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Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 3:30 PM

To: Alanah Grant <Alanah.Grant@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public comment for 4/6 meeting of Equity and Human Relations Commission

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Commissioners,

I support your motion to receive and file a presentation from "Change the Name" because in a democracy, every perspective is important to be heard. That said, this particular grievance does *not* merit any further action. It reminds me of the work of the San Francisco School Board, who declared that national heroes like Paul Revere and Abraham Lincoln were racist, only to have their work scrutinized as counterfactual and ignoring important historical context.

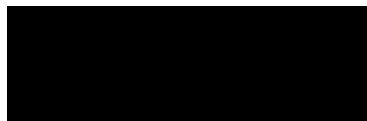
An investigation by National Public Radio, reported in the link below, found: "For instance, President Abraham Lincoln, whose legacy is defined by the emancipation of Black slaves, was included on the list because of a decision to allow the execution of 38 Santee Sioux who were found guilty of raping and murdering white settlers. But, critics say, the panel did not take into account that the state of Minnesota would have executed 300 Santee Sioux had Lincoln not intervened on their behalf and commuted their sentences, sparing all but the 38 who were hanged."

I write in support of justice and equity, but those cannot be achieved through lazy, misleading, or factually inaccurate declarations of "wokeness." Do not apply modern interpretation onto historical figures without considering the balance of their actions and the social context in which those figures operated. Abraham Lincoln is not honorable because he was perfect- literally no human figure will have an unblemished record- but because he achieved more good than not and he advocated for progress. Don't 'change the name' on this one just because some ill-informed activists want to make a political point.

Link: <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/07/984919925/san-francisco-school-board-rescinds-controversial-school-renaming-plan>

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(City Council District 6)