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From: **Dave Shukla** <[dave.shukla@gmail.com](mailto:dave.shukla@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Jun 25, 2020 at 3:45 PM

Subject: Re: 6/25 Joint Environmental Committee and Sustainable City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Items #3 and #4

To: CityClerk <[CityClerk@longbeach.gov](mailto:CityClerk@longbeach.gov)>

Cc: Sona Coffee <[sonacoffee@gmail.com](mailto:sonacoffee@gmail.com)>, jeannine.pearce <[jeannine.pearce@gmail.com](mailto:jeannine.pearce@gmail.com)>

Hello,

Could you please add this email to the correspondence for the Joint Meeting of the City Council's Environmental Committee and the Sustainable City Commission? I believe they are meeting at 4pm today.

Thank you!

Dave

Thursday June 25, 2020

Dear Sustainable City Commissioners,

Thank you so much for hearing two presentations from city staff this afternoon:

Agenda Item #3: from the Office of Equity on the ongoing Framework for Reconciliation process; and

Agenda Item #4: from Long Beach Development Services on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan currently in draft.

Both the Reconciliation process and the CAAP process are extremely important and timely for this City. I cannot commend you enough for scheduling this important discussions now, whilst they still matter.

As a city, Long Beach has done a comparatively decent job on limiting community spread of the novel coronavirus over the past three months. What we have seen in recent weeks is that people's dignity and sense of fairness, as human beings, have been worthy enough to tens of thousands of our fellow residents to risking exposure to Covid-19 and continued police violence to protest. As our City's Health Officer

Dr. Anissa Davis recently put it: " Part of what COVID-19 has brought to light is the racial disparities. We have seen that African Americans are likely to have serious outcomes or death from COVID-19.

That's not just in a bubble; that is not something to dismiss with, 'Oh well, that's just what happens.' That is because of structural racism." (LB Post:

<https://lbpost.com/hi-lo/addison-coronavirus-covid-racism-civil-unrest-dr-anissa-davis-public-health>

Last accessed: 6/24/20)

Many of the specific racial disparities that are being brought to light by COVID-19, of which we are all at some level already aware, are the tremendous health burdens brought on by environmental injustice in our town. Particularly in those areas of West and North Long Beach where FHA redlining practices have locked generations of African-American and Latino and Pacific Islander and other minority ethnic groups into place. These are places in our town, for instance along the 710 and Alameda Corridors, upwind from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, or near the tremendous concentration of dirty energy manufacturing in the West and North sides of town along with those adjacent to Signal Hill, that we know about and no doubt the Commission is aware.

They also include many places we do not regularly talk about, such as in the SE corner of Long Beach, the combined hotspot of the Haynes and (now) AES plants has been the third largest source of emissions from electricity generation in North America, according to International Energy Agency data from 1960-2000. (see: <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/?country=WORLD&fuel=CO2%20emissions&indicator=CO2%20emissions%20by%20sector> Last accessed: 6/24/20)

We know that these emissions, along with those downstream from the city's on- and off-shore oil drilling and wholesaling activities, contribute mightily to the violence of climate change globally: where people who look like me I never met never had a problem with are going to lose their homes because of the amount of excess carbon trapped in the atmosphere. For context, the nominal GDP of Mauritius was \$14.812 Billion in 2019 - the nominal GDP of Long Beach for 2018 was ~ \$50-60 Billion (estimated from population share and firm density from latest available public data, here: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NGMP31080> Last accessed: 6/24/20).

We dwarf entire nations - in more ways than one - and they should not have to lose their ancestral lands because of the highly carbon-intensive way we live. We have a choice as citizens and as a City whether or not to continue participating in systemic forms of climate and environmental injustice.

I had the good fortune of meeting last week with City Staff from LB Development Services working on the CAAP - the City is to be commended for being so forward looking in these hires. Please listen to them.

I've run out of time, and have to leave it here.

Please adopt the CAAP right away!

Yours  
Dave Shukla

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