acknowledging the existence and long-standing impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach and the country; 2. Listening to accounts and experiences of racial injustice, inequity, or harm of community members; 3. Convening stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas; and 4. Catalyzing action, presenting immediate short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council’s consideration; and

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WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT commits to continuing anti-racist initiatives such as the President’s Task Force on Race, Equity, and Inclusion; cultural curriculum audits; cultural heritage and history month celebrations; the Justice Scholars program to support formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted students; and professional development and training for employees and students on combatting racism, bias, and white supremacy; and

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WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT encourages participation in the City of Long Beach’s Framework for Reconciliation and support for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Call to Action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT hereby requests that the Superintendent-President work together with LBCC’s participatory governance leaders, trustees, faculty, staff, and students, as well as other community leaders, educational partners such as Long Beach Unified School District, and local officials, to develop a Framework of Reconciliation for the Long Beach Community College District in support of the Black community and in alignment with the City of Long Beach and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 24th day of June 2020.

Vivian Malaulu
President

Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Vice President

Virginia L. Baxter, Ed.D
Member

Douglas W. Otto
Member

Sunny Zia
Member

Lou Anne Bynum
Interim Superintendent-President

From: Christine Petit [mailto:christine@lbforward.org]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:16 PM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Diana Tang <Diana.Tang@longbeach.gov>; Mary Zendejas <Mary.Zendejas@longbeach.gov>; Ray Morquecho <Ray.Morquecho@longbeach.gov>; Jeannine Pearce <Jeannine.Pearce@longbeach.gov>; Karla Estupinian <Karla.Estupinian@longbeach.gov>; Suzie Price <Suzie.Price@longbeach.gov>; Jack Cunningham <Jack.Cunningham@longbeach.gov>; Daryl Supernaw <Daryl.Supernaw@longbeach.gov>; Barbara Moore <Barbara.Moore@longbeach.gov>; Stacy Mungo <Stacy.Mungo@longbeach.gov>; Summer Smith <Summer.Smith@longbeach.gov>; Dee Andrews <Dee.Andrews@longbeach.gov>; Isabel Arvea <Isabel.Arvea@longbeach.gov>; Roberto Uranga <Roberto.Uranga@longbeach.gov>; Celina Luna <Celina.Luna@longbeach.gov>; Al Austin <Al.Austin@longbeach.gov>; Jonathan Kraus <Jonathan.Kraus@longbeach.gov>; Rex Richardson <Rex.Richardson@longbeach.gov>; Matthew Hamlett <Matthew.Hamlett@longbeach.gov>; Alanah Grant <Alanah.Grant@longbeach.gov>

Cc: Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>; Linda Tatum <Linda.Tatum@longbeach.gov>; Teresa Chandler <Teresa.Chandler@longbeach.gov>; Katie Balderas <Katie.Balderas@longbeach.gov>; Kelly Colopy <Kelly.Colopy@longbeach.gov>; Kevin Jackson <Kevin.Jackson@longbeach.gov>

Subject: RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

I am sending this letter (attached and below) on behalf of organizations advocating for the People's Budget and other organizational allies.

Sincerely,
Christine Petit

August 11, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing both in support of the City's efforts toward racial equity and reconciliation and to advocate for the City to do more to more to divest from Long Beach Police Department and reinvest in Black lives and communities of color by adopting the People's Budget and making more significant investments in racial equity.

We applaud the City's declaration of racism as a public health crisis--the first step the City took in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by Minneapolis police officers, and the resulting Black Lives Matter uprisings across the United States and beyond. With that formal recognition, the City then embarked on a reconciliation process that has resulted in the report before you.

We urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. This Report is a step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives.

Additionally, we are writing to advocate for the City to go further in its work toward racial equity, to defund LYPD, and to fully fund the People's Budget. Instead of cutting essential City services, simply cutting the Police budget by 12% would fill the City's entire \$30 million shortfall. From community health services, restorative practices, and affordable housing to language access and universal legal representation for immigrants, we are advocating for the resources to truly make our community safe and healthy.

Continuing to give LYPD \$240 million (44%) from the General Fund does not make our community safer. The budget proposals from both the City Manager and the Mayor fall far short of meeting this unprecedented time in our city and our nation. As it relates to the item before you, the proposed \$3.25 million investment in racial equity and reconciliation amounts to only 1% of the Police budget. Courage is required on your part as a city leader to demonstrate that Black lives matter and to create the budget the people want and need.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Sincerely,

Black Lives Matter Long Beach
Advancement Project California
California Faculty Association Long Beach Chapter
Californians for Justice
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Democratic Socialists of America Long Beach Chapter
Invest in Youth Long Beach campaign
Khmer Girls in Action
Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community
Long Beach Forward
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Long Beach Residents Empowered
Philippine-U.S. Solidarity Organization SoCal Chapter

--

Dr. Christine E. Petit
She/Her/Hers
Executive Director
Long Beach Forward

425 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90802
562-436-4807

[Connect](#) / [Share](#) / [Tweet](#) / [Donate](#)

Exciting news! After over six years, I'll be transitioning out of the role of Executive Director at the end of 2020 and James Suazo, our current Associate Director, will be my successor. Read more about it [here](#).

Framework for Reconciliation Listening Session Input DRAFT for KB/TC Zoom 2pm 7/20 Meeting

Dave Shukla
dave.shukla@gmail.com

Survey Questions:

On June 9, 2020, the Long Beach City Council approved the "Framework for Reconciliation" which includes the following four steps:

1. Acknowledge the existence and longstanding impacts of systemic racism in our America and in Long Beach.
2. Listen to community members' accounts and experiences of inequity and harm caused by racial injustice.
3. Convene stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas.
4. Catalyze action by presenting immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council to consider.

For more information about this process, please visit the Office of Equity website:
<http://www.longbeach.gov/health/healthy-living/office-of-equity/reconciliation>

How have you been affected by systemic racism in Long Beach? (systemic racism refers to how ideas of white superiority are captured in everyday thinking at a systems level: i.e. laws, regulations, hiring practices, etc.)

What ideas and suggestions do you have to advance racial equity in Long Beach?

What suggestions do you have for involving community members that aren't normally engaged?

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Generally, my ethic during this Framework for Reconciliation process, henceforth 'FfR', and truly for the past five years, has been to center and uplift the experiences and voices of Black women in Long Beach, starting with my partner, Tiffany Semoy Davy, and my neighbor, Margaret Brown.

This is about our home – yours, mine, theirs, everyone in our fair town – you see.

Where we live and have grown up greatly informs, and constrains, who we are and can yet be.

It has been my charge not just to advocate collective liberation. I have to do it. For the past five years now, I have been confronted with this fact, in all the weight my own personal and private case entails. That case is not separable from fundamental failures of this city around the reproductive health, physical safety and security, homelessness and housing, financial standing, and job prospects of its Black female citizens. These failures reflect on all of us in this town, ladies and gentlemen.

Since January of 2015, it has been my charge to do collective liberation, to show my friends, parents, teachers, my city, even myself that it is possible. That we are capable of it. That, as people, we are who we have always been. Not what you are, nor what you intended. Something more. Something new.

So, a few stipulations before addressing the survey questions above:

1. We live in a world of intersubjectively available facts. Of course, no one can ever entirely know the subjective mind of another being. Nor does any one being or body or perspective entirely define the objective world of independently verifiable facts for every subject immersed in and with agency in this world. However, the principle of being a part of a world where intersubjectively available facts become more (or less) empirically supported over time as new information and experiment and analysis becomes available is simply not open to debate.

Please do not read further if you do not agree.

2. That we live in a world of intersubjectively available facts is not a bad thing. Being from Long Beach can be a tremendous privilege. For instance, it is because of being educated in LBUSD schools that I was able to have experiences like being the youngest student in Donald Davidson's last two graduate seminars, who took pity on me as an undergraduate the same way Alfred North Whitehead had once done for him. As with all things: "...It all depends, it all depends on where we live and what we have to build with".

3. The United States is currently the epicenter of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The conflicting and inadequate national response, still compounding, has now led to tens of thousands of excess deaths in this country at time of writing.

4. The election results for the 2016 general election should not have been certified. There is sufficient evidence from the intelligence community, domestic and international reporting, and from the well established norms of every prior national U.S. election since that of Woodrow Wilson, that substantial voting irregularities had occurred. Particularly in the swing states of North Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. That not one U.S. Senator stood with the Black Congresswomen and Congressmen who demanded these irregularities be investigated immediately calls the legitimacy of that election into question. The past three and a half years of illegality at the Federal level by the current Republican Administration would not have been possible if the institutions of this country worked, for everyone, as they are supposed to do so.

5. Black women are people, too. If their health or safety or well-being is threatened whilst in Long Beach, then in principle no person's health or safety or well-being can truly be ensured in this town. Not least of which, as the black women in our town regularly remind us, for the perpetrators of harm who in so doing also harm their own humanity.

If any of these stipulations are questionable to you in the least, no worries. We shall find some other venue. This is not for you, and you need not read further. Please keep my name out of your mouth.

For those of you still with me, this is all important to specify at the start, not least of which because the current Attorney General of the United States, William G. Barr, has stated his intention to use the tremendous resources at his disposal to target any enemies of the current Republican Administration, real or perceived. It behooves to declare oneself before the potential Otto Neuraths in town start getting rounded up! But also, one cannot understand the particulars of the survey questions in my own case without recognizing that this City has already had me in a box, so to speak, for three and a half years. A vise grip of a horrible situation, truth be told, of its own making – by the ways this City works and the ways it does not. The survey is not appropriate for my own case, personal and private.

Though I am loathe to do so, the proof in the pudding is of course in the eating. So, Here Goes:

Narrative, current to 2020 07 19 20:00 -7:00 UTC

My family moved to Long Beach on June 30th, 1991.

We came from Grants, New Mexico on my eleventh birthday. For the schooling. My father had it in mind to settle in California for its famed public education system since his first visit to this country from England in 1977.

My parents are East Indian immigrants who came to the United States in the late 1970's. My mother, who did her midwifery and nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital Medical School at the University of London – founded by Florence Nightingale – was sponsored for her R.N. training in El Paso, Texas in 1977. She worked in women's health, midwifery, labor and delivery, NICU, etc. continuous from 1970 to 2010, and from 2014 until being forced into early retirement this year. In this country and in Britain, where he retains dual-citizenship, my father has been mostly self-employed from 1965-2005, and since 2005 continued to work full-time as an employee until being furloughed indefinitely this Spring.

Their paths in the Indian diaspora were in some ways parallel, some ways not. My father's family is from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and my mother's family are from Porbandar, Gujarat. My father grew up in comfort blocks from the coast in downtown Dar Es Salaam, Tanganyika. My mother, poor and rural in Zanzibar. Each moved to England shortly after the creation of Tanzania, and first met in London in 1970. By that time, my father had long left schooling to work full-time to attain the means by which to legally bring his parents and siblings, duly citizens of the Commonwealth, along with him to Britain, which he achieved by 1975. Fortunate for our purposes here, both he and my mother had the sense to escape Thatcher soon thereafter.

Their East-African Indian transnational networks deeply informed where and how they moved in this country – including to Long Beach in particular for the quality of its well-managed public schools, of which Long Beach Polytechnic High School was most well-known and well-regarded. The shop on 19th and Atlantic that my father ran was purchased from a fellow Tanzanian Indian, Dinesh, who had in fact once been a student of my grandfather in Dar Es Salaam. My grandfather was the headmaster of the first co-ed secondary school in Dar Es Salaam.

The various circumstances of place, parenting, and educational opportunity are wholly contingent and yet constitutive of our perspectives. There is no avoiding this. Where we live and how we grow up sets many of the terms for developing our own internal, intuitive and analytic and synthesized, sense and perspective of how 'where' and 'when' and 'why' and other aspects of experience relate from one instance to the next. One cannot approach my understanding, for instance, of racism in Long Beach or the 'States without recognizing this fact. It is true of all people across all times. Human beings are the sort of creatures that have elaborate sets of beliefs, learned behavior, what we call 'socialization' but might better be understood as 'weltanschauung' or 'worldview'. These are necessary features of the sorts of creatures we happen to be. But the contents of these features all depend, they all depend...

I can see the differences, even over the relatively short spans of four years and 750 miles, between my brother and me, after we moved here to Long Beach. Please understand, whatever my pretensions to Wilhelm von Humboldt and that educational ideal, my younger brother Amit is a living breathing

real-life re-mix of Alexander von Humboldt walking around astride us. It is nothing short of criminal the damage this society, Californian society of the 1980s – 2000s from its schools to its theaters to its churches to its media to its culture to you and me and everyone else all together here, the damage this society can inflict on incredibly bright and sensitive kids like my brother. He had barely started grade school before we moved here. For all intents and purposes, his experiences are wholly shaped both by the move to California in his earliest years prior, and by living here and doing all of his schooling here in Long Beach. This is his hometown more than mine, and we were lucky that both our parents believed in letting us have childhoods and just being kids as much as they valued good manners and education and traveling and experiencing new things and places and peoples.

Yet my path was different. Things like learning how to ride a bike, or swimming lessons, or getting a musical instrument and lessons to boot, only happened once we moved here to Long Beach. Frankly, because my parents finally had the money to give us those things, and because it was simply easier to do so for both of us together at once in a place that offered those and other things. I remember the careful planning and frugality, across years of time and effort and sacrifice by my parents in New Mexico, that brought us to California. By then I had finished grade school, and spent summers away in Chicago and London. I had not only met my grandparents, but was old enough to remember when they visited us in New Mexico – my grandfather explained to me then and the summer afterward in London who we were, what our name meant and how we should conduct ourselves. Mercifully, he only made me learn one hour of the four hour regimen of prayers and yoga he did each and every morning.

I already had a sense of myself, and already knew things like how the Spartans took their children away at seven years old to maintain their every-ready level of military force, for example. The first time ever allowed in a library, the Albuquerque Main Library on a field trip with my Catholic school when I was eight years old, the limit was 20 at a time. So, I asked a classmate to let me check out another 20 on his account, and spent the rest of the semester with my fold-up desk pointing not 15 degrees down towards me, but unergonomically 15 degrees up at me stuffed full of books! We did not have much during my childhood, but one thing we did have was a fabulous collection of old National Geographic magazines from the 1940s – 1970s, left behind at our place by the previous owner. To this day, I still remember the pressure put on me, by my parents and teachers and classmates, when I was ten years old and the first person from Inez Elementary ever to go to the NM State Geography Bee. In the finals, in fact, with only one more question to answer correctly to break a tie, and go to the National Geography Bee. To this day, I still cannot say why I froze up over several questions whose answers I knew and looked up upon going home. I can still hear my mother's disappointment: "That's not going to help you now". Maybe it was the pressure, or being too distracted by my new shoes or hair gel my parents bought me for such an august occasion. Maybe I looked out at all these smart kids from around the State, including Native kids from the Res', and felt an early sense of the "impostor syndrome". Hard to say.

By the move to Long Beach, I was aware of my privilege getting here, had a bit more time and critical distance from socialization into Southern Californian culture, and was more aware of how central race is to social relations in this region, and this Country. I can still remember with total clarity everything that happened in the 1991-1992 school year, our first year here, and am tempted to write it all out, it was all so new. Perhaps the next five examples will suffice, starting with that most important.

The only reason why any of us are in a position to be reading this narrative as input on the FfR process is because the LBUUSD system worked in the 1980s and 1990s. It worked. Perhaps this should have been a stipulation: one need not read further if they are not in agreement that our most precious asset is

our children, and thus how we prepare them for the world they will soon inherit is, ultimately, our highest priority. Clearly no School District is not without problems, but this City should take pride in what was possible in the LBUSD system, and how well-managed the system could be, in the 1990s.

There simply is no getting around the fact that my brother and I are walking, talking examples of this.

The first place we stayed in Long Beach was a rented house, 1052 Freeman Avenue. I still remember the fog like clockwork rolling out each morning and rolling back in every afternoon that summer of 1991. It was so glorious. My father chose that house to rent in part because it was across the street from Willard Elementary School, one of the oldest in town, and my younger brother could just walk across the street to go to school. It was also close enough for me to walk to Jefferson Middle School, which my father took pains to walk to with me that summer across multiple routes so I could get familiar. Particularly, when his brother Kirti came to visit us the month after moving here, we would all walk across parts of Long Beach for hours after dinner in the ocean breeze, it was so neat.

Soon after I began the sixth grade, we had our first science test. The week later we get it back. The Black girl to the right of me gets a 33 out of 100. Yikes. The Samoan girl to the left of me gets a 44. I sink in my chair. Clearly middle school is much harder than I expected! I am one of the last people to get their test back. 108, apparently missed 2 points on the extra credit. I turn my paper over. "How did you do?" the Samoan girl asks me ... Pretty bad... She mercifully does not inquire further. The teacher offers us another chance to retake the test in a week, and is visibly confused when I sit for it.

I had told the people who I sat next to every day, the people who taught me how to work a combination lock and who would share fries from the Greek burger joint across the street after school, that I needed to take it again like they did. So I take the test again. Tests come back. Black girl to the right did better. Samoan girl to the left did not, not really. She asks again. "What did you get?" Um...not too bad...I say, not too convincingly. "Let's see!" She grabs. "You got a 108!" She exclaims, and loudly enough for worry. Yeah, I missed one of the extra credit points, a different one than last time... I mumble. She just stares. The teacher has heard enough. He has me sit for the entrance exam for the TAP program at Hughes Middle School that week. The following week, barely a month after school had started, I start getting bused from Jefferson to Hughes – which truth be told was a pain because I had to get up an hour earlier and get home an hour later. Well worth it.

It was an older, white male teacher who had me sit for that TAP exam, and even gave me a special pencil physically tied into a knot (still have it!) before I left his class, indeed his school. My parents knew Poly was a good school, but did not yet really know about the Gate-Tap-Pace track. My father simply assumed my brother and I would go to Jefferson, and then go to Poly, which was two blocks down from his shop and five blocks up from St. Mary's Hospital where my mother worked. That much of his planning had been direct. But Hughes was a quicker level up, one that only could have happened if the system had not worked as designed: to identify and promote talent and/or hard-work.

The second example took place after my parents moved to 806 E. Carson with the start of the calendar year 1992, so that my brother and I could walk from home to Hughes and Longfellow together, the latter of which Amit transferred to for that semester. Soon after we moved to Bixby Knolls, and started walking to school each day and playing basketball regularly, I got into a fight.

It was the first fight I got into, and strangely enough it happened on the basketball courts of Hughes

Middle School, and not the front lawn in front of Willard where I played tackle football with kids from the neighborhood that first summer. Never met anyone in N.M. Black. Let alone Samoan! Tongan! Vietnamese! Cambodian! Filipino! There was every flavor of people in Long Beach! Tremendous learning curve that first year. But never had any problems with the kids around Freeman Ave.

The group of kids walking to school around Bixby Knolls was different. More knowledgeable, more urbane, more white. At school it was the same. I remember my first crush, the singer Lia Rose, explaining to me how all the cool kids watched 90210, and how to wear my backpack off one shoulder. So at lunch, recess, after school, whatever, we are all playing basketball. Could not get enough of it. Even at Physical Education. One morning at P.E., the class is basically: do whatever you like, go be active. So we play basketball. One of the kids who was not in TAP, a young Black boy eleven years old like me, but who got bused to school from the Northside, did not like my talking trash on the court. Threw the ball at me. I threw it back and kept jawing. His right cross stopped that, and as my glasses fell, I lose my rag. We go at it, trade hands for what seems like an eternity, probably only twenty seconds. They pull us apart, and march each of us directly into the Vice-Principal's office. What happened? We both look at each other, look at the V-P, say nothing. Then they call our parents.

His mother arrives, clearly perturbed at him. Like it was already his fault. Then my Dad arrives, which means he had to close the shop early, which means this is serious. They ask again: "What happened? Why were you two trying to knock each others heads off?" With my father staring at me, I start talking. It was both our fault. We were playing basketball, and he threw the ball and I threw it back and then he hit me and knocked my glasses off, and then I hit him. I am stammering, because I have to explain to my father too, and I had never been in that situation. I think I am doing good. The boy's mother does not buy it. She starts blaming him. Now I can tell even my Dad is uncomfortable. To the V-P he says: "Look, this is not how I raised my boy. We do not believe in violence. I think you should apologize to this boy and his mother, and to me, because we both had to leave work for this." Eyes down at my shoes, softly I apologize. Boy does the same, even though my Dad was talking only to me. They dismiss both of us, and with our parents we each leave.

Once we get inside the car, my father loses *his* rag. With that clipped British accent reserved for when he is truly pissed and exasperated at my behavior, and does not have time for me to mickey about and not hear him: "Dave. Why were you fighting with that boy?" He started it. "You just told the Principal that you were both at fault" he says flatly. But that was because we were playing basketball and he didn't like me bragging and so he threw the ball at me and I threw it back and then he hit me and knocked my glasses off and then I had to hit him back, so we were... such is mustered as explanation before he cuts me off. "So What? Who do you think is going to get into more trouble, him or you?" Well... "No 'well...' - Do you have any idea how they treat these people?"

Not having the benefit of hearing that clipped British accent, its timbre, or his emphasis, the reader should make no mistake. It was crystal clear where my sympathies should be. He continued: "Do you have any idea? I see it every day in my shop. Do you have any idea how hard that kid's life could be? You saw his mother. You are lucky." That cuts deep, and finally renders explanations silent. "Listen to me, you should not be fighting with anyone. But a black kid? You should not be fighting with him. It is one thing if you have to defend yourself, but what are you doing even causing problems with him?" No reply. "I see. You should not be causing problems with him. Listen. I do not want to hear you, ever, *ever*, fighting with someone you should talk to instead. Do you understand me?" Yes. "When you go back to school tomorrow, I want *you* to apologize to *him*".

Ok, I tell my father. I go back to school the next day, and do not see the other boy. It must have been late in the week, like a Wednesday or Thursday, when we fought. Come a couple of days into the next week, he is back. I gingerly make my way toward him at lunch. I just want to speak. I apologize. He says he is sorry too. He is glad to be back. He got suspended three days. Three days? My surprise getting the best of me. “Yeah, what did they get you for?” Um, just the afternoon, I start stammering...

“F--- you man!”. Never spoke to him again.

There's more than a grain of truth in the lyrics of that song by Sublime about the riots in 1992: “But if you look at the streets/ It wasn't about Rodney King/ It was about this f---d up situation/ And these f---d up police!”. A couple of months after the fighting incident in 1992, my father's shop on 19th and Atlantic was the only bodega within a half mile of Poly that did not burn down. True story: the Rolling 20s and Samoan Crips told my father not to worry, and spent a couple of nights playing cards and helping themselves to free booze. My father, like the Indian guy who sold him the store, grew up in East Africa, and never had problems interacting or relating to black folks here. As leaders of the gangs told my Dad before the riots started: “Don't worry about anything Dave, this is our neighborhood, our store, and no one is going to f--- with it”.

This third example, the civil unrest in 1992 and its aftermath, highlights how different my family's experience was with race, in this City and Country. Many of the structural changes to the Southern Californian region we are dealing with today from that time are familiar and cyclical – the domestic recession of the 1990s following the Rumsfeld Plan and the base closures, the Port bailing the City out of the recession and how that relates to major capital projects, white flight and a new round of home-building in the urban-wildland interface exurbs, the crucial road not taken under the O'Neill administration to municipalize electricity like LADWP during pre-Enron deregulation in 1990s, fights over immigration and the long history in America of each new arrival trying to slam the door on the next group behind them – and their neoliberal elements have been and still are actively resisted based on the harm generated by renewed intensification of systemic and institutionalized racism.

Yet our experience was different. Because we were fairly new arrivals and not socialized into the remarkable degree of anti-black racism in Southern Californian society in the 1980s and early 1990s, we were not the target of anti-racist action. My father's store thrived after the riots, in part because it had a large grocery section and that part of town is historically a food desert. Within five years, my father had bought a second store, and my parents had saved enough to consider buying their own home.

To this day, it is a cause of tension in my family, because as early as age sixteen I voiced reservations about moving right across the street from the Alamitos Generating Station on Studebaker Rd. But my mother liked the neighborhood – she would go for walks while my brother was taking violin lessons – and so we moved there from where we had been renting on Bixby and Cerritos. I really wanted to move to Belmont Heights, where the original city plan is walkable. I absolutely despise driving. Yet we moved to the Southeastern corner of town. Well, at least we got to, more than once, speak to the late great Chuck Niles when he was taking breaks from his KLON show broadcast from the CSULB campus, during our nightly after dinner walks.

After that first year in California, it must be said that I was fairly sophomoric. I thought what it meant to be California was understood, having had the incredible trial by fire of that first year here. I did not.

I think the last two examples highlight this.

The fourth example is the bullying and physicality that started in the sixth grade and continued through the eighth grade, by which point it was regular and merciless. Having spent my childhood in rural New Mexico, it must be said I was more than rusticated. I was a rube. Straight up. I was very simple and direct and had no sophistication, none. I knew nothing about the clothes people wore or the music they listened to or shows they watched or the movies they went to. How fast they spoke about all manner of things I had no idea about. How adult kids of eleven and twelve tried to act, especially with things they were not ready for. All of it was absolutely foreign to me – I might as well had been beamed from the planet FurryIndian as a concerned participant-observer – it was all just so new. Magic Johnson announcing he had AIDS, right when we could watch all the games for free on KCAL9, the Freddy Mercury tribute concert, the first season of MTV's The Real World – the learning curve was steep.

Luckily, we moved to Long Beach. The first day we spent unpacking in the summer of 1991, my little clock radio found and fired up, top of the dial was 88.1 KLON Long Beach. Been all about jazz ever since. Having had some experience as a choir boy in Catholic School in New Mexico, at Hughes I joined the choir for two and a half years, and along with Thomas Busse was the first of two incoming ninth-graders to sing for Poly's Chamber Choir. But I also joined the Football team at Long Beach Poly the summer before my freshman year. In part because like my birthday twin John Cusack I am an everyman, so to speak, but also because I was just sick of the bullying. I have scars on my knuckles and knife-wounds on my forearms from having to fight my way out of situations in this City.

I have never told my parents or my brother about it, not really. In part, because my Dad made it very clear I should not be fighting, and yet it was not the Black or Brown kids at school pushing me around. In part also, because my Mother would have freaked. The kids involved were my classmates in the TAP program, mostly from Belmont Shore and East Long Beach, also bused in like I had been. That would have seriously messed with my family's sense of moving on up in the world, and honestly I could not understand a lot of it. Some of it was me, sure. But a lot of it was, well, strange.

It did not escape notice then that the whitest-presenting and chasing kids, the best-looking best-dressed coolest taste- and scene-makers in my magnet program from the wealthiest parts of town, harbored some those who behaved the worst. There was a marked difference between kids from the neighborhood around Hughes, like my friends Sean McKinley and Michael Tillman and Ryan McAllister and Matt Whybrew and even Mike McCann – the most fearsomely built 13-year old I have seen then or since, who kindly came out to defend my brother when I broke my hand laying out his assailant across the street from his house, we have been cool with each other ever since – and those other kids. There is so much in my life – who my friends were, what our hobbies and interests were outside of school, how we related to the tremendous social changes and advances in the 1990s and after, why I joined the Football team (#69) and was really wild my first year at Poly and very nearly caused a race-riot in 1995, why my first publication in 1997 was an op-ed to the Press Telegram on school uniforms – that suffice to say here could not be understood without recognizing this experience.

The fifth and final experience was the tremendous promise of California living presented my family with profoundly resource-intensive ways of living we hitherto had not yet participated in. Coming from a childhood in New Mexico, it must be said that when we did not realize this when we moved here.

There is so much about my experience, relevant to this Framework and Initiative process on Reconciliation, that will have to be abridged to a later date, hopefully this week.

Why I pursued what I did in college, and how that relates to the national police riot after George Floyd's murder, and dynamics in our own city. Why I left a graduate degree and phd plan to move back home after my brother's illness. Why I left a second graduate program when this City failed me and my parents and my neighbors and everyone in our town, and what I have tried to do in response. Why I have refused to let this City erase Tiffany Semoy Davy, or Margaret Brown before she passes.

Why it is hard to take seriously the recent hue and cry in the defense of property rights in this City, especially from a Lockean framework of liberal rights, which is not the jurisprudence of the world, but whatever... why it is hard to take serious all this concern for property rights when self-ownership is the basis for all rights – no one regards their body as the inherent property of any being other than theirs, and no one regards anything in the world so much as theirs as what they have freely and creatively produced with their own two hands.

Why there is no doubt in my mind that if the 2016 election had not been interfered with, if the winner of the popular vote did not lose by very questionable razor-thin margins in the crucial swing states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, that many major capital projects such as the AES plant would not have been approved, but would have called the question of a different Mission for this City.

It would not have been rammed through on November 15th 2016. I would have been able to add the maps I made for Leo Estrada's penultimate class, based on the January release of Cal Enviro Screen 3.0, along with other lines of research, to the Stanford Environmental Law Clinic and the Sierra Club and other efforts to end the public subsidy to coastal gas-fired power plant. We all would have had so much more time and less trouble had we been preparing for the first Female Presidency that November through March, instead of the possibility of fascism in America.

There is also no doubt in my mind that it would have been possible to create Just Transition programs for union workers at the AES and Haynes facilities, in advance of making the case against repowering these white elephants whose net social effect qua infrastructure is to forestall the transition to a smart-grid powered by 100% renewable energy, the promise of the State of California since we moved here.

[To be concluded -DS]

I am extremely lucky, no matter the constraints placed externally, internally I have always been free. My father married my mother for love, and broke with caste and class and religion to do so. I am a product of that love. Like every mother's child, I was free from my first breath.

I am still here because the public institutions in this country work – I am a repudiation of the past 40 years of neoliberal ideology in America. My very existence is the threat of a better example, and in

these times, I understand something about how dangerous that may seem.

I have been extremely fortunate in my life and in the city of Long Beach to have been surrounded by strong women. From my mother to my guidance counselor Helene Goodman, to my English teacher Mrs. Kephardt, to so many people.

The most important thing in my life, these past years as I have once again disappointed my parents by choosing movement over study whilst in graduate school, is that, somehow, someway, through continuing to step in time, I not be misunderstood.

I have never been arrested, not once ever in my 40 years.

I have never held a gun in my life, and wish never to do so:

The man who serves the sentence should swing the sword, after looking the accused in the eye and hearing their final words. Upon hearing those words, should they not feel sure, then perhaps it is just that no sword need be swung, and no person need die that day.

But most important,

I have never been a perpetrator.

I have never been accused of any violent or serious crime. I have never been accused of, nor have I perpetrated, sexual violence against women. It is important to me, as Sandy Shukla's first-born child in this world, to be able to say that. It is important to me, as the son of a fundamentally decent man, Devendra Pashuram Shukla, to be able to say that. It is important to me as the elder brother of an incredibly bright and intelligent and kind-hearted man, Amit Devendra Shukla, to be able to say that. It is important to me, as a son of the City of Long Beach, and the State of California, to be able to say that. But most important to me, I simply cannot have any of the women that I have been lucky in my life to have known, however briefly, not hear that from me in this moment in time. It is too important.

Death is all around us in this country. It has been forced onto the population through inadequacy, inconsistency, and ignorance in our national response to the novel coronavirus. People who are living today will not be with us come the spring, because we have not honored efforts to stop the spread in the first wave of the virus, which has become the avalanche we feared, seeding areas massively under-resourced over the past three and a half years of illegality at the federal level.

The current Republican Administration is gearing up federalized police forces for more rounds of national police riots. They are using any pretense to kill, shoot, maim, gas, abduct, torture, drug, and otherwise silence dissent. Some jack-booted thug with some badge could come for anyone for any reason in this country right now. My father has reminded me, more than once, that if I gave a cheek swab to the LBPd in 2015, and that very same LBPd cannot release a un-redacted copy of the LASD lab reports from the Scientific Services Division in 2019 or 2020, then I can be accused by either the LBPd or LASD at any time of being my partner's rapist. This a pretense William Barr and his allies could use to seize my person, and put me in a hole for the rest of my life. Or worse, rewrite the narrative of my life to be something I am not to justify some harm they are externalizing onto someone else in my hometown, or patsy me for something proper investigators would know the difference with.

Hear me know.

I am very fortunate. Over the past 40 years of my life, I have been a proud product of the public education system in California. I am proud to say that my calling has been to fight, and win, a more inclusive and democratic society. Everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect them, in proportion to the degree that they are affected by those decisions. I am free-born man of America.

I am prepared. To continue fighting to win that better society, and experience it in my lifetime. The physics of climate change demand it, and so much more from us now. I am prepared to die to keep that fight for a democratic society capable of meeting our moment as a species alive. Should William Barr's jack-booted thugs come for me, shoot me dead, put me in a box for the next 40 years, whatever, I will remain free. If nothing else, from the smut these asshats, or my own City, may try to put on my name.

LAST WILL AND WORDS OF DAVE SHUKLA:

Everything I have of value in this world is to be given to my parents should they survive me, until such time and manner as they see fit to burden my younger brother, Amit Shukla of Long Beach California, or my younger cousin Priya Shukla of Auckland New Zealand, with any of all that. Please make sure the books go to Libraries if they are not wanted.

Amit and Priya, you two are it. The Last of the Mohicans, all that is left of Durgaprasad. It is your choice, and your choice alone, what our legacy in this world will be.

Amit, remember you were always taller, smarter, better-looking, and kinder than me.

Our grandfather, Pashuram Durgaprasad Shukla, was the first to go to college. As was his wish, each of his three grandchildren have been educated. When I visited London in 1989, I once asked him what our name meant. Descended from priests and teachers, I knew, but were we Smiths, Starks, what? Light from within. That is what our Grandfather told me. I have been arguing with idiots over whether it means that, or “white” in Sanskrit ever since.

In our origins, our people were the conservators of the oral tradition of the Rg Veda, the wellspring of the Hindus. That is where our name comes from. We come from those who sang the songs, and kept that knowledge alive.

The light is in each and every human being – not just the “elect”, or the Audichya Brahmins.

Remember no matter what, our ability to say that, for all people, must be preserved.

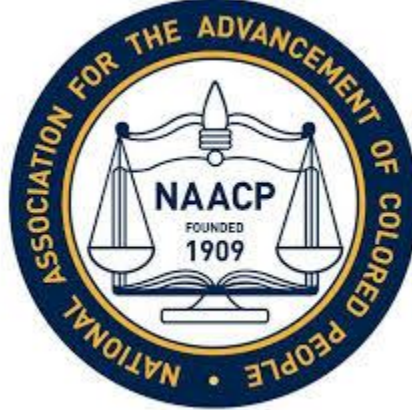
Humanity must prevail.

Naomi Rainey-Pierson, President
LONG BEACH BRANCH NAACP

Mail: P.O. Box 1594 Long Beach, CA 90801

Office: 200 Nieto Suite #210 Long Beach, CA 90803

(562) 856-7586 mnaacp@gmail.com www.lbcanaacp.org



Long Beach Mayor, Dr. Robert Garcia &
Long Beach City Council Members
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear LB Mayor Dr. Robert Garcia &
Long Beach City Council Members,

Long Beach Branch NAACP supports the City of Long Beach Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the oldest civil rights organization in the United States. Formed in 1909 as an interracial endeavor to advance justice for African Americans by a group including W. E. B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey and Ida B. Wells. The mission in the 21st century is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic

equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. National NAACP initiatives include political lobbying, publicity efforts and litigation strategies developed by its legal team. The vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

The Long Beach Branch NAACP wholeheartedly concurs with Long Beach City Council's declaration that racism is a public health crisis. LB Branch NAACP also supports this initiative because staff has led a listening series, engaging the Long Beach community to better understand the experiences and impacts of structural racism. The listening series resulted in a report of more than one hundred recommendations to address disparities and inequities that impact their quality of life.

Should you have concerns or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact the Long Beach Branch NAACP.

Sincerely,
Naomi Rainey-Pierson Erdmann
President, Long Beach Branch NAACP

Naomi Rainey-Pierson Erdmann, President Long Beach Branch NAACP
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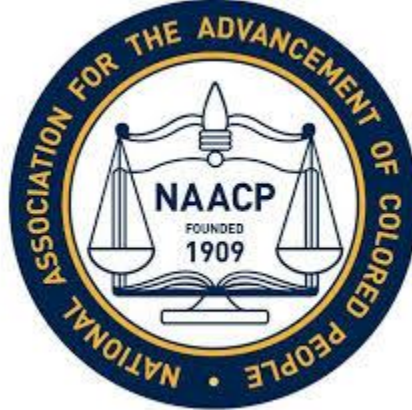
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Sincerely,
Naomi Rainey-Pierson Erdmann
President, Long Beach Branch NAACP



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH

P.O. Box 20624 | LONG BEACH, CA 90802 | WWW.LBHISTORY.COM

August 8, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach, this letter is in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others whose names are no longer active in the media press, by police brutality, is a constant reminder of the racial and social inequities that plague our communities and institutions in this country.

Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism. The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, city staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by acknowledging, listening, and convening the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, catalyze, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The African American Heritage Society of Long Beach is committed to supporting the realization of this vision that will improve the quality of life for our community.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. With proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach that is affirmed by proven data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity in our city.

In Unity,

Nicole Ballard, President
African American Heritage Society of Long Beach

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am Long Beach Native, a business owner, a Graduate from Cal State Long Beach in Policy and the Creator of Safe Passages, a Program dedicated to ending violence in our beautiful City of Long Beach. I most recently lost two family members to gun violence, in Long Beach, CA and have buried many friends and family over the years. We must take this moment to action and work together to build healthy communities where all people can prosper, and kids can feel safe going to school or to a park.

Black Men in the City of Long Beach have the highest unemployment and are the number #1 Victims of Homicide, so we cannot possibly address our violence without addressing the lack of opportunity.

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging, listening,** and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze,** is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement.

I am committed to helping support the Vision of the Reconciliation recommendations by ensuring that our kids are safe and have a space to receive the mentoring and support they need as they navigate their way through life.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Billy Brown
Safe Passages/Focus
Director of Violence Prevention
Ronnie's House

YMCA of GREATER LONG BEACH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT YMCA
820 Long Beach Blvd. • Long Beach, CA. 90813

August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging, listening,** and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The Community Development YMCA branch is committed to supporting the realization of this vision through resources and technical assistance.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,



Les Peters, Executive Director
Community Development YMCA
(562) 230-4302 • Les.Peters@lbymca.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802



RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I have lived Long Beach for over 40 years and have seen its ups and downs and I am committed to working with the City of Long Beach to help my black community, get back up and thrive.

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

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The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement.

Kids Fitness Say Yes to Life is committed to helping support the Vision of the Reconciliation recommendations by continuing and scaling our work to combat childhood obesity among African American youth through education and programming centered around health and wellness.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Chuckie Miller
Executive Director
Kids Fitness Say Yes to Life

1 World Trade Center Suite 32922, Long Beach, 90832



Board of Trustees
Dr. Virginia L. Baxter
Vivian Malauulu
Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Douglas W. Otto
Sunny Zia

Interim Superintendent-President
Lou Anne Bynum

Long Beach City College • Long Beach Community College District

4901 East Carson Street • Long Beach, California 90808

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report - SUPPORT

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging, listening,** and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The Long Beach Community College District is committed to supporting the realization of this vision joint leadership meetings, training, policy changes, establishing a joint board/council advisory committee, re-evaluating the Long Beach College Promise from an racial equity perspective, and/or provide higher educational/workforce development credentially technical assistance. **The LBCCD Board of**



Board of Trustees
Dr. Virginia L. Baxter
Vivian Malauulu
Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Douglas W. Otto
Sunny Zia

Interim Superintendent-President
Lou Anne Bynum

Long Beach City College • Long Beach Community College District
4901 East Carson Street • Long Beach, California 90808

Trustees has already adopted the Long Beach Framework for Reconciliation at our June 24, 2020 Board Meeting (see attached resolution).

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity and serving the students of Long Beach City College.

If you need any additional information, you can contact me at (562) 818-1500 or email at untuak@lbcc.edu.

I stand here ready to work together and partner to serve our shared constituents.

Respectfully,

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Vice President, Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ON A FRAMEWORK FOR RECONCILIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT acknowledges the existence and long-standing impacts of racism in Long Beach and the country and declares that Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE DISTRICT also acknowledges that the Liberal Arts and Pacific Coast campuses are on land that was inhabited by indigenous people for generations, primarily the Tongva and the Chumash, and that racism and colonialism are inseparable; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT understands that racism is a system that institutionalizes discriminatory practices and establishes structures to perpetuate inequities, which is harmful to all people, and expresses solidarity with peaceful protesters who are advocating for the eradication of racism; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT recognizes that Black people in the United States, including in Long Beach, have suffered and continue to experience trauma from racist, unjust policies and practices, such as redlining and discriminatory lending to prevent and limit home ownership; racial inequities in medical care; the “school to prison pipeline” that “disproportionately impacts the poor, students with disabilities, and youth of color, especially African Americans, who are suspended and expelled at the highest rates, despite comparable rates in infraction” according to Dr. Nancy A. Heitzeg; and discriminatory and violent treatment by law enforcement agencies, most recently exemplified by the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor; and

WHEREAS, Black people are disproportionately impacted by the current COVID-19 global pandemic, comprising 12% of the population in the City of Long Beach and yet accounting for 22% of the deaths attributed to COVID-19 as of June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT is to provide equitable student learning and achievement, academic excellence, and workforce development by delivering high-quality educational programs and support services to our diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, students who identify as Black comprise 14% of the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT student body, and the average course success rate for Black students is 53%, which is 11% lower than the LBCC average course success rate and 20% lower than the course success rate for White students; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted the “Framework for Reconciliation in Long Beach,” which was informed by countries such as Australia, Canada, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have employed Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to discover their nation’s past wrongdoings in hopes of resolving conflict, and by President Nelson Mandela and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that facilitated dialogues in post-apartheid South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach “Framework for Reconciliation” centers on four key steps: 1. Acknowledging the existence and long-standing impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach and the country; 2. Listening to accounts and experiences of racial injustice, inequity, or harm of community members; 3. Convening stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas; and 4. Catalyzing action, presenting immediate short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council’s consideration; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office issued a call to action for all community colleges in the state to mobilize around six topics: 1. A System wide review of law enforcement officers and first responder training and curriculum; 2. Campus leaders must host open dialogue and address campus climate; 3. Campuses must audit classroom climate and create an action plan to create inclusive classrooms and anti-racism curriculum; 4. District Boards review and update your Equity plans with urgency; 5. Shorten the time frame for the full implementation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Integration Plan; and 6. Join and engage in the Vision Resource Center “Community Colleges for Change” virtual community; and

WHEREAS, the Long Beach City College Faculty Association adopted a Resolution to Declare that the lives of Black Students, Faculty and Staff Matter, and other groups from across the campus, such as the Student Equity Subcommittee, the Latinx Faculty & Staff Association of Long Beach City College, and the Long Beach Council of Classified Employees, have issued statements of solidarity with the Black community; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT commits to continuing anti-racist initiatives such as the President’s Task Force on Race, Equity, and Inclusion; cultural curriculum audits; cultural heritage and history month celebrations; the Justice Scholars program to support formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted students; and professional development and training for employees and students on combatting racism, bias, and white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT was one of the first colleges to join the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance convened by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center; and

WHEREAS, the LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT encourages participation in the City of Long Beach’s Framework for Reconciliation and support for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Call to Action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT hereby requests that the Superintendent-President work together with LBCC’s participatory governance leaders, trustees, faculty, staff, and students, as well as other community leaders, educational partners such as Long Beach Unified School District, and local officials, to develop a Framework of Reconciliation for the Long Beach Community College District in support of the Black community and in alignment with the City of Long Beach and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 24th day of June 2020.

Vivian Malaulu
President

Uduak-Joe Ntuk
Vice President

Virginia L. Baxter, Ed.D
Member

Douglas W. Otto
Member

Sunny Zia
Member

Lou Anne Bynum
Interim Superintendent-President



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Mayor, City of Long Beach
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Long Beach City Council Members
City Hall Office
411 West Ocean Blvd. 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

The California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) would like you to express support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report released this month. We believe this report begins to address the concerns of the community by offering recommendations to take a closer look at systemic racism in the City of Long Beach.

The CLBC supports the hard work and commitment of those involved with developing the Report, which calls for the end of systemic racism and racial inequities for those who live and work in Long Beach. We urge you to take the recommendations of the community under serious consideration and support the goals set forth to improve the quality of life for the City of Long Beach.

Across the country, millions have taken to the streets and publicly condemned systemic racism after George Floyd, a 46-year old black man, who was murdered in Minneapolis, MN earlier this year. Mr. Floyd's death is a disturbing reminder that the fight against violence and racial inequities, which continues to persist in our communities, is far from over. When we promote equity and provide African-Americans with equal opportunities to thrive, we advance the values for which California stands.

Thank you for your strong consideration of the recommendations set forth in the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative. If you have questions about our support, please contact us at (916) 319-3898 or the CLBC's Senior Consultant, Jannell Jackson at jannell.jackson@asm.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
Assemblymember, 79th District
Chair, California Legislative Black Caucus

Steven Bradford
Senator, 35th District of California
Vice Chair, California Legislative Black Caucus

HONORABLE
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
79TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
CHAIR

HONORABLE
STEVEN BRADFORD
35TH SENATE DISTRICT
VICE CHAIR

HONORABLE
JIM COOPER
9TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
TREASURER

HONORABLE
SYDNEY KAMLAGER
54TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
SECRETARY

HONORABLE
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
30TH SENATE DISTRICT

HONORABLE
AUTUMN R. BURKE
62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HONORABLE
MIKE A. GIPSON
64TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HONORABLE
CHRIS R. HOLDEN
41TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HONORABLE
REGINALD BYRON JONES-SAWYER, SR.
59TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HONORABLE
KEVIN MCCARTY
7TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging**, **listening**, and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. Personally, I am committed to supporting the realization of this vision through helping to support the economic aspirations of entrepreneurs and innovators in Long Beach. Economic opportunity and inclusion is critical to addressing the existing inequity.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Wade E. Martin, PhD
Professor & Director

August 10, 2020

Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

As local community-based organization leaders, we submit this letter on behalf of the Long Beach Black community. We appreciate the prioritization of Black health equity in the City of Long Beach and are supportive of the one million-dollar CARES Act allocation to support the Initiative. Collectively, we have established the following goals for the CARES Act allocation to Black Health Equity:

- Establish a Black Health Equity Collaborative made up of majority Black-owned, Black-led and Black-serving nonprofits and organizations.
- Ensure that 75% of the one million-dollar allocation is for direct distribution to the aforementioned organizations to provide health education, outreach, resources and services to the Long Beach Black community to offset the impact of COVID-19, as well as, funding to support the infrastructure and development of smaller/start-up non-profit organizations.
- Incorporate community representation into the decision-making process and the Black Health Equity funding panel.
- Establish a contractual agreement with CSULB Department of Health Science as a collaborative partner in order to promote the sustainability of the Black Health Equity Collaborative

We have reviewed the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative (Initial) Report and we agree with the statement included in the report “Race should not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach.” Additionally, we support three of the four proposed strategies and potential actions to guide the City in attaining its racial equity goals:

1. End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation;
2. Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention;
3. Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

Each of these goals align with the sentiment amplified by Black voices during the collective series of listening sessions.

Finally, as the City continues this ongoing process, we are strongly urging the following measures to support racial equity and reconciliation for the Long Beach Black community.

- Allocate a substantial portion of annual Health Equity funding to support Black Health Equity Collaborative initiatives.
- Redirect public safety resources to community/social service programs that engage, uplift and empower the Long Beach Black community
- Facilitate ongoing community engagement of Black residents to continue throughout the catalyzation process and beyond.
- Continue the use of Economic inclusion funding to support Black community organization infrastructure to insure economic inclusion
- Hire one full-time staff position to continue work focused on Black Health Equity using annual Health Equity Funds (preferably filled by an individual who reflects Black community culture, awareness, and embraces an anti-Black racism agenda).

We believe that addressing long-awaited gaps in Black-focused initiatives will not only promote racial equity within the Long Beach Black community but to the entirety of Long Beach. Current and proposed FY21 budget support of community organizations to improve Black health and economic outcomes is a move in the right direction. As Black Long Beach community leaders, we are all committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for the population we represent. Thank you for your commitment to institutionalized equity for all who live, work, and deserve to thrive in Long Beach. We look forward to working with the City in the future.

Sincerely,

Jesse Johnson	100 Black Men of Long Beach
Sheila Grantham	Adventures to Dreams Enrichment
Dr. Felton Williams	African American Cultural Center of Long Beach
Nicole Ballard	African American Heritage Society
Melissa Morgan	All Things Black
Rev. Larry Ginn	Alpha Covenant Inc.
LaVerne Duncan	Andy Street Association
Melissa Guy	Asset Media
Dawn Modkins	Black Agency
Audrena Redmond	Black Lives Matter Long Beach
Dr. Sandra Hardy	Center for Best Living
Shelia LeFridge	Clarissa Manuel Foundation

Ahmed Saafir	Long Beach Community Improvement League
Robin Thorne	Demo Chicks/CTI Environmental
Sharon Diggs-Jackson	Elite Skills Development
Sharon McLucas	Forgotten Images
Carolyn Hines	Hines Hospitality
Chuckie Miller	Kids Fitness Say Yes to Life
Maniac Bey	H.O.O.D Council
Steven Neal	LIFE Gospel Ministries
Mathew Cabeza	Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion
Gregory Sanders	Long Beach Ministers Alliance
Maleka Chris	Love Beyond Limits
Shirin Senegal	Ronnie's House/Accelerate Uptown
Billy Brown	Safe Passages/Focus
Robbie Butler	Speak-Up Empowerment Foundations, Inc.
Pastor O. Leon Wood Jr & Paula Wood	Success in Challenges Community Development Corporation
Barbara Sullivan	Sullivan International
Cassandra Lattin	WiseSource HR

August 10, 2020

Long Beach Center for
Economic Inclusion

Founding
Board of Directors
2020

Bob Cabeza, Chair
Juan Benitez
Wayne Chaney
Sharon Diggs-Jackson
Vivian Shimoyama
Darick Simpson

Ex-Officio
Jeff Williams, Interim Director

Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Councilmembers
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Letter of Support for Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

On behalf of the Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion, we are writing to lend our support for the City of Long Beach to continue the work of the Framework for Reconciliation and to adopt and implement the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report as recommended. With our mission to “expand inclusive economic opportunities to build and sustain wealth for ALL communities of Long Beach”, we believe that ending structural racism is inherent in realizing a Long Beach where everyone can prosper.

We applaud the City’s initial efforts to declare racism a public health crisis and to work through the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging, listening,** and **convening** the community in discussions around racism and inequity. We encourage the City to advance into the fourth and final step, **catalyze**, as demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism in Long Beach.

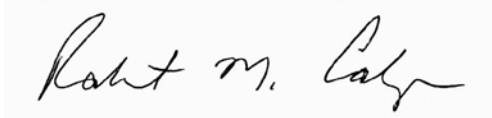
The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative’s vision is that “race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach,” presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion is committed to supporting this vision by serving as a community partner to advance these efforts in the community, especially in regards to Goal #4:

“Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.”,

with the accompanying actions outlined in Strategy #2 to “*advance Economic Equity*”.

We urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. We believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the “tale of two cities” narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial and economic equity. And Thank You for your leadership in this important moment for Long Beach. Please let us know what we can do to further support your efforts to advance racial equity and end structural racism in our community. We can be reached at 562 336-1833 or admin@lbcei.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob M. Cabeza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bob Cabeza
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jeff Williams
Interim Director



THE LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

200 W. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802
Phone: (562) 628-2441 | Fax: (562) 628-2312
info@LBPLfoundation.org



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VP Public Affairs
Sean Reilly,
VP Fund Development
Barbara Schwerin, Secretary

August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

John Arcos
Charlyn Bender
Jeff Carrick
Margaret Dumin
Danita Humphrey
Mary Lamo-Putnam
Todd Lemmis
John McGinnis
Theresa Morrison
Liz Munzer
Anil Pandya
Carmen O. Perez
J.P. Shotwell
Carmen D. Snuggs
Joan Van Hooten
Gregory Zinberg

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. In the last few weeks, the City of Long Beach, and the world, has experienced an extraordinary uprising in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Like City staff, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation has taken this time to listen, learn, and analyze our own unwitting role in upholding systemic racism. Though we are an organization that has long advocated for equity in education and literacy, we understand that governments and institutions like ours have failed to take deliberate actions that significantly dismantle systemic racism. Black people and people of color still face crippling inequality in virtually every aspect of American society including housing, healthcare, and education. **That is why we support the adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation" and urge the Council to allocate a meaningful portion of the \$3.25 million in funds to expanding access to Library resources.**

Honorary Directors:
Dr. Jane Close Conoley,
CSULB President
Dr. Robert Garcia, Mayor
Lena Gonzalez,
State Senator
Douglas Haubert,
City Prosecutor
Robert G. Luna,
Chief of Police
Chris Steinhauer,
LBUSD Superintendent

Like The California Endowment, we know learning, health, and economic stability are inextricably linked. Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet more than 80 percent of low-income children miss this crucial milestone. The statistics abound and tell an important story: According to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, as early as 18 months, low-income children begin to fall behind in vocabulary development and other skills critical for school success. 61% have no children's books at home. By age 3, low-income children hear 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. By age 5, a typical low-income child recognizes only nine letters of the alphabet, compared to 22 for a child from a more affluent family. Students who do not read proficiently by the 4th grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma. And yet, students who graduate from high school are more likely to be healthy through the rest of their lives. This not only impacts one child but continues a cycle of intergenerational poverty that impacts our entire community.

Ex Officio:
Kate Azar,
Executive Director,
Long Beach Public Library
Foundation
Glenda Williams,
Director of Library Services,
Long Beach Public Library
Barbara Sosa,
President, Friends of the
Long Beach Public Library



THE LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

200 W. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802
Phone: (562) 628-2441 | Fax: (562) 628-2312
info@LBPLfoundation.org



As the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative listening sessions proved, the community agrees increased access to library services is an important component of advancing health equity. Additional funding and expanded hours for libraries was the second most supported solution. This was also a conclusion in the City's Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan and the Technology and Innovation Commission's Digital Inclusion Report. **City reports and community meetings all point to the Library as one of the City's best resource in bridging Long Beach's digital, educational, and economic divides. That is why, widely accessible library resources must be a key part of this Framework for Reconciliation.** And yet, the proposed FY21 budget calls for a significant decrease in Library hours and, every year, the City reduces the Library's operating budget making it unfeasible for it to serve a city the size of Long Beach.

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation pledges to do our part. We will continue to raise funds to enhance the Library's resources such as the Family Learning Centers which provide free one-on-one tutoring and job search assistance. Because we believe knowledge is the strongest tool we have to fight racism and injustice, we launched the [Fund for Race, Equity and Justice Resources](#) and have purchased nearly 400 additional e- and audiobooks by African American authors and on the topics of race, anti-black racism, and white supremacy to meet the community's demand. But we cannot supplant the City's obligation to its residents. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision that, "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," is an important one. Libraries are a part of that vision and must be funded as such.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative and to ensure increased access to City Libraries are featured as a key component of the immediate and future actions taken. This includes voting to maintain the Library's five-day schedule at all 12 libraries, as recommended by Mayor Garcia, and retaining its current budget in FY 2021. We also ask you to include expanding Library hours in your future plans. We believe with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach that is affirmed by data and community experience. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Sharon Weissman
President, Board of Directors

Kate Azar
Executive Director

California State Senate

SENATOR
LENA A. GONZALEZ
THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by acknowledging, listening, and convening the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, catalyze, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. As the State Senator representing the Long Beach Area, I am committed to supporting the realization of this vision.

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 2068
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FAX (916) 651-4933

LONG BEACH DISTRICT OFFICE
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LONG BEACH, CA 90807
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HUNTINGTON PARK DISTRICT OFFICE
6550 MILES AVE., 2ND FL.
HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255
TEL (323) 277-4560
FAX (323) 277-4528

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Sincerely,



Lena Gonzalez
Senator, Senate District 33

CAPITOL OFFICE
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging**, **listening**, and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. *Long Beach Community Action Partnership is committed to supporting the realization of this vision through resources, community engagement and technical support.*

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marisa Semense", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Marisa Semense
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Christine MacDonald
Board Chair

Susanne Browne
Vice-Chair

Alison King
Secretary

Mary Sramek
Treasurer

Steve Colman

Janet McCarthy

Irantzu Pujadas

Gregory Sanders

Susana Sngiem

Misi Tagalao

Executive Director

Marisa Semense

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802



RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

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The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement.

Love Beyond Limits is committed to supporting the realization of the vision by providing our young people the mentoring and life skills to make better choices.

We see the true power that our youth hold, and we have made it our mission to transform children into natural-born leaders ready to take on the world.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Maleka Chris
Executive Director
Love Beyond Limits

3515 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, California 90807

ALAN LOWENTHAL

47TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
& MINERAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS,
& PUBLIC LANDS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS, & WILDLIFE

COMMITTEE ON

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER & ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD & MARITIME

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES
& HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



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House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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August 11, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

I was proud to join my colleagues in Congress to pass the Justice in Policing Act, historic legislation to bring much needed reform to our policing system, and I commend the city of Long Beach for taking decisive actions to eradicate this racial cancer in the city. I am so deeply inspired by all those who have spoken out: to demand equal treatment under the law; to affirm that Black Lives Matter; and, to demand change. But, for far too long, a lack of political will has offered no response to the voices across American who have been screaming for decades, "I can't breathe."

I applaud the city's decision to declare that racism is a public health crisis, and I am deeply encouraged by the rounds of civic engagement which have gathered input from residents of Long Beach over the last two months. The result of those efforts, the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, comprehensively outlines important short-term and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

The report sets clear goals to apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. I believe that with

proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, result in tangible solutions. This report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of its objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

I urge the city council to vote to approve the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

August 7, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. As an original supporter of the Framework when it was originally introduced to the City Council, I am committed to continue supporting the realization of this vision.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,



Juan M. Benitez, PhD
Parent

Community Member
Executive Director, Center for Community Engagement, CSULB
Board Member, LBUSD Board of Education



August 7, 2020

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I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,
Long Beach Collective Association Executive Board
Adam Hijazi – President • Greg Lefian – Vice President
John Bianco – Treasurer • Steven Neal – Executive Director

Ronnie's House

Building Blocks to Build Bridges

August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for allowing Ronnie's House to be a part of the Reconciliation process, it was truly a rewarding experience to be a part of the Reentry and Cannabis Equity Roundtable. The team that lead the initiative made ensured our voices were heard.

We have a moment to undo so many wrongs and build a healthier and equitable Long Beach and you have the chance to be a vote that will be recorded in history.

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. Your response to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked, including in Long Beach, was the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

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Although I support most of the City Staff's recommendations, I must disagree with the lack of urgency placed on supporting Black owned businesses. The priority level of Medium and High will cost many of our Black Owned Businesses to close their doors.

Prior to COVID-19, a Policy Link Report, which was commissioned by the City of Long Beach, showed the disparities in Black Business Ownership. A black owned business was reported to generate 25,000 per year while their Caucasian counterpart generated \$400,000 per year. Our Latinx community also faces a great disparity earning only \$30,000 per year.

Our Black owned businesses were in a State of Emergency prior to COVID -19, as outlined in the Policy Link Report, in 2019.

Our Barbershops and Hair Salons have been shut down for months and they employ many our Black and Brown Community. We cannot wait a year or longer to implement aggressive business support, through community-based organizations not just the SBDC.

If we want to solve a budget deficit, we can invest in Black Owned Businesses that are only making 8% of what their Caucasian Counterparts are making. The more revenue, the more tax dollars and the more long-term sustainable spending in the City of Long Beach. We cannot promote homeownership and healthier communities if people are living in Poverty.

Since the City has yet to issue grants to support small businesses, and future grants are limited, the only way our Black Owned Business can survive is with business support to help them secure funds, business coaching, access to resources and technology.

I would also like to lift the importance of investing resources into Reentry work immediately because this is not a Long-Term project, ongoing yes but Long-Term no. There will be 18,000 individuals released from Prison in California within the next few months. Long Beach represents a high jail population and is limited in Reentry resources and funding. The absence of parents from their kids and families has proven to stack the odds against the kids who now face a higher chance of incarceration.

I encourage the City to assist Reentry Organization in both securing funding and ensuring that a part of the Cares Act invests in Reentry Work. The obstacles upon release are stacked up against an individual who received \$200 and must start their life from scratch with 50,000 laws in place to deny them of some right because of their felony.

Ronnie's House is committed to helping see the Vision of the Recommendations made by City Staff by continuing to execute programming that invests in the economic growth and mental health of The Black Community and by helping other black lead or purposed non profits scale their work with supportive services.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Shirin Senegal
Executive Director
Ronnie's House



August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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Success in Challenges was founded 19 years ago and is committed to supporting the realization of this vision through education and resources focused on advancing our young people and their families. We are committed to Educating our young people about their history while advancing them in technology, to prepare for future jobs.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

Paula Wood

Paula Wood,
Executive Director
Success in Challenges

4508 Atlantic Ave #782
Long Beach, CA 90807

Leon Wood

Leon Wood
President
Success in Challenges

August 11, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, letter of support for Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council:

The Nonprofit Partnership stands in solidarity with other organizations working in communities of color to support the City of Long Beach in the creation of a Framework of Reconciliation. The Framework's identified goals and strategies will work to end systemic racism in Long Beach, design and invest in community safety and violence prevention, redesign the police approach to community safety, and improve health and wellness in the city by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

Upon declaring racism a public health crisis, we expect the City Council and Mayor to not only apply a racial equity lens to all departments and services offered in the city, but also provide the prioritization and funding required to see improvements through. The Nonprofit Partnership is committed to supporting the city in the realization of this vision through resource sharing, capacity-building, and technical assistance.

The Nonprofit Partnership has supported nonprofits for 28 years in Long Beach and we are proud to join other nonprofit organizations and leaders who have been working tirelessly to make our city a more equitable place to live and thrive. We look forward to seeing the city join all community leaders more actively in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Michelle Byerly (Aug 11, 2020 11:47 PDT)

Michelle Byerly
Executive Director



562.888.6530

4900 E. Conant Street
Long Beach, CA 90808

tnpsocal.org    



August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that persistent and significant racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. I commend the city for supporting this important effort through the unanimous adoption of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process to undo systemic racism.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, staff completed the first three steps of the Framework by **acknowledging**, **listening**, and **convening** the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. The fourth and final step, **catalyze**, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to end structural racism.

I agree with the Report's four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The vision that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes (and I would add health outcomes) for those who live and work in Long Beach," is reflected in the more than one hundred action items for the City to implement.

The Children's Clinic, "Serving Children and Their Families" dba TCC Family Health, the largest not for profit federally qualified health center in Long Beach, is committed to supporting the realization of this vision. As a Community Health Center, TCC Family Health has worked with the community for decades to address the health inequities people of color experience as a result of systemic and institutional racism. We commit to and continue to partner with those we serve, the community, and the City.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. I believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the "tale of two cities" narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

We look forward to partnering with City leadership and departments to work towards deliberately and systemically ending systemic racism in our City and organizations.

Respectfully,

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH
Chief Executive Officer | TCC Family Health
562-264-3551 phone | 562-216-6197 efax | enicholas@tccfamilyhealth.org
The Children's Clinic, "Serving Children and Their Families" dba TCC Family Health



August 10, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of The Justice Collaborative, I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, is a disturbing reminder that racism persists in our communities and institutions. The world watched Mr. Floyd spend his last breath pleading for his life, as a white police officer, callously kneeled on his neck with such force until he became unconscious and died. Your response to this injustice and the ensuing global protests against police brutality was the unanimous adoption of the “Framework for Reconciliation,” a four-step process to undo systemic racism in Long Beach.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the following steps of the Framework:

- Acknowledging the existence and longstanding impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach, and more specifically anti-Black racism.
- Listening to community members’ accounts and experiences of inequity and harm caused by racial injustice.
- Convening stakeholders to evaluate the feedback from the listening process and shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform ideas.
- Catalyzing action by presenting immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council to consider.

The Report sets forth clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and other people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative’s vision is that “race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach,” presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. The Justice Collaborative is committed to supporting this vision through resources and technical assistance and has submitted specific recommendations in the area of justice and policing (please see attached).

We urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. We believe that with proper funding and prioritization, these recommendations will, over time, end the “tale of two cities” narrative in Long Beach, that is affirmed by data and community experience. This Report is a significant

step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates millions of dollars in additional funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

John A. Mathews II

John Mathews II
Senior Legal Counsel
The Justice Collaborative

► **ATTACHMENT:** TJC Long Beach Framework Justice & Policing Recommendations



August 8, 2020

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Agenda Item 14, Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I submit this letter in support of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report. The murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, by four Minneapolis Police Officers, is a disturbing reminder that racial inequity persists in our communities and institutions. The response from the City of Long Beach to this injustice and the global outrage it sparked was the unanimous adoption by the City Council of the "Framework for Reconciliation," a four-step process that begins to address the sources of systemic racism in our communities.

The City began by declaring racism as a public health crisis, and over the course of two months, Staff completed the first three steps of the Framework: acknowledging, listening, and convening the community in a series of robust dialogues on racism and inequity. These community discussions saw insightful and innovative comments and testimony given by the public that challenge the City of Long Beach to invest in the futures of its Black and underserved communities. The fourth and final step, catalyze, is demonstrated by the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Report, which comprehensively outlines immediate, short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to help end structural racism. By completing this report and the bringing forth of this Initiative, the City of Long Beach commits to ongoing and sustained action and innovation to address the root causes of systemic racism.

The Report sets four clear goals, informed by the community and national best practices to examine the City as a service provider and organization. Furthermore, these goals apply a racial equity lens to intergovernmental work, community safety, policing, and the quality of life of Black people and people of color. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's vision is that "race and ethnicity do not determine social and economic outcomes for those who live and work in Long Beach," presenting more than one hundred action items for the City to implement. United Way of Greater Los Angeles is committed to helping the City achieve the vision of this Initiative by engaging the community and encouraging them to be a continued part of the process of undoing systemic racism, empowering community members to speak out against injustices within their community, and advocating for the use of City funds for resources that benefit the community—and divesting from things that are harmful.

I urge you to support the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative in its entirety. This Report is a significant step forward, beginning with the Proposed FY21 Budget, which allocates over \$3.25 million in funding to support many of these objectives. Thank you for your commitment to advancing racial equity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy Newman".

Tommy Newman
Senior Director, Impact Initiatives